



Black
History
Month

Africa: A View from the Field - February 19th, 12:00 pm CST



The [Africa exhibition](#) opened in 1993 as part of the Field Museum's centennial celebration. Now, get a rare look at the making of the exhibit with some of its creators—current and former Field Museum staff—as they reunite and take a look back.

Join this online panel discussion to hear firsthand about their experiences creating the *Africa* hall. They will reflect on their work, concept and design challenges and innovations. Learn how they established new models for exhibition development in museums.

Paired with the live conversation is a vintage WTTW documentary titled *Africa: A View from the Field*. This film gives a behind-the-scenes look at the exhibition's planning, development and production. Once you register for the event, you'll receive a link to the documentary. Please watch it before attending the virtual event on Friday, February 19th - 12:00 pm CST.

Space is limited. Sign up in advance to reserve your spot.
<https://www.fieldmuseum.org/our-events/africa-view-field>
Or share [the link](#) to our Facebook event.

Africa: A View from the Field - Panelists



ALAKA WALI – Moderator

Dr. Alaka Wali is curator of North American Anthropology in the Science and Education Division of the Field Museum and is currently leading the renovation of the North American Anthropology Hall. She was the founding director of the Center for Cultural Understanding and Change and implements environmental conservation programs in both Chicago and the Amazon regions of Peru. Her research focuses on the relationship between art and the capacity for social resilience.



PAM GAIBLE – Mount Shop Supervisor

Pam Gaible has been THE Mount Maker at the Field Museum since 1988. She has designed and fabricated mounts from welded metal, acrylic, plastic and foam; making mounts for objects ranging from star dust, to dinosaurs and mummies, African textiles, Native American artifacts, Chinese scrolls, gems and much more. Pam has traveled extensively around the world to evaluate artifacts and design mounts and has been team teaching a summer mount making workshop since the early 1990s.



CALVIN E. GRAY– Exhibit Developer

Calvin Gray is a studio artist and a student of humanity, museum professional, educator and youth mentor, particularly African-American youth, for over 40 years. He has held varied positions at many major Chicago museums. He was also Assistant Exhibit Developer on Inside Ancient Egypt at the Field and worked as an exhibit consultant developing and designing exhibits nationally.



DEBORAH L. MACK – Project Director

Dr. Deborah Mack is Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African American History and Culture and also currently serves as Interim Director at the National Museum of African Art. Her responsibilities include overall planning, management and coordination of strategic alliances. She was an independent museum consultant nationwide and internationally for many years and is an active service member of professional organizations in the industry.



BENNIE R. WELCH – Co-Designer

Bennie Welch began his professional career as a toy designer and prototype developer and after the Africa exhibit launched Welch Design Concepts, an independent industrial design company. He has consulted nationally conceptualizing and planning design concepts, production drawings and managing diverse productions at numerous museums throughout Chicago, the Midwest and Smithsonian Institutions.