

# SONS SEEING THE MODERN AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE

Photos by Jerry Taliaferro

Exhibition & Events Inside

## You are invited!

December 13 – March 10

# SONS SEEING THE MODERN AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE

Presenting Underwriter



## Photography by Jerry Taliaferro

### Muskegon Museum of Art



#### SONS: Seeing the Modern African American Male

features images of Black men from the Muskegon community as photographed by artist Jerry Taliaferro. In the artist's words:

"[The exhibition] is both timely and relevant. Recent events point to the urgent need for conversations about the contemporary Black American male. Any effort, however humble, to foster an understanding of this largely misunderstood and often marginalized segment of the American population is of utmost importance."



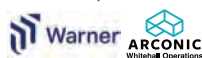
The exhibition's 94 portraits explore how the Black American male perceives himself and how he is perceived by others. The men pictured in the exhibition were nominated from the Muskegon area by a committee of their peers. The goal was to portray a wide range of ages, backgrounds, occupations, and interests to best represent not only the Black men of our community, but also

to mirror the day-to-day experiences of their fellow Americans. In bringing this exhibition to Muskegon, it is the hope of the SONS Committee and the staff and Board of Trustees of the Muskegon Museum of Art that we can foster an open and welcoming dialogue that leads to greater understanding, empathy, and community.

Presenting Underwriter



Co-Sponsors



Media Sponsor



This project is supported by the Michigan Humanities Council and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs



Additional Support



## Opening Reception

Thurs., December 13 | 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Meet artist Jerry Taliaferro at this celebration opening event for *SONS: Seeing the African American Male*. Refreshments will be served. **This event is free and open to the public.**

## SONS Saturday Free Community Day

Sat., December 15 | 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Bring your family and friends to the SONS opening weekend FREE community day celebration!

- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Reading of children's books written by African American authors in the gallery.
- 11:00 am & 1:00 pm Film and light refreshments
- 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm Guided tours, gallery activities

## BLACK MAN Film Premier

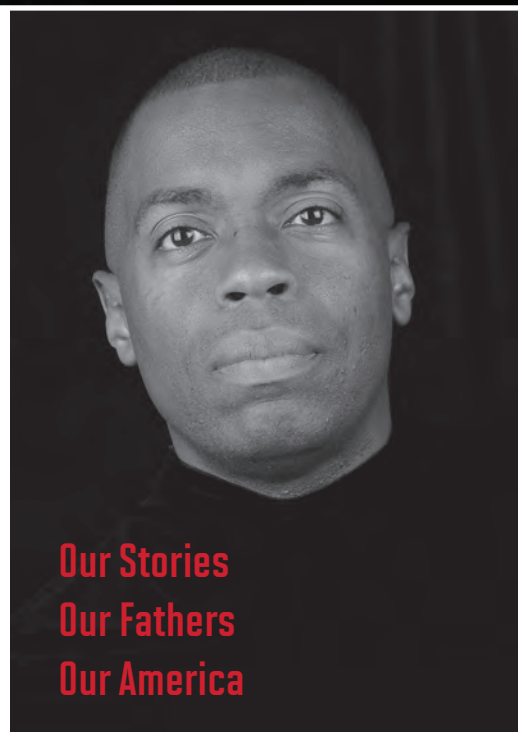
Monday, December 17 | 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Frauenthal Center: 425 W. Western Ave.,  
Downtown Muskegon

In partnership with the MMA, Jon Covington presents *Black Man*, a feature length documentary that tells the stories of the men behind *SONS: Seeing the African American Male*. The film is a kaleidoscope of raw, riveting, and candid conversations with black men about their lives, their loves, their losses, their AMERICA. Close to three dozen men share their perspectives of the everyday black man in ways we've not seen on film. Muskegon is the backdrop for *Black Man*, but the stories are Any Town, USA.

