

LAWRENCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION  
FINAL REPORT – COMMUNITY ARTS GRANT 2017

Name of event/agency receiving funds: And Still We Rise / Narratives of the Soul – Two African American Story Quilt Exhibitions at the Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas

Contact: Susan Earle, PhD, Project Director; Saralyn Reece Hardy, Fiscal Agent

Email: earle@ku.edu Phone: 785-864-0144

Amount of Grant Support from the City of Lawrence: \$7,000

General event synopsis/outcomes: With support from the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission, the Spencer Museum of Art presented two highly successful exhibitions of textile art created by more than fifty African American women in its three major temporary exhibition galleries at no cost to visitors for ten weeks from July 8 through September 17, 2017. The project included numerous related programs including significant partnership with the Inaugural National African American Quilt Convention (July 12-15) and a film screening at Liberty Hall downtown (Sept. 17). Attendance exceeded all expectations, with 14,440 visitors to the exhibitions and 1,152 program/event attendees for a total of 15,592 participants (not including webpage visitors or other online/Social Media engagement, numbering another 3,545). In addition to providing a free printed exhibition brochure, we completely sold out of our copies of the 210-page exhibition book for *And Still We Rise: Race, Culture, and Visual Conversations*. All project outcomes aligned with the five goals identified in the Lawrence City Wide Cultural Plan.

Did this project change substantially from how you described it in your grant proposal?

yes  no

If yes, please describe why and how it changed and the impact of this change on the outcome.

All proposed project activities took place as outlined in the Spencer Museum's proposal.

### Attendance Analysis

Total # attendance current year 15,592 for the exhibitions and programs

Total # attendance prior year (if applicable) 6,430 for exhibitions prior summer

Number of visitors (outside Douglas County) attending 30-40%

Number of visitors (outside Douglas County) attending prior year 20-25%

Average ticket price (if applicable) no admission cost

If Applicable: Adults 60-70% Children 30-40%



**Geographic Origin of Visitor Attendees**

Number of visitors staying overnight 400-500 estimated based on Quilt convention and remainder of summer exhibition run.

Lodging properties hosting overnight visitors all the Lawrence hotels, especially the Doubletree, Eldridge, Springhill Suites, Halcyon House, Hampton Inn, Baymont Inn, Virginia Inn

Total number of hotel overnights approximately 950

LAWRENCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION  
COMMUNITY ARTS GRANT BUDGET FORM

**Proposed Budget**

Budget Categories	LCAC Grant Request	Requestor's Contribution	3 <sup>rd</sup> -Party Cash Match	3 <sup>rd</sup> -Party In-Kind Match	Total
1. Personnel		<i>In-kind</i>			
2. Fees and Services	\$3,750				\$3,750
3. Rental Fees	\$2,500	\$17,500			\$20,000
4. Travel					
5. Marketing Expenses	\$2,000				\$2,000
6. Materials Expenses					
7. Operating Expenses					
8. Other Expenses					
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,250</b>	<b>\$17,500</b>			<b>\$25,750</b>

**Final Budget**

Budget Categories	LCAC Grant	Requestor's Contribution	3 <sup>rd</sup> -Party Cash Match	3 <sup>rd</sup> -Party In-Kind Match	Total
1. Personnel		<i>In-kind</i>			
2. Fees and Services	\$3,715	\$750			\$4,465
3. Rental Fees	\$2,535	\$17,465			\$20,000
4. Travel		\$1,157			
5. Marketing Expenses	\$750	\$2,272			\$3,022
6. Materials Expenses					
7. Operating Expenses					
8. Other Expenses					
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$21,644</b>			<b>\$28,644</b>

**Note:** As you write your budget justification, be sure to address the amount of your matching support, funding source(s), and how the match reflects community interest. Your budget should correspond with the plan laid-out in your project description.

## BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

### 1. Personnel

The Spencer Museum provided extensive in-kind staff time for the project. Dr. Susan Earle organized both exhibitions and related programs and curated *Narratives of the Soul*; she also worked closely with local collaborators Marla Jackson, Kevin Willmott, NedRa Bonds, Sherry Whetstone, and Sonié Joi Ruffin, and visiting New York artists Faith Ringgold and Sara Bunn. Going beyond the proposed planning, and in conjunction with the Inaugural National African American Quilt Convention, Earle and her Spencer colleagues Kristina Walker, Amanda Martin-Hamon, and Amy Duke, as well as student assistants Samantha Lyons and Raechel Cook, hosted two hands-on quilt-making workshops in the Spencer Museum galleries, plus one in the Murphy Art and Architecture library on the lower level in the Spencer building. This allowed artist Faith Ringgold to lead a workshop on the theme of Ancestors with fifteen local school children in *Narratives of the Soul*, while twenty-five textile artists participated in a day-long workshop with visiting artist Aisha Lamumba in one gallery of *And Still We Rise*; another twenty artists studied portrait techniques with visiting artist Lola Jenkins in the Art Library's seminar room. Spencer Communications Coordinator Elizabeth Kanost edited and helped produce the brochure, along with Graphic Designer Jeffrey McKee; Kanost also managed the Spencer's print ads and radio spots along with the Social Media posts on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Collections Manager Sofia Galarza-Liu oversaw artwork loans. Exhibition design staff—Richard Klocke, Dan Coester, and Doug Bergstrom—installed both exhibitions. Associate Director of Internal Operations, Jennifer Talbott, monitored the finances, assisted by Emma Davison, Financial and Systems Coordinator. Director Saralyn Reece Hardy met with visiting artists and hosted events such as the exhibition and convention opening reception at the Spencer on July 13, 2017.

### 2. Fees and Services

We requested \$3,000 to support fees associated with packing and shipping loaned works of art to and from the Spencer Museum for the exhibitions, as well as \$750 to rent Liberty Hall in downtown Lawrence for a free public screening of Kevin Willmott's film *Destination: Planet Negro!* We expended all of the \$3,000 for packing and shipping of artwork (plus \$315 in additional funds obtained from our Friends of the Art Museum budget in order to cover the costs of a required installer travelling here from Cincinnati for the installation and de-installation of *And Still We Rise*.) Some of this cost was off-set by the rental fee for Liberty Hall coming in lower than expected, at \$400 instead of the estimated \$750. In order to help meet goals 1, 2, 4, and 5 in the City Wide Cultural Plan, we were able to support Willmott's film screening and extensive discussion with the audience with an honorarium of \$250 awarded through a grant from the Kansas Humanities Council.

### 3. Rental Fees

We requested \$2,500 from the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission to partially underwrite the substantial rental fee for *And Still We Rise*, a fee totaling \$20,000. We are very grateful for this support, which was crucial to our ability to present this exhibition.

### 4. Travel

### 5. Marketing Expenses

We requested \$2,000 to support promotional materials and marketing for the exhibitions

and related programs. Planned promotion included mailed invitations for events, regional print and radio advertisements, and an exhibition brochure—all of which we produced. Our marketing included seventeen Facebook posts on the Spencer Museum’s page/profile, and twenty-four Tweets on @spencermuseum on Twitter. In addition, we ran a print advertisement in the summer catalogue of the Lawrence Arts Center, and four print ads in the Kansas City *Star*. We also had twenty-five radio spots on Kansas Public Radio.

6. Materials Expenses
7. Operating Expenses
8. Other Expenses

## Marketing Analysis

Detail the marketing strategies and budget used for project (i.e. TV, Radio, Billboard, PR, Social Media, Blogs, newspapers and any added value).

If Radio or TV were use list:

Number of spots/media outlet 25 radio spots / Kansas Public Radio

Geographic locations covered all of Northeast, Southeast, and East Central Kansas, as well as the Kansas City, Missouri, regional metropolitan area

List or attached a schedule of run dates and times radio spot run dates took place 25 times between July 8 and August 31, 2017, at various times of day

If Print Ads were used list:

Publication Lawrence Arts Center Summer Catalogue and Kansas City Star

Run dates March 2017 (Catalogue); Aug. 17, Aug. 20, Sept. 10, Sept. 14, 2017 (KC Star)

Provide copy(s) of advertisements. *Please see attached.*

If Social Media was used, please list:

Twitter Yes, 24 Tweets from Spencer Museum Followers 2,413

Twitter @SpencerMuseum Fans 2,064

Instagram Yes Followers 1,010

Other:

Facebook, 17 posts Followers: 6,049 likes; 2,554 visits

Spencer Museum E-News Distributed to: the entire Spencer Museum of Art E-news distribution list of 3,000

## Collateral Development

Was a brochure developed? Yes (please provide copy). *Please see attached.*

How many brochures were produced? 2,000

How many brochures were distributed? 1,350

Distribution locations: Spencer Museum of Art welcome desk and galleries, and through the National African American Quilt Convention

Sample Instagram Post



spencer\_museum  
Spencer Museum of Art

Follow

spencer\_museum Yesterday was a banner day at the Spencer Museum of Art. Throughout the day we hosted workshops in conjunction with the National African American Quilt Convention, including one led by artist Faith Ringgold. Then in the evening we celebrated the opening of a pair of exhibitions highlighting African American quilting traditions: "Narratives of the Soul" and "And Still We Rise: Race, Culture, and Visual Conversations". To learn more about these exhibitions, come by tomorrow (Saturday) for two gallery talks featuring Marla Jackson and Phyllistene Lawson, starting at 2pm.

