

# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

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## NEWS

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## COLLABORATION BRINGS TRAVELING EXHIBITION FROM THE SCHOMBURG CENTER TO ALBANY

*In Motion: The African-American Migration Experience* will be on view from  
**February 11—March 26, 2017**

ALBANY, NY— The Albany Institute of History & Art is partnering with the African American Cultural Center of the Capital Region, Inc. (AACCCR), the Capital District Black Chamber of Commerce, and the JAFJR Community Foundation to host a traveling panel exhibition created and curated by the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at The New York Public Library. This panel exhibition will be displayed in a public space on the third floor atrium of the Albany Institute of History & Art from February 11-March 26, 2017. There will be no admission fee to see this exhibition.

The idea to bring the exhibit to the Capital District was the result of an initial collaboration between the Capital District Black Chamber of Commerce and Rockie Mann of the newly formed JAFJR Community Foundation. "Our initial goal was to further increase the overall level of consciousness of Capital District residents regarding African American history, particularly that of young people of color across the region," says Ronald Quartimon of the Chamber. He continues, "People of African descent are woven into the very fabric of America as a result of constant migration, and our contributions are undeniable and not to be forgotten."

Their second goal was to encourage collaboration in the African American community between organizations with seemingly different missions, but with the African heritage community as their focus. In that spirit, Quartimon, along with Ms. Roxanne Wright, also of the JAFJR Community Foundation, reached out to the AACCCR. "We are thrilled to bring this exhibition to the Albany area," says Linda Jackson-Chalmers, president of the Board of Directors at the AACCCR and Trustee at the Albany Institute of History & Art. "This collaboration, I believe, is the first of its kind to commemorate African American History Month in the City of Albany."

Executive Director of the Albany Institute of History & Art, Tammis Graft, is also excited for this partnership. "Our gallery spaces are reserved for exhibitions years in advance, but when we were asked

to host this show, we knew we wanted to find a way to make it possible,” she says. “We’ve temporarily transformed our third floor atrium into new ‘gallery’. Since it is a public space, it is also an exhibition visitors can see for free.”

The exhibition uses panels and a companion online exhibition and website *In Motion: The African-American Migration Experience* to examine how African Americans have formed and transformed themselves and their landscape through migration.

According to the Schomburg Center: “African Americans, perhaps more than any other population in the Americas, have been shaped by migrations. Their culture and history are the products of black peoples’ various movements, coerced and voluntary, that started in the Western Hemisphere 500 years ago. Everywhere their thirst for freedom, education, and opportunities brought them, African Americans have recreated themselves and transformed the land, the cities, the culture, and ultimately the nation.”

“We encourage everyone, young and old, to come out and view this exhibit which tells the historical story of the migration of people from the shores of Africa to the Western hemisphere and their continued struggle to achieve the American dream of equality and justice,” say Jackson-Chalmers. Each of the organizations who have collaborated in this effort is excited about what the future holds for this and other exhibits. “It is when we are working together that we remember the incredible power of our united efforts”, says Mann.

There will be exhibition specific programs happening at the Albany Institute of History & Art this March (see below).

Anyone interested in learning more about school tour opportunities, please contact the Education Department at the Albany Institute of History & Art at (518) 463-4478 ext. 405.

#### **More about The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture:**

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture is one of the world's leading research facilities devoted to the preservation of materials on the global African and African diaspora experiences. A focal point of



Harlem's cultural life, the Center also functions as the national research library in the field, providing free access to its wide-ranging noncirculating collections. It also sponsors programs and events that illuminate and illustrate the richness of black history and culture. In January 2017, the Schomburg Center was named a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service, recognizing its vast collection of materials that represent the history and culture of people of African descent through a global, transnational perspective.

#### **Upcoming Reception**

A reception will be held sometime during the month of March to thank the sponsors of this event and encourage the sponsorship of future similar exhibits. The date for that event will be announced shortly. The organizations previously mentioned will be reaching out to local businesses and organizations to encourage sponsorship. Anyone interested in sponsorship opportunities should contact any of the organizations below:

**Angela O'Neal**  
Executive Director, AACCCR  
aaculturalcentercapregion@gmail.com  
(518) 339-2494

**Corey L. Ellis**  
President, CDBCC  
90 State Street  
Albany NY 12207  
518-339-1568

**Roxanne Wright**  
JAFJR Foundation  
255 Orange St – Ste 207  
Albany, NY 12210  
518-982-0908

**More about exhibition programs:**

COMMUNITY EVENT

**Footprints of Our Ancestors**

Thursday, March 9, 6:30PM

*Moderated by the African American Cultural Center of the Capital Region*

Join us for a delightful evening of stories and presentations that will bring to life the journey and struggles of families that made the transition from the rural South to the Capital Region during the Great Migration.

- Free admission

SPECIAL EVENT

**The Migration Experience: Traditions and Sounds of Our Culture**

Sunday, March 19, 3-5PM

The African American Cultural Center of the Capital Region invites the community to feel the powerful and unifying force of music as it reflects various traditions and culture. Through spoken word, drumming, dance, and personal reflections, the event will inspire participants to celebrate a vibrant and rich history.

- Free with museum admission

**Related images:**



A NEGRO FAMILY JUST ARRIVED IN CHICAGO FROM THE RURAL SOUTH

*A negro family just arrived in Chicago from the rural South, courtesy of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture*

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The Albany Institute of History & Art is located at 125 Washington Avenue in Albany, New York. Free parking is available in the museum's lot at the corner of Elk and Dove Streets.

The exhibition galleries, Museum Shop, and the new Crisan Café at the Albany Institute are open Wednesday 10am-5pm, Thursday 10am-8pm, Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, and Sunday noon-5pm. In addition, the café and museum shop are open Tuesdays from 10am-5pm. The Research Library is open on Thursdays from 1pm-4:30pm and by appointment.

Current admission rates are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students with ID, \$6 for children aged 6-12, and free for children under 6. Albany Institute members are admitted for free. There is no charge to visit the café or museum shop. The museum offers free admission to the galleries on Thursdays from 5pm-8pm and on the First Fridays of the month from 5pm-8pm. To learn about other discounts and free admission days, please refer to the Visit section of [www.albanyinstitute.org](http://www.albanyinstitute.org).

For more information, visit [www.albanyinstitute.org](http://www.albanyinstitute.org) or call (518) 463-4478.

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Founded in 1791, the Albany Institute of History & Art is New York's oldest museum. Its collections document the Hudson Valley as a crossroads of culture, influencing the art and history of the region, the state, and the nation. With more than 35,000 objects and one million documents in the library, it is an important resource for the region, giving our community a sense of the part the Hudson Valley played in the American story, and our own place in history. Permanent and temporary exhibitions are open year-round and create a sense of place, allowing visitors to meet the people who helped shape this region. Among the museum's best-known and most-loved collections are the 19<sup>th</sup> century Hudson River School landscape paintings by artists like Thomas Cole and Frederic Church, the 19<sup>th</sup> century sculpture collections, and, of course, the famous Albany Mummies that came to the museum in 1909 and have been on view ever since. For more information, please visit [www.albanyinstitute.org](http://www.albanyinstitute.org) and be sure to follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute](https://www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute)) and Twitter (@Albany Institute).