

Founder of the African-American Heritage Museum of Southern N.J. to Speak at Kramer Hall

For Immediate Release; with [Hunter photo](#) and [museum logo](#)

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Galloway, NJ - Ralph Hunter, the founder and president of the African-American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey (AAHMSNJ), will share his knowledge of the history and culture of African Americans in the region at **noon on Wednesday, March 2** at Kramer Hall, Stockton University's instructional site at 30 Front St. in Hammonton, N.J.

The African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey has been located in Newtonville, N.J. since 2002 and has been supported by a coalition of area businesses, education professionals, collectors and community residents. The museum also has a location in the Noyes Arts Garage of Stockton University in Atlantic City.

It all sprang from a dream.

Over 30 years ago, Hunter began a personal collection of African American cultural, artistic and media images that inspired the creation of the museum. It started with a discovery in a North Carolina antique shop. Tucked in the back was an original edition of "Little Black Sambo," by Helen Bannerman. "I bought it to take it off the market," Hunter says. But instead of hiding it, his goal became just the opposite. He dreamed of displaying it in an effort to preserve history, and the book transformed the treasures he had collected into the first exhibit.

Hunter's apartment was affectionately referred to by his friends as "The Museum." In 2002, his museum became a reality when he was offered a space by the mayor of Buena Vista Township.

"Folks used to come to my house and say, 'This place looks like a museum.' And that's where the idea came from. I had this quest for collecting just for me. Then, all of a sudden, something came over me and I thought, 'How dare you collect all of this just for yourself? You could share all of this.'"

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After more than three decades of acquiring pieces, the collection now numbers in the thousands, and Hunter is committed to sharing it with school students, families and others interested in the honest depiction of the African American experience.

For more information on the museum, visit aahmsnj.org.

For more information about summer courses and community activities at Kramer Hall, visit Stockton.edu/Hammonton.

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