#naaqc #exploreku #art #museum #quilt #quilting #lawrenceks



64 likes

JULY 14, 2017

Log in to like or comment.



## Sample Tweet



**SpencerMuseum of Art** @SpencerMuseum · 26 Aug 2017

Take a break w/ us tomorrow from 2-3pm at Slow Art Sunday and get to know the quilt Jazz Storm. #quilting #exploreKU

[collection.spencerart.ku.edu/eMuseumPlus?se...](https://collection.spencerart.ku.edu/eMuseumPlus?se...)



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# Sample Facebook Post

## Post Details

**KU Spencer Museum of Art** added 2 new photos.  
Published by Elizabeth Kanost [?] · July 13, 2017 · 🌐

It's a busy day in our galleries! We have quilters from the National African American Quilt Convention working with artist Aisha Lumumba and children working with artist Faith Ringgold.



👍 Get More Likes, Comments and Shares  
When you boost this post, you'll show it to more people.

👤 2,164 people reached [Boost Post](#)

👍❤️👏 80 1 Comment 12 Shares

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share    🌐

## Performance for Your Post

**2,164** People Reached

**135** Reactions, Comments & Shares

<b>103</b> 👍 Like	<b>68</b> On Post	<b>35</b> On Shares
<b>16</b> ❤️ Love	<b>10</b> On Post	<b>6</b> On Shares
<b>2</b> 👏 Wow	<b>2</b> On Post	<b>0</b> On Shares
<b>2</b> Comments	<b>1</b> On Post	<b>1</b> On Shares
<b>12</b> Shares	<b>12</b> On Post	<b>0</b> On Shares

**210** Post Clicks

<b>122</b> Photo Views	<b>0</b> Link Clicks	<b>88</b> Other Clicks
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### NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

- 4** Hide Post
- 0** Hide All Posts
- 0** Report as Spam
- 0** Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts



Press Release

## Spencer Museum exhibitions highlight African-American story quilts

Tue, 07/11/2017

LAWRENCE — The Spencer Museum of Art recently opened two evocative exhibitions that highlight African-American quilting traditions. Both exhibitions, on view through Sept. 17, are presented in conjunction with the [National African American Quilt Convention](#) held in Lawrence July 12-15.

“The Spencer Museum is eager to participate in this citywide project and engage the community with the national and local histories depicted in the quilts,” said Susan Earle, Spencer curator for European and American art. “The quilts now on view at the Spencer teach us so much about historical and contemporary issues with pressing relevance. Textiles are especially effective tools for telling these histories, as we can all relate to the presence of clothing and cloth in our lives.”

“[And Still We Rise: Race, Culture, and Visual Conversations](#)” narrates nearly four centuries of African-American history, from the first slave ships to the first African-American president. This traveling exhibition is organized by the Women of Color Quilters Network in partnership with the Cincinnati Museum Center and National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

To complement this exhibition, Earle curated “[Narratives of the Soul](#),” which presents significant African-American quilts from the Spencer Museum’s collection, as well as regional and national loans. One highlight of the exhibition is the art museum’s “Flag Story Quilt” by renowned artist Faith Ringgold. Ringgold will give the keynote lecture for the Quilt Convention on Wednesday, July 12, at the Lied Center.

One of the featured local artists in “Narratives of the Soul” is Marla Jackson, organizer of the Quilt Convention and founder of the African American Quilt Museum and Textile Academy in Lawrence. Earle collaborated closely with Jackson on the exhibition and several programs related to the convention that the art museum will host.

Jackson will give a talk at the Spencer Museum on Saturday, July 15, about the quilts of Maria Rodgers Martin, a former slave who lived in Lawrence during the Civil War. Two of Martin’s quilts will appear in “Narratives of the Soul,” along with a quilt Jackson made in honor of Martin.

“In many ways I identify with Maria,” Jackson said. “Not only do we share a common love for making quilts, but I admire her strength and her courage in facing the difficult challenges in her life.”

Jackson’s research on Martin was funded by the Kansas Humanities Council, which also provided principal funding for both quilt exhibitions and associated public programs at the Spencer Museum.

