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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**African American Museum to Reopen Tuesday, September 8, 2020**

The **African American Museum, Dallas** in Historic Fair Park will reopen on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. The Museum will reopen on a new schedule of Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Upon its reopening, the African American Museum will follow the guidelines and protocols of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) that require social distancing for all visitors. While visiting the Museum, visitors will be required to wear a face mask, have their temperature taken, use hand sanitizers, and stay six feet apart. The Museum will also operate at 25% of capacity. That is, no more than thirty-five people will be allowed in the building at one time.

Despite these restrictions, visitors to the Museum will be able to view three exhibitions which include selections from the Billy R. Allen Folk Art Collection. Named for a founding board member, the Collection has grown to include more than 500 objects and it includes the Decorative Arts Collection that consists of objects designed and produced by African Americans as early as the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The second exhibition is the “Facing the Rising Sun: Freedman’s Cemetery,” an exhibition curated by Alan Govenar on the history of Freedman’s Cemetery and the State Thomas Freedmantown. The third exhibition is a new exhibition entitled “Conceptual Menagerie.” Curated by Assistant Curator Jennifer Cowley, this new exhibition features the works of Randell Henry and Isaac Smith. Randell Henry exhibited his paintings and sculptures at the Museum in 2017, and Isaac Smith’s sculptures are a part of the Museum’s permanent collection.

The African America Museum of Dallas was founded in 1974 as a part of Bishop College and came to life under the vision of Dr. Harry Robinson, Jr., Founding President/CEO. The Museum has operated independently since 1979. For more than 40 years, the African American Museum has stood as a cultural beacon in Dallas and the Southwestern United States. Located in Dallas’ historic Fair Park, the African American Museum is the only museum in the Southwestern United States devoted to the collection, preservation and display of African American artistic, cultural and historical materials that relate to the African-American experience. The African American Museum incorporates a wide variety of visual art forms and historical documents that portray the African American experience in the United States, Southwest, and Dallas. The Museum has a small, but rich collection of African art, African-American fine art and one of the largest African American folk-art collections in the United States.

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