

Kwanzaa Now Campaign  
National KNC Work Group  
P.O. Box 41015  
Washington, DC 20018

August 7, 2019

Department of Curatorial Affairs  
Elaine Nichols, Senior Curator of Culture  
William Pretzer, Senior Curator of History  
1400 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20560

Good Afternoon Elaine and Bill,

Baba Lumumba and I wish to personally thank you for meeting with us May 15<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate your making time to address the Kwanzaa Now Campaign's concerns regarding the lack of representation of Kwanzaa in the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

We are grateful you agreed to partner with us around promoting and celebrating Kwanzaa this year; however it was disappointing not to reach an agreement on an exhibit. Our meeting ended with you promising to be in touch regarding ways the museum can participate in a partnership. Not hearing from you since our meeting, we would like to suggest a few ways NMAAHC can help us promote and celebrate Kwanzaa 2019. We propose the museum: 1. Host Kwanzaa's founder, Dr. Maulana Karenga, for a lecture and workshop during Kwanzaa; 2. Place a Kwanzaa set and decorations in the entrance main lobby during Kwanzaa and 3. add quality Kwanzaa products in the gift shop.

A NMAAHC Kwanzaa celebration would be an excellent historical and cultural milestone event, and should include Kwanzaa's founder. The Kwanzaa Now Campaign has taken the liberty to contact Dr. Karenga to confirm his willingness to participate and he has agreed. As you may assume, Dr. Karenga is in great demand during Kwanzaa. Therefore, we should confirm a date with him as soon as possible. Also, we have members that will gladly donate Kwanzaa decorations and assist with decorating. We can also provide a list of quality Kwanzaa products and vendors.

We were pleasantly surprised to see the promotion of Mr. Lonnie G. Bunch III to the 14th Secretary of the Smithsonian shortly following our meeting. It is an outstanding achievement for the director of NMAAHC to be elevated to this position in three years. Our sincere congratulations to Mr. Bunch and NMAAHC! Likewise we are thrilled Mr. Spencer Crew is NMAAHC interim director; especially considering his history as Director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and the substantive Kwanzaa events held there under his leadership.

We look forward to receiving your reply.

  
Wautella ibn Yusuf, Chair

cc: Mr. Lonnie G. Bunch III, Mr. Spencer Crew  
KNC Work Group – Baba Lumumba, Oforiwa Idawa, Kibibi Tyehimba,  
Dr. Segun Shabaka and Maisha Sullivan-Ogoza