### **Related programming**

**Wednesday, July 12**

**Artist talk with Faith Ringgold / 6-9 p.m. / Lied Center of Kansas**

Renowned artist and activist Faith Ringgold kicks off the inaugural National African American Quilt Convention with a keynote lecture. Tickets are required and available for purchase at [www.lied.ku.edu](http://www.lied.ku.edu).

**Saturday, July 15**

**Gallery talks with Phyllistene Lawson & Marla Jackson / 2-4 p.m. / Spencer Museum of Art**

In these back-to-back gallery talks, artists Phyllistene Lawson and Marla Jackson share their research on African-American quilters Lula Horne and Maria Rodgers Martin.

**Sunday, July 23**

**Up Close: “And Still We Rise” & “Narratives of the Soul” / 2-3 p.m. / Spencer Museum of Art**

Delve into the two quilt exhibitions with Spencer Curator Susan Earle.

**Saturday, Aug. 19**

**Art Cart: Paper Story Quilts / 1-4 p.m. / Spencer Museum of Art**

The Art Cart is a drop-in activity station for children and grown-ups. Explore how artists use symbols to tell stories and create your own paper story quilt.

**Sunday, Aug. 27**

**Slow Art Sunday: Jazz Storm / 2-3 p.m. / Spencer Museum of Art**

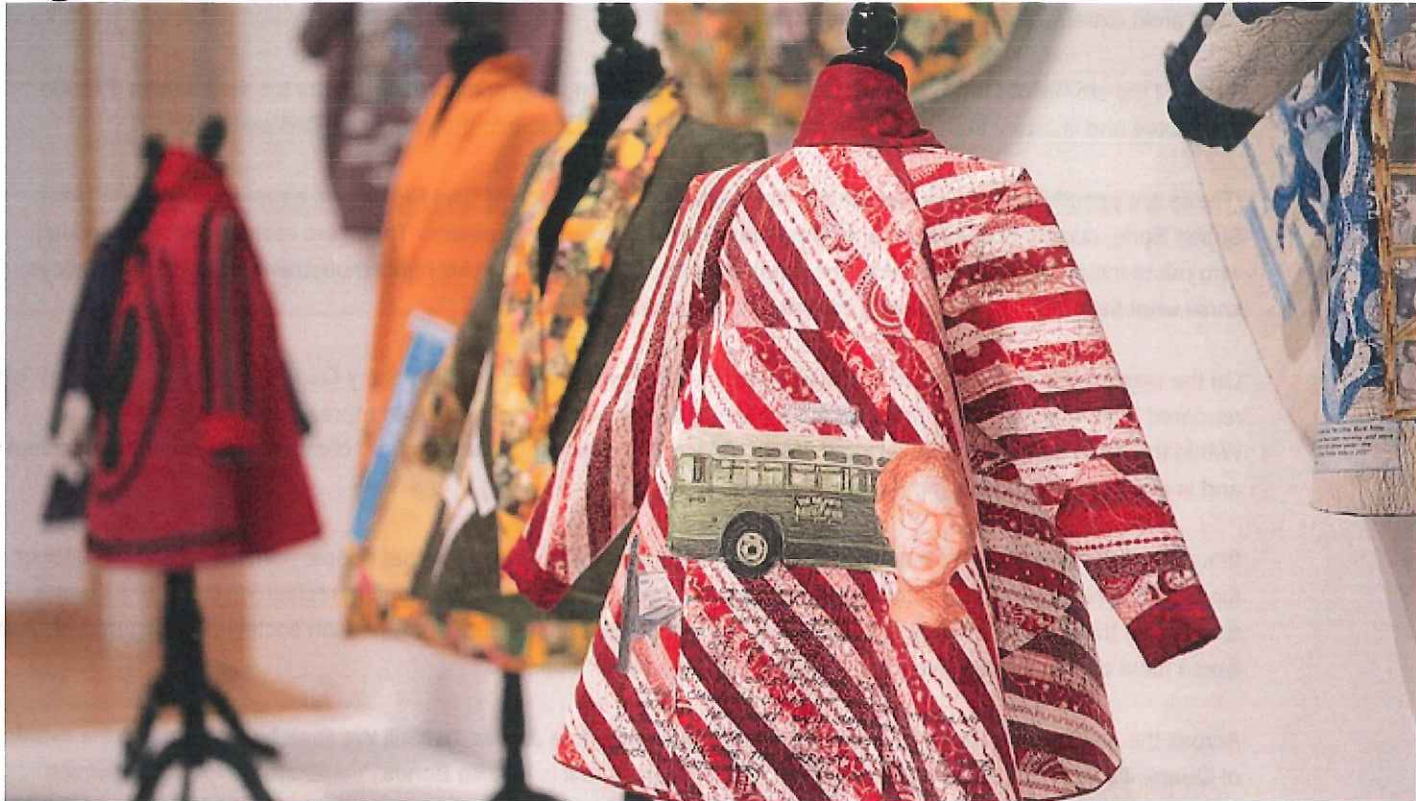
Slow down and spend time getting to know Viola Burley Leak’s quilt “Jazz Storm,” on view in “Narratives of the Soul.”

