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Over 20,000 Visitors

“Brilliant work”

“A soul-enriching experience”

“Art in its purest form”

“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”

African & African-Caribbean Design Diaspora

Support the AACDD
www.aacdd.org

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

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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.


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.

“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

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

A visitor at “Memories are made of Pride – The Art of Culture”

“Very, very good! Wish it were on longer!”

“A unique blend of culture”

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“Africa and 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, batik and sculpture.

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“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....”

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Published by:
African & African-Caribbean Design Diaspora
www.aacdd.org

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