

ANNUAL REPORT

2019
2020



**FRIENDS OF AFRICAN
AMERICAN ART & CULTURE**

FRIENDS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ART & CULTURE

We are brought together by our appreciation for the artistic and cultural contributions of African American people.

The Friends of African American Art & Culture (FAAAC) is a CMA membership affinity group inclusive of all genders, ethnicities, and ages. No matter the medium, African American art evokes a vibrant culture, an indomitable spirit, and a strong sense of place. FAAAC offers museum members a chance to step behind the canvas and discover what compels artists to create the work they do.



the Columbia
Museum of **ART**
Friends of
African American
Art & Culture

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

A The 2019-2020 fiscal year has been a year of growth, experimentation, and change for the Friends of African American Art and Culture. FAAAC committed itself to both traditional programs and fresh ideas, in conjunction with an ambitious Columbia Museum of Art program schedule. The annual report reflects an affinity group on the move, seeking greater participation within the greater Midlands arts community. This includes powerful programs about the presence of African Americans in the curatorial industry via Kimberly Drew, participation in Benedict College's annual Harambe celebration, or the new tradition of Sip and Scribble every December.

Each of FAAAC's programs and involvement in larger activities throughout Columbia reflect the vibrant state of African American art, culture, and creativity in 2020. The CMA's slate of programs also reflected FAAAC's commitment to working with the museum for a diverse array of programming—reflecting the rich history of African Americans in the Midlands. This was on display with the Harlem South program performed to critical acclaim during the fall of 2019. We in FAAAC will continue to work as a conduit between artists and the larger artistic community in Columbia and the CMA.

As FAAAC moves forward, we will continue to do our best to plan exciting events at the museum. Despite being temporarily derailed by the current pandemic, FAAAC already has plans to celebrate *Black is Beautiful* at the CMA during the summer. In addition, FAAAC is bringing back the Enduring Spirit Awards, the third iteration of this celebration of African American women in the Midlands. A trailblazing event that has inspired many in the Midlands to learn more about their own history, Enduring Spirit will take on a new meaning this year, as art has become essential to our community's healing during and after a terrible global crisis.

FAAAC continues to work to foster greater dialogue throughout the Midlands about the African American artistic and cultural experience in the heart of the Palmetto State. This year, we celebrate ten years as an affinity group at the CMA. While we look back with pride on how far our organization has come, FAAAC also looks forward—to tapping into the tenacious intellect and generous soul that embodies the history of African American art here in the Midlands.

Robert

Robert Greene, II
FAAAC President



FINANCES

Opening Balance - 7/1/2019

\$15,664.74

Revenue (memberships, bar sales, donations)

\$2,975.50

Expenses (artist fees, supplies, catering)

(\$2,254.66)

End Balance - 5/31/2020

\$16,385.58



Robert Greene, II
FAAAC President

MEMBERSHIP

Active Memberships - 7/1/2019

134 households

Active Memberships - 5/31/2020

137 households

Of the 97 membership purchases made between July 1, 2019 and May 31, 2020:

39 households did not have a membership in the preceding year

58 households renewed their membership

The Membership Committee coordinated membership recruitment tables at CMA, FAAAC and community events, including Jubilee Festival, Harambee, MLK Day, etc., and the Committee led the planning for the Annual Meeting, which had to be cancelled due to precautions related to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Committee focused instead on the development of the FAAAC Annual Report for electronic distribution.

Chair: Therese Griffin

Committee: Sherrie Belton, Dr. Jennifer Gunter, Kymm Hunter, Waltene Whitmire



NOMINATIONS

The FAAAC Board of Directors appointed five new members: Kymm Hunter, Assistant Vice President of Communications and Marketing, Office of the President at Benedict College; Donette Isreal, Executive District Sales Manager-Diabetes Team for AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals; and Vanesha Perrin, Director of the Office of Medicaid Services at the SC Department of Education. The board also appointed Charlton "Charles" Salley, Sales Manager for Carolina Office Systems Xerox; and Nancy Tolson, Ph.D., Professor of Curriculum and Instruction and Assistant Director of African American Studies at the University of South Carolina.

The Nominations Committee recently vetted a new slate of nominees to be presented to the FAAAC Board of Directors in May 2020. Newly elected board members will begin their terms in July 2020.

Chair: Waltene Whitmire

Committee Members: Dr. Carla Daniels, Dr. Robert Greene, Sammyette Jones, Vanesha Perrin



MARKETING

The Marketing and Public Relations Committee had a very productive year. Planning is underway to kick-off the 10-year FAAAC Celebration with new look. The Committee produced a Newsletter in September highlighting upcoming events and developed a game plan to accomplish the goals set during the FAAAC Planning Retreat in August 2019.

