Kwanzaa 2017 is provided, in part, by the May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation, Inc. and the family of Frederick H. Leonhardt.

Kwanzaa 2017 is co-presented by Community Works and New Heritage Theatre Group.

The Kwanzaa marketplace is organized by the Harlem Arts Alliance.

IMAGE CREDITS
Persuasions photo by David Backer
Nguzo Saba artwork: Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture, Los Angeles: University of Sankore Press
Linda Humes: James Kreigsmann Jr.
International Marketplace: AMNH/R. Mckens

TAKE THE #KWANZAA CONVERSATION ONLINE:
@AMNH

TICKETS AND INFORMATION:
AMNH.ORG 212-769-5200

MORE UPCOMING PROGRAMS:
AMNH.ORG/CALENDAR

Milstein Hall of Ocean Life
December 30 | 12–5 pm
Kwanzaa 2017

What is Kwanzaa?
Kwanzaa is a seven-day celebration that starts on December 26 and focuses on family, community, creativity, and the cultural traditions found in the African diaspora. Begun during the civil rights era in the United States, Kwanzaa recognizes the strength, beauty, and deep roots of the African-American community. Kwanzaa is not a religious holiday, nor is it only for African-Americans. Everyone is invited to learn about the rich cultural legacy and contemporary artistic expressions of the African-American community. We are thrilled to have you join us for our Kwanzaa celebrations!

Why does a museum best known for dinosaurs and a planetarium have a Kwanzaa festival?
The American Museum of Natural History has been hosting one of the country’s largest Kwanzaa celebrations for over 35 years. The Museum is proud to present Kwanzaa as a forum for cultural education. Festivals like Kwanzaa provide us the opportunity to juxtapose the historic artifacts in the cultural halls with the contemporary lived experiences of communities today.

The Seven Principles (Nguzo Saba)
Each day of Kwanzaa highlights one of seven principles that represent the core values of the holiday. The traditional Kwanzaa greeting is “Habari gani?” which means “What’s the news?” in Swahili. The appropriate response is the name of the principle that corresponds to the current day of Kwanzaa.

1 Umoja (oo-MOH-jah): Unity
2 Kujichagulia (koo-jee-chah-goo-LEE-ah): Self-determination
3 Ujima (oo-JEE-mah): Collective work and responsibility
4 Ujamaa (oo-jah-MAH): Cooperative economics
5 Nia (NEE-ah): Purpose
6 Kuumba (koo-OOM-bah): Creativity
7 Imani (ee-MAH-nee): Faith

Today’s Schedule

Kwanzaa Program

Milstein Hall of Ocean Life | 12 and 3 PM

Opening
Unity is the first of Kwanzaa’s seven principles—and Brooklyn United Marching Band brings us together as we launch our festival. With flare and pageantry, these young musicians keep a timeless tradition alive.

The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa
Discover the core values of Kwanzaa with Artistic Director of Yaffa Cultural Arts Dr. Linda H. Humes and master drummers Sanga of the Valley and LeeAnet Noble, along with youth drummers William Diarra Humes and Jason Simmons.

A Gospel Tribute
Vy Higginsen’s Gospel for Teens brings together kids ages 13 to 19 to play some of the world’s most electric, fresh, and deeply felt gospel music. The sense of community they create is a perfect match for today’s celebration.

Kwanzaa A Cappella
The Persuasions are the gold standard for gospel-infused a cappella, and the group formed in Brooklyn in 1962. Half a century and 26 albums later, they bring the spirit of Kwanzaa to the Museum with soulful arrangements of old favorites.

Local Artisan Marketplace

Milstein Hall of Ocean Life | 12–4 PM
Honor the seven principles of Kwanzaa with an international marketplace, film excerpts from Let Freedom Sing: How Music Inspired the Civil Rights Movement, and fun giveaways throughout the day!