

January 28, 2008

MEDIA ADVISORY

Head of US Agency That Funds Libraries and Museums to Visit Clark Atlanta University Galleries to Begin Black Heritage Month; Convene National Forum

As a kickoff to Black Heritage Month, the director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the primary federal source of support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums, will visit Atlanta's Clark Atlanta University Galleries to see that institution's restored collection of significant African-American art. A national study found that nearly 190 million objects in U.S. collections are in immediate danger of deterioration and need restoration or conservation. Clark Atlanta University Galleries' collection is a superb example of how fragile works of art are being saved.

Anne-Imelda Radice will visit the gallery as a prelude to a national conservation forum, *Preserving America's Diverse Heritage*, convening Thursday and Friday at the High Museum where 300 library and museum representatives from across the country will be part of an initiative to make caring for America's collections a national priority. The forum will give special attention to Native American, Latino American and African-American collections held in small and medium-sized museums and libraries.

Lonnie Bunch, director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African-American History and Culture will be the forum's keynote speaker.

Schedule

Thursday, January 31

- 10 a.m.** **MEDIA AVAILABILITY: IMLS Director Anne-Imelda Radice visits Clark Atlanta University Galleries**, Trevor Arnett Hall (corner of Greensferry Street and James P. Brawley Drive, S.W.). She will tour the gallery with director Tina Dunkley and will be shown examples of fragile and significant works of art that have been restored.
- 1:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.** *Preserving America's Diverse Collections*
Robert W. Woodruff Arts Center, 1280 Peachtree Street, NE
Speakers and panelists include noted museum and library representatives. See complete schedule at www.ims.gov/collections/Tour/atlanta.htm
- 6:00 p.m.** **Keynote Address, Rich Auditorium, Woodruff Arts Center**
Lonnie Bunch, director, Smithsonian Institution Museum of African-American History and Culture. **Note:** Mr. Bunch will be introduced by Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin.

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