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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN JOURNEY WEST IS NOW ON VIEW
AT THE CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

Los Angeles (April 6, 2015) As the only California state agency charged with researching, collecting, preserving and interrupting for public enrichment the history, art and culture of African Americans with an emphasis on California, the California African American Museum (CAAM) is pleased to present a reprise of an exhibition curated from its Permanent Collection, *The African American Journey West*. The permanent exhibition features artifacts and art works from the museum's History Collection, which has expanded over the past decade.

There are many lesser known facts about the migration of African Americans to the West, such as 26 of the 44 original settlers who founded the colony now known as Los Angeles in 1781 were of African ancestry. *The African American Journey West* embodies some of the most distinct and invaluable artifacts and artwork from the plains and shores of West Africa, to the streets of South Los Angeles. Consciously curated, the exhibition begins with a section about West African heritage featuring African religious artifacts, instruments, masks and textiles.

Additionally, the installation journeys by sections including the American South, Migration Trail, West of Mississippi, Sports, Entertainment, and Resistance & Reform. A shawl takes you to the American South section, as it was a gift from the Confederate spy, Belle Boyd, sent to her former slave, Eliza Corsey. Resistance & Reform takes you through the '65 L.A. Watts Riots in a Noah Purifoy piece, and examines the common ground between Black and Hispanic communities in a mixed media collage entitled "Stop the Shooting" by Elliot Pinkney. The exhibition also features historical archival material such as the 1974 *Ebony* magazine issue with Yvonne Brathwaite Burke on the cover cradling her newborn daughter Autumn Burke, who is now a California Assemblymember for the 62nd District. Yvonne Brathwaite Burke was featured on the cover, as she was the first woman to give birth while in Congress and the first African American female congresswomen from California.

CAAM's exhibitions and events are free and open to the public. For more information visit www.caamusuem.org or call (714) 213-2044. CAAM is located at 600 State Dr., Exposition Park, Los Angeles, 90037.

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Exhibitions in the CAAM Galleries

CAAM Courtyard Series: From Women's Hands ongoing through May 3, 2015

Light Catchers through June 7, 2015

Lookin' Back in Front of Me: Selected Works of Mark Steven Greenfield, 1974-2014
ongoing through July 5, 2015

FlashTag Opening March 26 through August 2, 2015

ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

The California African American Museum (CAAM) researches, collects, preserves and interprets for public enrichment the history, art and culture of African Americans. Chartered by the California State Legislature in 1977, CAAM is a state supported institution and a partner with the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization Friends, the Foundation of the California African American Museum. In addition to its permanent collection of over 3,000 objects containing art, artifacts and historical documents, CAAM also houses a research library containing more than 20,000 volumes, employs and trains high school students through its *Young Docents* program, and hosts in-house curated exhibitions and traveling exhibitions on a regular basis. The museum also tours CAAM exhibitions throughout California and the nation.

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