



The three year Programme to promote the creative skills and commercial potential of ethnic minorities of African and African-Caribbean descent in the UK.

African & African-Caribbean Design Diaspora



Support the AACDD
www.aacdd.org

In only three weeks since the opening of the first 2010 AACDD exhibition more than 20,000 visitors have seen the 9 events in various London Boroughs.

Over 20,000 Visitors



"Brilliant work"

"A soul-enriching experience"

"Art in its purest form"

"Black & White"
Exhibition at BetterBankside
Stools by Simone Brewster
Photo: Nikos Tsogkas



*"Simply beautiful!
Such a refreshing initiative"*

Feedback during our 2010 events and exhibitions has been amazing.



Inspire to aspire

A point of celebration is required to demonstrate the quality of creative thinking derived from the small but significant African and African-Caribbean design community in London and the UK.



A successful partnership

The African & African-Caribbean Design Diaspora is a partner of the London Design Festival.

The African & African-Caribbean Design Diaspora

The African & African-Caribbean Design Diaspora (AACDD - www.aacdd.org) is the three year Programme of the British European Design Group (BEDG - www.bedg.org) to promote the creative skills and commercial potential of ethnic minorities of African and African-Caribbean descent in the UK.

Co-funded by the Arts Council England/Lottery Fund and the British European Design Group, and supported by the London Design Festival, the Programme will run alongside the London Design Festival until the Olympics in 2012.

Its main purpose is to provide a comprehensive overview of the creative skills, cultural heritage and cultural identities of black designers to promote wider public interest and to improve the dialogue between the different communities.

A series of events, exhibitions, seminars and workshops is intended to offer platforms for black designers in the UK, Africa and the Caribbean.

Schools and outreach programmes with a high number of black minorities will also form an essential part of the initiative.

Another vital aspect is the bridge building between black British born and based designers and their African and Caribbean counterparts, allowing both sides to benefit from an exchange of cultural identities. This will include traditionally trained craftsmen and -women from Africa and the Caribbean in some of these events and exhibitions to instigate a mutually advantageous learning process about traditional manual craft skills and contemporary design approaches.

We believe that black British creativity can offer a virtually untapped vein of talent, which can be accessed to enrich the UK design community, both aesthetically and commercially.

If facts are an indication of success, then the launch of the African & African-Caribbean Design Diaspora in September 2010 is telling the incredible story of the totally unprecedented and unexpected achievement in gaining the spontaneous, enthusiastic and sometimes even unsolicited support and collaboration from individuals, official and private organisations, institutions and enterprises in this project.

Karin-Beate Phillips, Founder/Director, British European Design Group, African & African-Caribbean Design Diaspora

Over 20,000 Visitors

In only three weeks since the opening of the first 2010 AACDD exhibition "London Revisited - My Journey" - London seen through the eyes of three black designers - in City Hall, the Mayor's Office, more than twenty thousand visitors have seen the nine exhibitions located in various London Boroughs from Brixton to Dalston and Clerkenwell to Lambeth.



Children's Rattles, Jamaica



"The ability to create is natural"



RCA Textile designer Emamoke Ukeleghe has exhibited her work in New York and London and uses influences from a range of heartfelt stories in her beautifully decorative fabrics. (Source: Timeout 10/2010)



Mike Nab

Emamoke Ukeleghe



"A unique blend of culture"

"Black & White" exhibition, BetterBankside



Florence Edmond

Simone Brewster

"Very, very good! Wish it were on longer!"

A visitor at "Memories are made of Pride - The Art of Culture"

"Go on!"

9 African & Caribbean nations

More than 9 African and Caribbean nations participated with their craftsmen and -women showcasing their traditional manual skills and cultural heritage in handloom weaving, textile printing, jewellery making, basketry and sculpture.



"We've been blown away by the talent and energy we've come across in the course of the Brixton Village Project, so getting involved with AACDD was an obvious way to promote that talent."

Dougald Hine, Founder of the Space Makers Agency



Augustin Daboné

"Inspiring"

Work by over 100 designers and artisans of African and African-Caribbean descent from Great Britain, Africa and the Caribbean.



Florence Edmond



Ima-Abasi Okon



"Simply wonderful!"

20 Organisations

Over 20 organisations came together to support this amazing initiative, including Arts Council England/Lottery Fund, British European Design Group, London Design Festival, Inspire!, Greater London Authority, University of Brighton, SOS-SaveOurSkills.

Traditional Boubou, Afrique-Authentique - Authentic-African Fashion Fabric Collection Photo: Joseph Hurwick



Ima-Abasi Okon



Chichia



Frank Lumdsen, Camouflage Series



"I must say that I am really happy that there is something like this out there as the need for it has been great!"

Ekua McMorris, President, Students' Union, Royal College of Art



Simone Brewster

"Can only be from Africa...beauty, passion, culture combined. Truly beautiful work"

"Really good exhibition - refreshing to see the thread in art, jewellery and visual arts!"

"Nice exhibition - liked the contrast of earthy dark shades combined with deep sensual colours - COOL!"

"Brilliant work ...spread the work around the globe"

"Simply beautiful! Such a refreshing initiative"

"What a wonderful exhibition - thanks and well done!"

"What an eye opener into African and African Diaspora culture!"

"A feast for the senses and a soul-enriching experience. I will come again!"

"A unique blend of culture - I like the set-up and I think shows/exhibitions like this should have more exposure - simply beautiful - keep it up...."

"Simply fantastic! Thank you!"



"London Revisited - My Journey" exhibition, London City Hall



African & African-Caribbean Design Diaspora



From left clock-wise: BetterBankside Pop-up Space, "Bring in the Boubous" Exhibition at Open the Gate, Frank Lumsden, "Memories are made of Pride" exhibition at Granville Market, "London Revisited - My Journey" exhibition at London City Hall, London Underground Series by Anette Taylor-Anderson, Mike Nab, Kamba Bowl Kenja

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There is such an incredible array of creative talent within the black ethnic community - undiscovered, unpromoted, unnoticed. Let's see it!

Clemens Hackl, Creative Director AACDD

The power of diversity to stimulate creativity is well established. Despite this potential, the UK design industry has remained surprisingly non-cultural, with many different parts of London's broader community unable to gain employment, access, support and a showcase for its talent. This is especially true for London's black ethnic community.

L. Denzil Phillips, Director,
Denzil Phillips International

For a long time I have wanted to see a platform for minority ethnic designers established.

Will Knight, Deputy Director, London Design Festival

There's so much creativity and dynamism in African and Caribbean culture and AACDD seems to be a great platform to promote this.

Nana Ocran, TimeOut Nigeria

Hackney, in common with other parts of East London, is the home to large numbers of very talented artists and designers from the African and African-Caribbean heritage communities. Hitherto, they have often worked in the shadows, unrecognised for the richness and quality of their creativity and the commercial potential of their work. The African & African-Caribbean Design Diaspora Initiative brings the work of these talented artists and designers into the foreground and places it firmly within the wider context of British cultural life. For this, the Initiative is to be applauded.

David Blagbrough, Director,
Inspire! the Hackney Education Business Partnership

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