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THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART HOSTS KWANZAA FAMILY DAY ON DECEMBER 30

BALTIMORE, MD (December 12, 2007)—The Baltimore Museum of Art celebrates Kwanzaa early this year with an exciting **Kwanzaa Family Day** event on **Sunday, December 30, from 1 – 5 p.m.** Featuring joyous art and musical experiences, dynamic performances, and a family hands-on art activity, the BMA's Kwanzaa Family Day celebration has been a Baltimore tradition for more than 10 years.

Highlights of this year's Kwanzaa Family Day include performances by African-American dance ensemble **Kulu Mele**. For 30 years, Kulu Mele has specialized in blending West African ancestral traditions and African-American creativity, drawing upon the musical and movement forms of Brazil, Haiti, Cuba, Nigeria, Guinea, Ghana, and the Senegambia region, as well as American vernacular traditions of Hip-hop, Bop, Cha-cha, and Slop.

Award-winning storyteller and singer **Charlotte Blake Alston's** velvety voice will breathe exuberant life into traditional and contemporary stories from the African and African-American oral and cultural traditions. Alston's enchanting tales are enhanced by the sounds of traditional instruments including *djembe*, *berimbau*, *nkoning*, *mbira* and the 21-stringed *kora*.

Acclaimed Nigerian artist **Jimoh Buraimoh** will lead a hands-on bead painting workshop for all ages. Buraimoh is recognized for innovating the technique of 'painting' with beads, inspired by his knowledge of beadwork in classical Yoruba art. The BMA recently received Buraimoh's stunning *Three Wise Men* (1991) bead painting as a gift from Charles and Harriet Griffin.

All events are FREE and open to the public. For more information about Kwanzaa Family Day, call 443-573-1832 or visit artbma.org.

AFRICAN ART COLLECTION AT THE BMA

One of the first museums to start an African art collection, the BMA has one of the most important collections of African art in the United States, including an unparalleled Female Dance Headdress *D'mba* from the Baga in Guinea. The African art collection now numbers more than 2,000 objects ranging from

ancient Egyptian to contemporary Zimbabwean art. Works of art originate from across the continent and were used in royal courts, public and esoteric performances, and religious contexts, with examples from Bamana, Yoruba, Kuba, Ndebele, and many more communities. Highlights include works by acclaimed Liberian carvers Zlan and Sonzanlwon and the legendary brasscaster Ldamie. Recent acquisitions include a Lozi throne carved in the court of Lozi King Lewanika of western Zambia and a Hausa Koranic prayer board.

THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914 with a single painting, the BMA today has 90,000 works of art—including the largest holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world. Throughout the Museum, visitors will find an outstanding selection of European and American fine and decorative arts, 15th- through 19th-century prints and drawings, works by established and emerging contemporary artists, and objects from Africa, Asia, the Ancient Americas, and the Pacific Islands. Two beautifully landscaped gardens display an array of 20th-century sculpture that is an oasis in the city. As a major cultural destination for the greater Baltimore region, the BMA organizes and presents a variety of dynamic exhibitions and innovative programs throughout the year, and frequently hosts special events with cultural and educational partners. The Museum is located in a park-like setting in the heart of Charles Village and adjacent to the main campus of The Johns Hopkins University. It is distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope with an impressive wing for contemporary art added in 1994.

VISITOR INFORMATION

General admission is free; special exhibitions may be ticketed. The BMA is open Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m.- 5 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.- 6 p.m. The Museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located on Art Museum Drive at North Charles and 31st Streets, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general Museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit artbma.org.

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