A logo with hands and text

Description automatically generated**NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**National African American Civil Rights Organization (NAACRO) Strongly Condemns Smithsonian Institution’s Removal of African American Artifacts**

**Sacramento, CA — April 28, 2025** —  
The National African American Civil Rights Organization (NAACRO) stands outraged and deeply disappointed by the Smithsonian Institution's recent decision to remove African American artifacts from its museum collections. This action represents a shameful erasure of Black history and culture, and a profound betrayal of the trust placed in the Smithsonian by the African American community and the American public at large.

The Smithsonian Institution, founded with the mission of increasing and diffusing knowledge, has a solemn responsibility to represent the full, complex history of this nation. By removing these artifacts, they are not only disregarding the profound contributions and sacrifices of African Americans but actively participating in the ongoing marginalization of Black voices in the historical record.

We view this decision as an insult to the countless individuals whose struggles, achievements, and legacies these artifacts represent. Museums should serve as custodians of truth and memory—not instruments of selective amnesia.

NAACRO calls upon all people of conscience to stand with us in condemning this disgraceful act. Effective immediately, we urge individuals, organizations, and institutions to withhold financial contributions, support, and attendance from the Smithsonian Institution until they demonstrate a sincere commitment to fully preserving and honoring African American history within their collections.

Furthermore, we demand:

* A full, public explanation and accounting of the removal of these artifacts.
* The immediate reinstatement of all removed items.
* The establishment of a permanent oversight committee, with significant African American representation, to ensure transparency and accountability within the Smithsonian’s handling of African American history.

History cannot be rewritten to suit contemporary whims. Our stories will not be silent, and our heritage will not be erased.

**We are watching. We are remembering. We will act.**

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