The news release of the new board member has been written and will be sent to the media with the finalized schedule of the 10-year FAAAC celebratory events (pending COVID-19 considerations). A graphic designer has been hired to create a special FAAAC 10-year anniversary logo, a pull-up banner and a step and repeat for increased visual marketing of the organization.

The Marketing and PR Committee was actively involved in several FAAAC programs from promotions to attendance. The Committee also participated in several community events to promote FAAAC to include Jubilee and Harambee. Lastly, the team continued the initiative to reach out to the college art programs at USC, Claflin University, Columbia College, and Benedict College to engage college students in CMA and FAAAC programming.

Chair: Kymm Hunter

Committee: Therese Griffin, Dr. Kathryn Silva



DEVELOPMENT

The Development Committee will reconvene in the next fiscal year to address a 10th anniversary fundraising event and long-range resource planning for FAAAC.

Chair: Dr. Maria Kratsios

Committee: Sherrie Belton, Dr. Robert Greene, Donette Isreal, Sammyette Jones, Charles Salley



PROGRAMMING

Members Only Happy Hour - November 2019

Reception and a tour led by Dr. Nancy Tolson of the African American artists featured in the CMA's permanent collection

Sip and Scribble - December 2019

The third edition of FAAAC's soulful coloring book party featuring artists Isaac Udogwu and Mo Colón.

MLK Celebration - January 2020

FAAAC assisted the CMA in the promotion of this annual event celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

An Evening with Kimberly Drew - February 2020

In partnership with the University of South Carolina's School of Visual Art & Design and the Department of African American Studies, FAAAC hosted a talk with author and arts activist Kimberly Drew. Moderated by Dr. Nancy Tolson.

Benedict College's Harambe Festival - February 2020

FAAAC hosted a membership recruitment table in the community village at the festival.

In addition to planning, supporting, and implementing events throughout the year, the Programming Committee has collaborated with the CMA for the upcoming, muse-see exhibition *Black Is Beautiful: The Photography of Kwame Brathwaite*, on view June 26 - September 6, 2020.

Chair: Beryl Dakers

Committee: Sherrie Belton, Dr. Carla Daniels, Dr. Robert Greene, Therese Griffin, Dr. Maria Kratsios, Delores Logan, Dr. Nancy Tolson



Top: MLK Celebration attendees pose in the complimentary portrait booth.
Left: The NiA Company mesmerizes the crowd with live storytelling and singing.
Right: MLK Celebration attendees complete one of the art activities.



All: MLK Celebration attendees browse the Think Black, Buy Black pop-up shop



Top: A snapshot of the coloring pages designed for Sip and Scribble by Isaac Udogwu and Mo Colon.
Left and Right : The crowd enjoys the coloring festivities during Sip and Scribble.



All: Action shots from Benedict College's Harambee Festival. FAAAC tabled at the community village.



Top: Artist Alana Harris interacts with crowd at her printmaking station at the MLK Celebration.

Left: Artist Isaac Udogwu snaps photos at the portrait booth during the MLK Celebration.

Right: A snapshot of the prints made by MLK Celebration attendees. The print is designed by Alana Harris and inspired by the MLK bust in the CMA Collection.



Top: FAAAC board member Dr. Nancy Tolson in conversation with author and activist Kimberly Drew.
Left: Anna House, director of the School of Visual Art and Design at University of South Carolina welcomes the crowd.
Right: College students mingling before the Kimberly Drew talk.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Robert Greene, II, Ph.D., President	Claflin University
Therese Griffin, Vice President	Dominion Energy South Carolina
Vanesha Perrin, Secretary	SC Department of Education
D. Delores Logan, Treasurer	Retired Business Owner
Sherrie Belton, Liaison	Columbia Museum of Art

Members

Carla Daniels, Ph.D.	Retired Educator
Beryl Dakers	South Carolina Educational Television
Jennifer Gunter, Ph. D.	University of South Carolina
Kymm Hunter	Benedict College
Donnete Israel	AstraZeneca
Sammyette Jones, RPh	CVS Pharmacy
Maria Kratsios, Ph.D.	Richland School District Two
Charles Salley	Carolina Office Systems, Xerox
Kathryn Silva, Ph.D.	Claflin University
Nancy Tolson, Ph.D.	University of South Carolina
Waltene Whitmire	Integrity Tax and Bookkeeping

The FAAAC board held its annual planning retreat in August 2019 at the CMA. The board adopted a 3-year planning horizon focused primarily on its upcoming 10th Anniversary in 2020-2021.

Interested in being involved? Email us at faaac@columbiamuseum.org.