Sankofa Museum of African American Diaspora of History and Culture

3D Virtual Museum
Introduction

• The proposed Sankofa African American Diaspora of History and Culture 3D Virtual Museum, is setup to connect with friends, families, schools, universities, museums, churches, and organizations around the world. The New Jersey African American History exhibits from the 1600’s-1800’s and beyond will create an educational path from the past to the present.

• The Sankofa African American Diaspora of History and Culture 3D Virtual Museum will be the first state of art initiative of its kind to create an online museum. The virtual museum will be widely available to students, scholars, and the general public worldwide. The exhibits will include historical documents (word files), photographs, film interviews, memorabilia, and ephemera related to three centuries of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York history and around the world.

• The primary purpose of the Sankofa African American Diaspora of History and Culture 3D Virtual Museum, is to create worldwide alternative public access to the public online museum. The museum is meant to be a user friendly 3D Virtual worldwide experience.

• The primary motivation for the proposed project, the African American 3D Virtual Museum is to offer an affordable vehicle to increase worldwide awareness to African American History in New Jersey and surrounding states.
WHY ARE WE DOING THIS AFRICAN AMERICAN 3D VIRTUAL MUSEUM

A. To Create An African American 3D Virtual Museum.
   1. Layout of the building (outside/inside) three levels.
   2. What the building would look like in real time 3D.
   3. How to make the museum a user friendly experience.
   4. An educational experience for all ages.
   5. The museum will include pictures with printed captions, audio and visuals tools.

B. Engaging Experience With The Collections
   1. User friendly and fun: clicking on a picture enlarges the picture and caption (without walking closer to the picture).
   2. Clicking on a video enlarges the video with various control buttons (without walking closer to the video).
   3. Guided Tour and search for desirable exhibits (like a google search).
      The User Will Teleport - Jump to the desirable exhibit and guided tour with audio of a collection (similar to wearing an audio headset in a physical museum). Guided tour with a talking person as the guide.
   4. Monitors (videos) clicking on a video of any part of the virtual museum.
   5. Age appropriate activities for children on the third floor and Green Space - Roof Top.
   6. Theater room to showcase movies (first floor), library, research computer room for research of the collections (third floor). Restaurant, (food court with multiple small restaurants. Each marquee/sign features a physical/real restaurant that serves African American Cuisine (or nearby restaurants) and clicking on it leads to the corresponding website to potentially order real food). Bookstore (browse books in the store and direct to amazon.com ordering a book). Basketball court (virtual basketball touch screen monitor and play) outside showing children playing.
Sankofa African American Diaspora of History and Culture 3D Virtual Museum, will be joining forces with collector’s from around the country. The following is a short list: Oran Z McClain Belgrave Sr, Col. William A. DeShields, Dr. Richard Allen Collection and Joe & Gwen Ragsdale, research and documentation consisting of digital interviews with country wide historians, dramatic reenactments of historical scenes, and over 40,000 photographs. Sankofa African American Diaspora of History and Culture 3D Virtual Museum, will provide series of related cultural programs, academic seminars, teacher workshops, internet and tours of the historical sites. The timeline for implementation of our goals is 2021. And a Slave House on the main floor.

John Fitz Jarrell
(born 1810-died 1884)
Enhanced Curriculum and Scholarship:

Schools & universities will have the ability to launch a new general educational course (research and technology) for students focusing on African American History and other countries worldwide. Students will learn basic research techniques and skills dealing with a 3D museum. Additionally, Sankofa African American Diaspora of History and Culture 3D Virtual Museum. We will propose a series of programs—lecture presentations, faculty seminars, cultural events, books and documentaries. Access to a online museum will provide a way to address a wide array of issues related to culture, race, gender and class which will enhance the historical awareness to the entire world.
What will it mean to schools, universities and libraries for an online museum?

**Guidance for teachers and Enrichment for school children:**

Public and private school teachers and their students, will benefit from learning New Jersey’s history, past and present. The standard history curriculum that has been taught will be enhanced by having access to The Sankofa African American Diaspora of History and Culture 3D Virtual Museum.
Harriet Tubman spent summers between 1849 and 1852 in Cape May, New Jersey, working to earn money to support her liberation journeys and she spent winters in St. Catharine, Canada. She possessed great courage and determination. Slaves knew not to falter when they joined Tubman. According to oral history, she carried a pistol and threatened to use it rather than have a feckless fugitive drop out of her caravan and return to a master with secrets of the Underground Railroad.
Ragsdale Collection of slavery artifacts include: Bill of Sale documents and Jim Crow memorabilia owned by J. Justin & Gwen Ragsdale. The collection includes authentic slave shackles, chains, whips, branding irons and other items that were used for human bondage and punishment. Numerous objects from the Jim Crow Era that negatively depict Blacks.

This compelling collection truly brings history alive and provides a better understanding of the pain and suffering endured by kidnapped Africans brought to America and other parts of the world and held in bondage for hundreds of years. The collection also includes numerous genuine documents that promoted the purchase and selling of enslaved Africans. These rare collectibles bring history to life. Together they provide moving presentations and used items in the collection to demonstrate what it was truly like to ”Be A Slave.”
Here are two examples, the National Museum of African American History and Culture Floor layout: [https://nmaahc.si.edu/visit/maps](https://nmaahc.si.edu/visit/maps)
And the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio https://freedomcenter.org
The following is a short list of goals to be achieved:

* To reduce the financial expenses of field trips for financially struggling school districts.
* To create alternative access to museums for individuals with disabilities.
* To expand curriculum in school districts to include African American History across the country and around the world.
* To address current and future pandemics limitations of access to public spaces.

Knowledge and Skills - Basic technology and research skills.

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