### **FEATURED ILLUSTRATORS**

E.B. Lewis **Benny Andrews** 

**Nneka Bennett** Frank Morrison

Colin Bootman Kadir Nelson

**Rod Brown Brian Pinkney** 

**Ashley Bryan** Jerry Pinkney

R. Gregory Christie **Ansel Pitcairn Bryan Collier** James Ransome

Floyd Cooper Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson

**Michael Cummings** Javaka Steptoe

Leo and Diane Dillon John Steptoe

Shadra Strickland Tom Feelings

AG Ford Don Tate

Jan Spivey Gilchrist **Eric Velasquez** 

**Ekua Holmes Charlotte Riley Webb** 

Cornelius Van Wright & Ying-Hwa Hu John Holyfield

Main Library

(216) 226-8275

15425 Detroit Avenue Lakewood, Ohio 44107-3829

**London Ladd** Elizabeth Zunon

Jerome LaGarrigue

## **VISIT THE EXHIBIT**

Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday

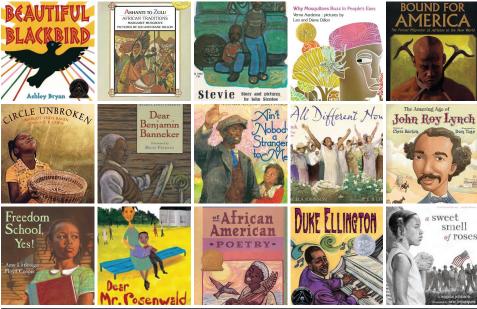
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Starting October 3, 2020)

Sunday Closed

# **TELLING** A PEOPLE'S **STORY**

African-American Children's Illustrated Literature

September 1, 2020 – October 15, 2020





## **ABOUT THE EXHIBITION**

Telling A People's Story is the first major museum exhibition devoted to the art found within the pages of African-American children's picture books. The exhibition emphasizes the strength of the illustrations as visual narrative representations of the African-American experience. While aspects of social justice are found throughout the three main galleries, the exhibition goes beyond providing a look into the struggles of African Americans. This project celebrates the complex and diverse African-American experience through a lens intended for children and young readers. The exhibition offers something for all viewers through the representation of familiar and lesser-known people and the contributions of African Americans to an American identity.

More than 600 books, and over 14,000 illustrations were reviewed during the development of this exhibition in search of a strong representation of events and milestones in African-American history. Themes and time periods include African Origins, Middle Passage, Slavery, Emancipation, Reconstruction, Harlem Renaissance, Segregation and the Civil Rights Movement. Other themes draw attention to historical figures in politics, music, sports, arts and entertainment. The selection of approximately 130 works on display includes paintings, pastels, drawings and mixed media works. Featured are more than thirty artists, spanning nearly fifty years of creativity. Collectively, the many books created by authors and illustrators since the late 19th century contribute to an understanding of the African-American experience through two perspectives:

- An internal look into the need for validation and the creation of positive self-images
- An introduction to the African-American experience for those unfamiliar in order to better understand the cultural, historical and social makeup of African-American identity

Many of the artworks featured in the exhibition received top honors and honorable mentions from several major literary organizations. Now under the umbrella of the American Libraries Association, the John Newbery Medal (first awarded in 1922) recognizes authors, while the Randolph Caldecott Award (first awarded in 1938) is given to illustrators. The Coretta Scott King Award (first awarded in 1970) is the third major children's book award, created for the recognition of African-American children's books during a time when African Americans received little attention for their work. These three awards validate the exceptional contributions of African-American authors and illustrators to the world of children's literature.

The exhibition is presented in twelve large panels arranged chronologically as follows:

Panel 1 . . . . Telling a People's Story

**Panel 2** . . . . African Traditions & Storytelling

Panel 3 . . . . The Middle Passage

Panel 4 . . . . Slavery & the Underground Railroad

Panel 5 . . . . Civil War Emancipation & Reconstruction

Panel 6 . . . . Segregation

**Panel 7** . . . . Harlem Renaissance & The Great Migration

**Panel 8** . . . . The Civil Rights Era

Panel 9 ..... The Civil Rights Era (continued)

Panel 10 . . . . Modern Cultural Identity

**Panel 11** . . . . Biographical Sketches

Panel 12 . . . . Biographical Sketches (continued)