

**Exhibition Featuring African American Quilt Guild of Oakland
Special Opening Reception Hosted by Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson on May 31, 2016
The Public is Invited to Attend**

Oakland CA – (May 9, 2016) – The Alameda County Arts Commission will present an exhibition featuring artworks by the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland at the Alameda County Administration Building in downtown Oakland as part of the Art In Public Spaces program. The exhibition is on display on the first and fifth floors of the Alameda County Administration Building at 1221 Oak St., Oakland, from May 31 - August 19, 2016. The exhibit is free and open to the public during business hours 9 am - 5 pm, Monday through Friday.

This exhibit features over 30 original quilts from the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland's project titled "Neighborhoods Coming Together: Quilts Around Oakland." The project involved the creation of 250 quilts about the people, environment, history, business, culture and other aspects of life in Oakland.

Over the course of the project from 2014-2016, the quilts were created by 37 guild members in collaboration with 275 community members. Guild members conducted 18 community quilt workshops at 12 schools, community centers and organizations. Ages of participants ranged from 6 - 70+ years. Organizations included the 4-H Clubs of Oakland, Downtown Oakland Senior Center, East Bay Innovation Academy, Harbor House, Horace Mann Elementary School, Joaquin Miller Elementary School, Joyce Gordon Gallery, Laney College, North Oakland Senior Center, Peralta Hacienda, St. Leo's School, and the Women's Cancer Resource Center.

This unique local project has been covered widely by the press including the New York Times, KQED, KPFA, East Bay Times, and Hyperallergic, an international arts and culture online news forum.

Project partners included the Alliance for California Traditional Arts, The Clorox Company Foundation, and Hoffman Fabrics.

Exhibition Reception

In honor of the exhibition, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson's Office will host a reception open to the public. The reception will be on Tuesday, May 31 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm, and Supervisor Carson will speak at 5:15 pm. The reception will be held in the 5th Floor Lobby of the Alameda County Administration Building at 1221 Oak St., Oakland in downtown Oakland. The exhibits will be open for viewing on the 1st and 5th floors during the reception.

African American Quilt Guild of Oakland

Founded in 2000, the mission of African American Quilt Guild of Oakland is to preserve and continue the tradition of quilting, promote fellowship among interested persons in all aspects of quilting, contribute to the knowledge and appreciation of fine quilting and quilts, and sponsor and support quilting activities through regular meetings and special events with the community. More info at www.aaqgo.org

The exhibition and reception are free and open to the public.

For more information call (510) 208-9646 or email artscommission@acgov.org.



Oakland Geese by Jackie Houston
Photo by Eric Murphy



Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame by Ora Clay
Photo by Eric Murphy