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**‘ALL JAZZED UP AT CAAM’ A TARGET SUNDAYS PROGRAM
AT THE CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM**

Featuring Michael Bearden, musical director for Michael Jackson’s ‘This is It’

Los Angeles, CA (September 30, 2011) – Target Sundays at the California African American Museum (CAAM) presents *All Jazzed Up At CAAM*, featuring Michael Bearden musical director for Michael Jackson’s “This Is It,” Sunday, October 2, 2011 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. at CAAM. In tribute to CAAM’s October Gala, *An Artful Evening At CAAM* honoring the legendary Herbie Hancock, CAAM will celebrate the musical tradition of jazz including: acid jazz, bebop, cool jazz and much more. Co-hosts for *All Jazzed Up At CAAM* are former *Showtime At The Apollo* co-host and actress Kiki Shepard, along with actor Jeffrey Anderson-Gunter. Performing on CAAM’s stage are ACT-SO performers, Ryan Cross of the Cross Hart Jazz Experience, musical director Michael Bearden, saxophonist Louis Van Taylor, jazz vocalist Patrice Quinn and featured singer Judith Hill.

Michael Bearden is a profound keyboardist, musical director, composer, producer arranger and conductor. Bearden’s most admirable moments were being the music director for Michael Jackson’s “This Is It” and the music director for George Lopez’s late night show *Lopez Tonight*. He has worked, performed, and/or recorded with legendary artist such as, Sting, Carlos Santana, Whitney Houston, Lionel Richie, Chaka Kahn, Lenny Kravitz, Destiny’s Child, Brandy, India Arie, Prince and many more. Also as a writer and producer, he has worked with

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notable jazz artist such as Rachelle Ferrell, Herbie Mann, Will Downing, Marion Medows, Regina Carter, Special EFX and Quincy Jones. Bearden will serenade guest with his dynamic sounds of jazz, proving to be the highlight of day.

Bandleader Ryan Cross of the Cross Hart Jazz Experience recently founded the Elevation Orchestra, a 17-piece multicultural string orchestra with piano, bass and drums with the inaugural performance held at CAAM. Cross is not only a bandleader but also a musical director. His television credits include *Friends*, *ER*, *The West Wing*, *Studio 60*, *Along Came Polly* and *Poseidon*. Cross headlines venues such as, Hotel Angeleno's West Lounge and The Biltmore Hotel, where he invites some of the world's top jazz musicians and vocalists to sit in weekly. He has also accompanied, Stevie Wonder, Jill Scott, John Legend, Gladys Knight, Chaka Khan, Macy Gray, Ciara, P. Diddy and Rhianna in the studio and/or on stage.

Featured with Ryan Cross and Jazz Experience is singer/pianist Judith Hill. A Los Angeles native, Hill was the only lead female vocalist for Michael Jackson's "This Is It" tour. Combined with electro, soul, pop and ambient funk, her smoky vocals and exceptional piano skills will set the tone for *All Jazzed Up At CAAM*.

An array of high school students from ACT-SO – a youth program under the administrative sponsorship of the NAACP, will take the stage displaying their dynamics in performing arts. ACT-SO performers gracing the stage at CAAM will be, junior Katherine Eason of LA County High School of the Arts, sophomore electric guitarist, Na'il Muhammad of Hamilton High School, and senior Tamina Khyra-Joi Johnson of Champs Charter High School.

Other artists set to perform include, Louis Van Taylor who has played the tenor saxophone since his childhood and Patrice Quinn, founder of Arts Expand. Arts Expand brings

local artist and “at –risk” youth together in various settings. Quinn is also an acting teacher at the L.A. County High School for the Arts.

Local professional artist and educator Teresa Tolliver will guide a community art project. Children and families are encouraged to attend. There will be a diverse group of arts and crafts vendors and food vendors on the CAAM Plaza, where patrons can shop for the special gift or grab a bite to eat. The spotlight exhibition of the month is “Places of Validation, Art & Progression,” an exhibition highlighting the work of local African American artists during the 1940’s through the 1980’s and is part of the Pacific Standard Time initiative; a unique, multi-institution art event of 50+ Southern California cultural institutions spearheaded by the Getty Foundation. This event is free and open to the public. CAAM is located at 600 State Drive, Exposition Park, 90037.

EXHIBITIONS IN THE CAAM GALLERIES:

“Women: Game Changers, Less Known, Here Celebrated” through December, 2011

“The African Diaspora in the Art of Miguel Covarrubias” through February 26, 2012

“Places of Validation, Art & Progression” through April 1, 2012

“Gallery of Discovery” (multi-use education exploration space) ongoing

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 6,000 objects of art, artifacts and historical documents,

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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 shows on a regular basis. The museum also tours CAAM exhibitions throughout California and the nation.

Located at 600 State Drive in Exposition Park, regular museum public hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm, and Sundays 11am-5pm. Museum admission and workshop participation is always free. Parking in the adjacent lot is \$10.00 all day at Figueroa and 39th Streets. For more information on the California African American Museum visit www.caamuseum.org.

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