



Smithsonian Institution

Smithsonian Institution Archives

Proceedings of the Board of Regents Meeting held on May 9, 1988

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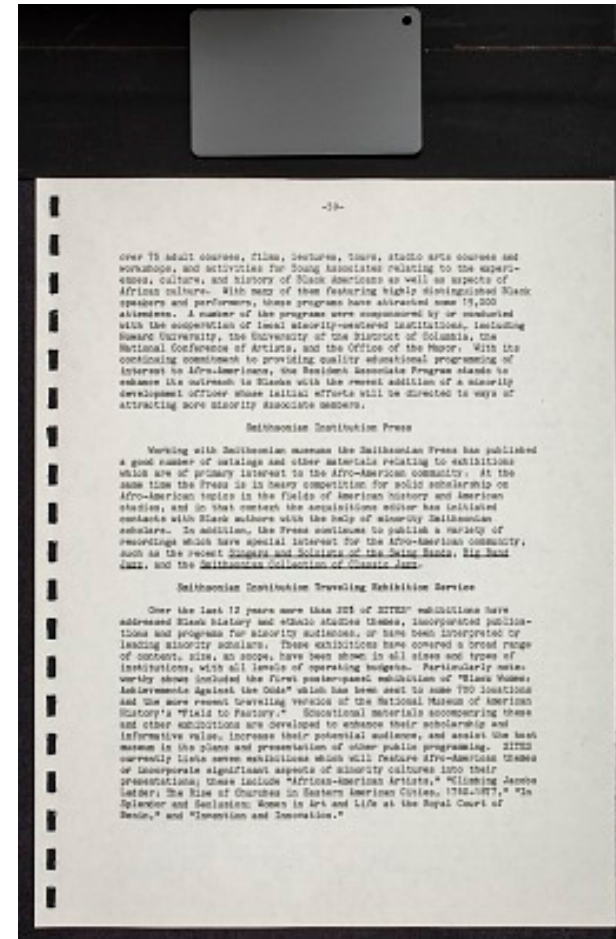
over 75 adult courses, films, lectures, tours, studio arts courses and workshops, and activities for Young Associates relating to the experiences, culture, and history of Black Americans as well as aspects of African culture. With many of them featuring highly distinguished Black speakers and performers, these programs have attracted some 15,000 attendees. A number of the programs were cosponsored by or conducted with the cooperation of local minority-centered institutions, including Howard University, the University of the District of Columbia, the National Conference of Artists, and the Office of the Mayor. With its continuing commitment to providing quality educational programming of interest to Afro-Americans, the Resident Associate Program stand to enhance its outreach to Blacks with the recent addition of a minority development officer whose initial efforts will be directed to ways of attracting more minority Associate members.

Smithsonian Institution Press

Working with Smithsonian museums the Smithsonian Press has published a good number of catalogs and other materials relating to exhibitions which are of primary interest to the Afro-American community. At the same time the Press is in heavy competition for solid scholarship on Afro-American topics in the fields of American history and American studies, and in that context the acquisitions editor has initiated contacts with Black authors with the help of minority Smithsonian scholars. In addition, the Press continues to publish a variety of recordings which have special interest for the Afro-American community, such as the recent Singers and Soloists of the Swing Bands, Big Band Jazz, and the Smithsonian Collection of Classic Jazz.

Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service

Over the last 12 years more than 20% of SITES' exhibitions have addressed Black history and ethnic studies themes, incorporated publications and programs for minority audiences, or have been interpreted by leading minority scholars. These exhibitions have covered a broad range of content, size, an scope, have been shown in all sizes and types of institutions, with all levels of operating budgets. Particularly noteworthy shows included the first poster-panel exhibition of "Black Women: Achievements Against the Odds" which has been sent to some 700 locations and the more recent traveling version of the National Museum of American History's "Field to Factory." Educational materials accompanying these and other exhibitions are developed to enhance their scholarship and informative value, increase their potential audience, and assist the host museum in its plans and presentation of other public programming. SITES currently lists seven exhibitions which will feature Afro-American themes or incorporate significant aspects of minority cultures into their presentations; these include "African-American Artists," "Climbing Jacobs Ladder: The Rise of Churches in Eastern American Cities, 1740-1877," "In Splendor and Seclusion: Women in Art and Life at the Royal Court of Benin," and "Invention and Innovation."





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The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

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