FREE ADMISSION

Courtesy of the Community Foundation  
for Muskegon County



Our Stories  
Our Fathers  
Our America





## Free Community Events



## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Free Community Day

Monday, January 21 | 10:00 am – 8:00 pm

We open our doors to welcome the community on this day in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

### Tours

10:00 am – 1:00 pm Led by MMA docents

1:00 – 3:00 pm Led by Muskegon High School AP Art students

### Films & Crafts 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Enjoy the galleries, films in the auditorium, crafts in the classroom, and mini tours hosted by Muskegon High School art students.

### Panel Discussion 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Join us in the auditorium for a moderated panel discussion on community and regional issues.

## Brown Bag Film Series

Join us for free lunchtime films on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. Auditorium doors open at noon. Films start at 12:15 pm. Most films run an hour or less.



Thursday, December 13

*Up From the Bottoms: The Search for the American Dream* (58 mins.)

Thursday, December 27

*Against the Odds: The Artists of the Harlem Renaissance* (60 mins.)

Thursday, January 10

*National Archives: Five African American Artists, 1971* (30 mins.)

Thursday, January 24

*Kehinde Wiley: An Economy of Grace* (60 mins.)

Thursday, February 14

*Black Man* by Jon Covington and the Muskegon Museum of Art

Above: Jacob Lawrence, *American*, 1917-2000  
The Builders: *The Family*, 1974, serigraph print on paper  
Gift of the L.C. and Margaret Walker Family Foundation. 1999.29

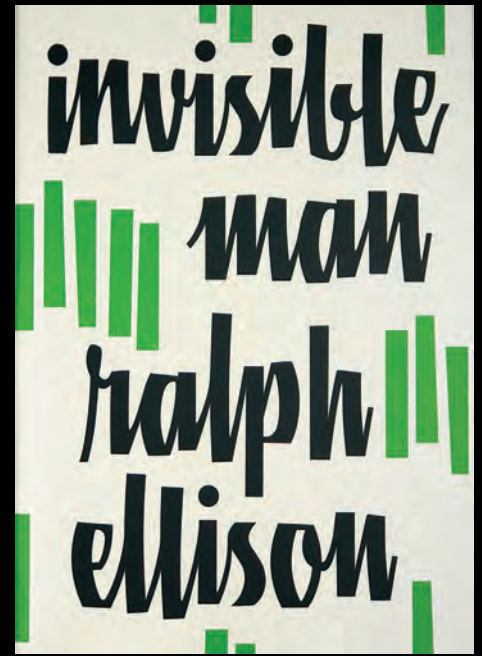
## Book Discussion

### INVISIBLE MAN by Ralph Ellison

Thursday, January 17 | 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Join us for a guided book discussion on Ralph Ellison's classic novel, *Invisible Man*, where we will explore the text in context with the SONS exhibition. Check out the book at your local library to read! Hackley Public Library, Fruitport Area Library, and the Muskegon Area District Library's Norton Shores and Muskegon Heights branches will also host book discussions on varying evenings.

Free and open to the public.

