

# The Museum of the African Diaspora San Francisco, California



The Museum of the African Diaspora (<http://www.moadsf.org/>) is based in San Francisco, California and is one of the few museums in the world focused exclusively on African Diaspora culture and on presenting the rich cultural heritage of the people of Africa and of African descendant cultures around the world.

Since opening in December 2005, the museum and its neighbors have created a dynamic cultural corridor for the City of San Francisco. As a public-private partnership the museum was developed as part of a partnership led by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency. In 1999, the City of San Francisco created a mandate to include an African American cultural presence in the last vacant parcel of Yerba Buena Gardens.

Then San Francisco Mayor Willie L. Brown appointed a steering committee to determine the mission and scope of a cultural facility within the complex. Cultural management, architectural and design consultants worked with members of the committee to design a world-class facility and develop fresh, vital programming that didn't exist anywhere else. Hence, a museum is born named the African American Cultural Institute that began in 2002. The new museum was renamed Museum of the African Diaspora to reflect a broadened scope and mission, and incorporated as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. The architectural space was designed by the nationally-renowned Freelon Group within the St. Regis Museum Tower. In 2005, the museum opened its doors, as a modern museum designed to showcase art and culture through the lens of the African Diaspora. The Museum of the African Diaspora is located at 685 Mission Street in San Francisco, California (open Wednesday-Sunday 12 PM-5 PM).

Current exhibits at the museum include twenty-six works by the acclaimed Los Angeles based artist Alison Saar which explores the legacy of history on the body and how this history shapes and guides social conceptualizes identity titled 'Alison Saar: Bearing'. Hence, the exhibit presents many of Saar's sculptural installations, utilizing found objects such as sugar sacks, buckets and cotton to merge the historical past with contemporary bodies. And second, work from three projects including *The Uninvited Series*, *The Kentifrica Project* and *The Tituba Series*, by Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle which navigates the residue of history by examining the exoticification and perception of the Black female body titled 'Who Among Us...' focused on artwork as a tool to undo the mythologies and imaginings placed on the colonized figure. Both exhibits are open from November 11, 2015 until April 3, 2015.

