

# Take More Than Memories from Asheville

ASHEVILLE — Why not make your own souvenir during your next vacation getaway? You can in Asheville during the third annual *Hands On Asheville*, a unique getaway experience where the region's renowned artisan community encourages visitors to try their hand at making their own keepsake.

From February 5 through March 28, some of the region's finest craftspeople will host weekend workshops in a variety of mediums including pottery, glass blowing, fiber arts, nature crafts, and jewelry design during the third annual *Hands On Asheville*.

"This is an opportunity for people to

get away and have a relaxing weekend while immersing themselves in a new experience. Not only do visitors get to try their hand at a craft, they get to take their art home with them," explained Gail McCarthy, a partner in Highwater Clays and Odyssey, Center for the Ceramic Arts.

Southern Living Travel Service is teaming up with Asheville to offer the unique travel packages which include special rates at participating hotels, inns and bed & breakfasts.

Most of the workshops are conducted in two to four hours and include all materials and a finished object created by the participant. Cost for the sessions

range from \$10 to upwards of \$75, depending on the workshop chosen. Many of the workshops are geared toward children, making the event a perfect activity for families.

During *Hands On Asheville*, Biltmore Estate will offer daily guided art tours each weekend as part of its complementary event — *Winter Pastimes: The Arts in America's Largest Home*. During this time, the Estate will also feature a special exhibit on James Whistler portraits, some of which will be on loan from the National Gallery.

A variety of theater, dance, musical performances, and gallery strolls will also be available in Asheville during the event.

To book a *Hands On Asheville* package, call Southern Living Travel Service toll-free at 1-888-874-7799.

## Smithsonian Gets Gift of 14 African Art Works

WASHINGTON, D.C. — An important donation of 14 traditional sculptures from central and east Africa was recently made by New York businessman Lawrence Gussman to the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art, 950 Independence Ave. S.W.

An exhibition of the works, titled "New Acquisitions: Gifts from the Lawrence Gussman Collection," opened at the museum December 18 and will continue through spring 1999. The collection of wood sculptures — installed on the museum's first level — includes masks, figures, vessels, a divination implement, a bell and a gong.

Gussman's interest in African art grew out of his personal involvement with the people of Africa and Nobel Peace Prize winner Albert Schweitzer's hospital in Gabon. Gussman began collecting seriously in 1965 and amassed a premier collection of art from Gabon with strong representation from the Congo region.

The National Museum of African Art has had a long relationship with Gussman, who was president and chairman of the chemical company Stein Hall & Co. In 1976, Rosalyn Walker — now director of the museum — borrowed a lovely carved cup in the form of a female figure for an exhibition on African women. More than 20 years later, the cup is among the objects Gussman donated to the museum.

"Some of the sculptures — such as the cup — are familiar to us, while others Mr. Gussman suggested because he felt they made sense for our museum," said Walker. "Many of the works fill gaps in our collection and some pose interesting art historical questions."

In addition to his donation to the National Museum of African Art, Gussman is giving African artworks to the Neuberger Museum, Purchase College, State University of New York, and the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

Admission to the National Museum of African Art is free. The museum's TTY is (202) 357-4814. Visit the museum's Home Page on the Web: [www.sdmnma.gov](http://www.sdmnma.gov).



Thomas "T-Boz" Watkins of TLC  
National Celebrity Spokesperson

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