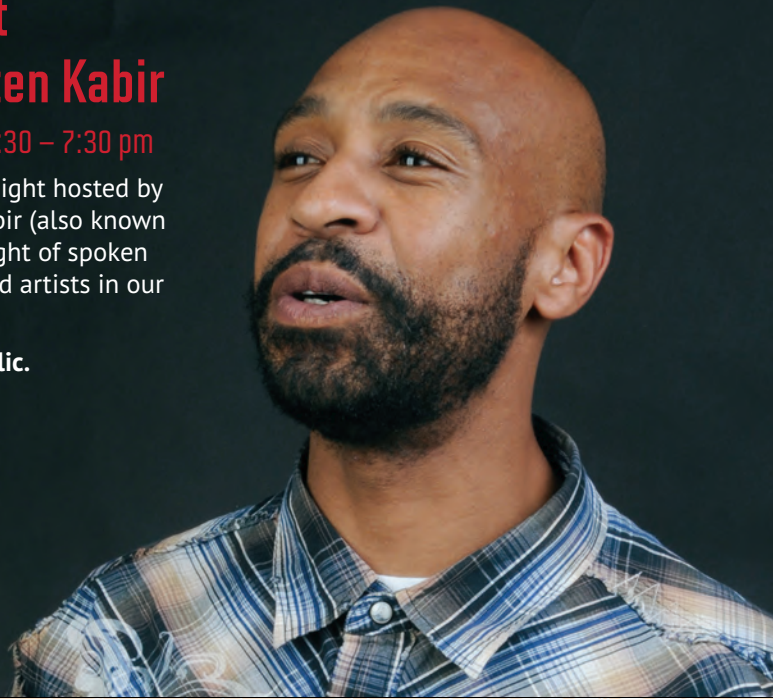


## Open Mic Night Hosted by Kaizen Kabir

Thursday, February 28 | 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Join us for an Open Mic Night hosted by the local poet, Kaizen Kabir (also known as: Kumasi Mack) for a night of spoken word with a DJ and invited artists in our auditorium.

Free and open to the public.



## Ad Man: Joseph Grey II

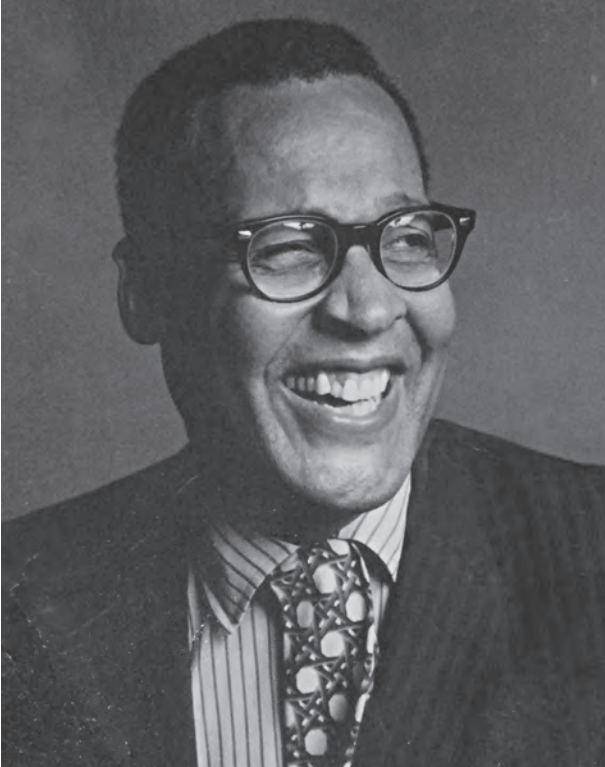
December 13, 2018 through March 10, 2019

The Muskegon Museum of Art will present *Ad Man: Joseph Grey II* this winter. Joseph E. Grey II is an artist, designer, art director, and writer. Now retired, Grey was a trail blazing professional whose work helped to break down racial barriers in one of the most influential cities in the world. Beginning as a freelance illustrator and designer in the 1950s, he became one of the earliest, if not the first, African Americans to work professionally in the advertising business in New York City. He achieved an award winning career working with such notable clients as RCA, Elizabeth Arden, Noxzema, Esso (Exxon), General Motors, and Cover Girl. The show features numerous examples of his work as a professional illustrator and creative director, highlighting his pioneering presence in the New York advertising world.

### Gallery Talk

Thursday, February 21 | 6:00 pm

*Ad Man* artist Joseph Grey will talk about his work in the exhibition gallery. Light refreshments. **Free and open to the public.**



## Comedy Night with Hen Sapp > keepin' it clean!

Thursday, March 7 | 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Wholesome laughter is like medicine for the heart, and Hen Sapp has been dubbed "The Doctor of Comedy." Bring the kids to this clean comedy show for a great night out!

Free and open to the public.



MUSKEGON MUSEUM of ART

[www.muskegonartmuseum.org](http://www.muskegonartmuseum.org)



OPEN: Sunday 12-5 | Closed Monday | Tuesday – Saturday 10-5 | Thursday 10-8

Free Thursday Evenings 4-8 pm | Underwritten by THE MEIJER FOUNDATION

Visitor Information: 231.720.2570 or [www.muskegonartmuseum.org](http://www.muskegonartmuseum.org)

Membership: 231.720.2571 | MMA Museum Store: 231.720.2580