



OREGON
HISTORY MUSEUM
AT THE OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Walls of Heritage
Walls of Pride
African American Murals

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Walls of Heritage, Walls of Pride Exhibit Features Original African American Mural Art from Across the Nation

At the Oregon History Museum November 16, 2010 – February 13, 2011

Portland, OR – November 16, 2010— This fall, art and history unite at the Oregon History Museum with the opening of the exhibit Walls of Heritage, Walls of Pride: African American Murals. African Americans have a longstanding, but little-known, mural tradition. Denied access to mainstream museums and galleries, venues within the Black community became showcases for images of the community's struggles and achievements. Opening today, November 16, this traveling exhibit showcases unique African American mural art, which has rarely been showcased outside of the artists' neighborhoods.

The core of the show features large scale color photos of murals from across the nation, which will be supplemented by an exciting array of original work from the local and regional muralists, spanning from sketches and studies to entire mural panels. Highlights include work by two little-known women artists, Charlotte Lewis and Thelma Johnson Streat, the latter who assisted Diego Rivera on one of his mural projects. Also getting significant attention for the first time will be the Albina Mural Project, painted in 1977, in which 7 artists of color, mostly African American, researched regional Black history and created 5 20x20-foot panels that were seen by thousands of Portlanders at the corner of North Vancouver Avenue and Alberta from 1978-1983.

Video oral histories, archival documents and photos will help bring this important, but underexposed project alive. All of the local work will be placed in a national context by featuring images of some of the best, most exciting African American murals from all over the United States.

Walls of Heritage, Walls of Pride will be running at the Oregon History Museum at 1200 SW Park Avenue from November 16 through February 13, 2011. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM, and Sunday, Noon to 5 PM. Visit WWW.OHS.ORG for more information.

About the Oregon Historical Society

The Society has served since 1898 as Oregon's primary research collection and museum about Oregon history. OHS has an extensive collection of historical pieces, including over 85,000 artifacts and 3 million photographs and films. It safeguards and presents Oregon's history through a museum, research library, traveling exhibits, school programs and website content.