Image: Faith Ringgold, “Flag Story Quilt,” 1985, Museum purchase: Peter T. Bohan Art Acquisition Fund, 1991.0040, copyright Faith Ringgold.

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## Monuments of a different type honor civil rights heroes at Lawrence exhibition



[Nick Krug](#)

The image of Claudetta Colvin and the story of her contributions to the Civil Rights movement are incorporated in one of eight quilted swing coats from the series "Tributes to Civil Rights Movement Heroines" by artist Patricia A. Montgomery at the Spencer Museum of Art. [Enlarge photo](#)

August 27, 2017

As bronze statues of Confederate figures are creating national controversy, there's hope that a Lawrence exhibition featuring quilts and textiles of civil rights heroes will bring people together.

Names like Claudetta Colvin, Ella Josephine Baker and Ida Mae Holland don't jump from the pages of history books with quite the same frequency as those of Rosa Parks or Martin Luther King Jr., but they are featured at a new exhibition about race and culture at the University of Kansas' Spencer Museum of Art.

The exhibition, "Narratives of the Soul," brings together textile art from local and regional artists, as well as work from the Spencer Museum's collection. It is presented in conjunction with the national touring exhibition of "And Still We Rise: Race, Culture and Visual Conversations."

On the north wall of the central court gallery are eight quilted swing coats from artist Patricia A. Montgomery's collection, "Tribute to Civil Rights Movement Heroines." Each coat tells the story of an unsung female figure from the era, such as Daisy Bates, who played an integral role in serving as an adviser and facilitator to a group of black high school students known as "The Little Rock Nine," who were the first to integrate Little Rock Central High School in 1957 amid extreme pressure to do otherwise.

Some of the stories of the women are presented in handwritten, biographical form; others tell their stories through anecdotes and imagery from the civil rights movement incorporated into the various quilted patterns.

"These are specific individuals who had a real impact on the creation of Civil Rights and equal justice for all," said Susan Earle, curator of European and American Art at the Spencer Museum. "These are real, specific individuals, who made incredible contributions to the creation of equal justice in the civil rights movement, and we don't always know what they did. I think it's really important that these stories get told."

On the west wall is a centerpiece of the exhibition: artist Faith Ringgold's "Flag Story Quilt," which is an American flag rendered in tie-dyed fabric by Marquette Johnson. It uses human head profiles to represent the stars of the flag. Within the white stripes, a fictional story is told of Memphis Cooly, who returns from combat in Vietnam a quadriplegic and is accused of the rape and murder of a white woman.

"It's pretty bold and strong," Earle said. "She's going head-on into something that people normally would not alter or mess with. She's completely humanized the flag. It's a way of, you could say, kind of reclaiming the U.S. as home and also at the same time implicating some of the mechanism or structures of American society as being part of what would have caused a story like poor Memphis Cooly to have happened."

Across the gallery from Ringgold's piece is Lawrence artist Marla Jackson's "Still We Rise," which depicts the events of Quantrill's Raid on Lawrence on Aug. 21, 1863. Adjacent to it is NedRa Bonds' "Separate is Not Equal," which pays tribute to those involved with the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case that led to the integration of public schools.

"This exhibition represents about seven years of putting this together, the imagery in my mind ... and the years and years of working on historical quilts from a black perspective," Jackson said. "These are tough subjects."

As far as what viewers will take with them from the exhibition, Jackson has sewn into her quilt a bit of text expressing hope that it will "spark new conversations about race relations."

Adding to that idea, Earle said, "These artists are just really so gifted at being able to share their experiences, their sense of community, their participations in the difficult histories in this country and at times trying to bring forth a more hopeful kind of a story, but not flinching from the terrible histories that they are trying to address."

The exhibition will continue through Sept. 17.

**Originally published at:** <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2017/aug/27/monuments-different-type-honor-civil-rights/>