African American Heritage Museum to Open in Noyes Museum Arts Garage Stockton College

Will Move to 2,000-Square-Foot Space in Atlantic City This Fall

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Galloway, NJ – The African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey will open in The Noyes Museum Arts Garage Stockton College in Atlantic City this fall, part of the resort's developing Arts District.

The African American Heritage Museum (AAHM), founded by Ralph Hunter Sr., will occupy 2,000 square feet of the Arts Retail space located on the first floor of The Wave parking garage along Mississippi Avenue.

The museum brings to life the African American experience of the 20th Century as it documents the struggle of one group of Americans to carve their own place in the wider cultural landscape.

"Stockton is pleased to contribute to Atlantic City's cultural renaissance by creating a new art gallery and retail space that will also include the African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey," said President Herman Saatkamp. "We are working with the community to create an Arts District worthy of Atlantic City in all its diversity."

The Noyes Museum of Stockton, which manages the site leased by the college, will have a 900-square-foot exhibition space of primarily New Jersey artists' work and a 550-square-foot gift shop selling the work of local artists and crafts people.

"The great thing about this project is it will bring a variety of diverse artists together under one roof to create and to bring their artistic wares to the marketplace," said Michael Cagno, executive director of The Noyes.

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The African American Heritage Museum has access to more than 11,000 items such as graphics, drawings, paintings, advertisements, household and decorative items, all depicting blacks in a historical context.

"In a decade-by-decade account - a progression from Aunt Jemima to Tiger Woods - the museum provides a visual and intuitive understanding as to how the African American heritage has changed over time," Hunter said.

Through narrative, photos, video and artifacts, museum visitors can experience a lifetime of heritage through another person's eyes and have a chance to purchase unique artifacts, Hunter added.

The museum will retain a smaller presence in its original location in Newtonville, in western Atlantic County, Hunter said. AAHM is committed to bringing its resources directly to the community, and does outreach programs, he added.

AAHM is supported by a coalition of area businesses, education professionals, collectors and community residents. Volunteers' services and donations from supporters are used for acquisition of additional historical artifacts, photo cataloging in the primary collection, research projects, administrative and overhead costs.

The Noyes Museum Arts Garage Stockton College will also feature individual studios where local artisans will be able to create works of art and offer them for sale. The Wave parking garage was built by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA).

For information on becoming a tenant at The Noyes Museum Arts Garage Stockton College, click: http://www.noyesmuseum.org/resources/2013/arts_garage_studios.pdf

For more information on The African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey, go to: http://aahmsnj.org/

The Noyes Arts Garage Stockton College, set to open this fall on Mississippi Avenue in Atlantic City, will include an art gallery run by The Noyes Museum of Art as well as artist studios and arts retail space. The 16,000-square-foot arts and retail space, managed by The Noyes, is on the first floor of The Wave Parking Garage built by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA.) Along with Stockton's Dante Hall Theater at 14 N. Mississippi Ave., The Noyes Arts Garage Stockton College helps anchor Atlantic City's developing Arts District.