



Smithsonian
*National Museum of African American
History and Culture*

Office of Curatorial Affairs

August 30, 2019

Wautella ibn Yusef, Chair
Kwanzaa Now Campaign
P. O. Box 4105
Washington, DC 20018

Dear Wautella ibn Yusuf:

Thank you for your correspondence of August 7, 2019 regarding the Kwanzaa Now Campaign's "concerns about the lack of representation of Kwanzaa in the National Museum of African American History and Culture." The Museum seeks to help people understand what it means to be an American by looking through the lens of African American history and culture. Throughout our previous conversations and correspondences, we have emphasized that the Museum recognizes the significance of Kwanzaa as an important African American holiday.

While the Museum is not an exhaustive encyclopedia of African American history and culture or a hall of fame, we realize that we could not include every individual, event or story that merited inclusion, nor could we tell every story with the detail that visitors might desire. The Museum is an evolving institution and will include new information over time. We value comments such as yours that come from many individuals and organizations because they help inform the Museum's future.

Although we are currently under a collecting hiatus due to the large volume of donation offers we have received, we are continuing to build our collection of Kwanzaa-related artifacts. We welcome any assistance you can provide in finding any critical artifacts related to the founding of Kwanzaa.

Finally, we regret that during our conversation in May there may have been a misunderstanding about a partnership to mount a Kwanzaa program. Our 2019 schedule is full, and all programs are arranged by our Public Program Officer.

Again, thank you for your interest and support of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Sincerely,

William S. Pretzer
Senior Curator of History

Elaine Nichols
Senior Curator of Culture