Vision & Spirit
African American Art
Works from the Bank of America Collection

Family Discussion and Activity Guide
Use this activity guide to enhance your experience in the Vision & Spirit exhibit and learn about yourself along the way.
Vision & Spirit: African American Art Works from the Bank of America Collection provides a powerful opportunity for everyone to have important conversations about race, diversity, inclusion and social justice. Grown-ups! In this guide you will find helpful terms and definitions as you move throughout the exhibition. Refer to this guide to start informative conversations and to have important teachable moments.

*Jacob Lawrence (American, 1917–2000), Aspiration, 1988, Lithograph on Arches paper, 26/200, Bank of America Collection*
The image below entitled I Am A Man documents the 1968 sanitation workers’ on strike in Memphis, TN. This march was the last one led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. before his assignation in April 1968. It is speculated that the photographer, Ernest C. Withers, took between 1 million and 5 million images that are now in the process of being preserved and catalogued. Can you find all of the artwork with people holding protest signs in the exhibition?

1. What do you think the sanitation workers meant by the phrase “I Am A Man?”

2. How did photography contribute to the Civil Rights Movement?

3. How do photographic images play a role in social justice?
Using the blank signs above, use your critical thinking and creative skills to send messages through your protest signs.
Find the names of photographers who documented various historical movements and the key terms that relate to the art form. Answers are on page 15.

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Frozen in Time
Art has the power to evoke many emotions. As you make your way through the exhibit, choose the artwork that best matches each emotion listed below, write the name of the piece in the blank that corresponds to the emotion and the name of the artist.

Excited

Happy

Sad

Angry

Proud

Hopeful

A portrait is a painting, drawing, or photograph of a person, especially one showing only the face or head and shoulders. In the frame below, draw a portrait of yourself.
Defining a Movement

Use the definitions below to further understand some of the content you are seeing in the Vision & Spirit exhibition.

**Slavery**: The practice of people owning other people is called slavery. Enslaved people have to work for the owners, doing whatever the owners ask them to do. In the past many societies had slavery.

**The Great Migration**: The migration movement of around 6 million African Americans out of the Southern United States to the Midwest, Northeast and West between 1915 and 1960. The main reasons African Americans left the south were to escape racism and seek jobs in industrial cities. Between 1940 and 1960 over 3,348,000 blacks left the south for northern and western cities.

**Harlem Renaissance**: The Harlem Renaissance was a period during the 1920s when African-American achievements in art, literature and music flourished. A period of great diversity and experimentation. The WW1 Great Migration saw the movement of thousands of African Americans from the farmlands in the south to the cities in the north in order to find new opportunities and build better lives. Many made their way to the New York city neighborhood of Harlem in Manhattan, New York City which became the home of the movement.

**Systemic Racism**: The formalization of a set of institutional, historical, cultural and interpersonal practices within a society that more often than not puts one social or ethnic group in a better position to succeed, and at the same time disadvantages other groups in a consistent and constant manner that disparities develop between the groups over a period of time.

**Civil Rights Movement**: An organized effort by black Americans to end racial discrimination and gain equal rights under the law. It began in the late 1940s and ended in the late 1960s. The main aim of the Civil Rights Movement was to give everybody equal rights regardless of color skin color, gender, nationality, religion, disability or age. The aim of the movement which peaked in the 1960's was to ensure that the rights of all people are equally and are protected by the law.

**Black Arts Movement**: The Black Arts Movement was the name given to a group of politically motivated black poets, artists, dramatists, musicians, and writers who emerged in the wake of the Black Power Movement. The poet Imamu Amiri Baraka is widely considered to be the father of the Black Arts Movement, which began in 1965 and ended in 1975. The Black nationalism movement that focused on music, literature, drama, and the visual arts made up of black artists and intellectuals.

**AfriCOBRA**: was a Chicago-based group of black artists whose shared aim was to develop their own aesthetic in the visual arts in order to empower black communities. AfriCOBRA was founded on the South Side of Chicago by a group of artists intent on defining a “black aesthetic.” AfriCOBRA artists were associated with the Black Arts Movement in America, a movement that began in the mid-1960s and that celebrated culturally-specific expressions of the contemporary Black community in the realms of literature, theater, dance and the visual arts.
1. It's a special day for me,
   As I stand on this busy street
   Apart from the graffiti and debris
   It is me you truly see

   My neighbors stop to admire
   My clean tie and attire
   I am proud of my home
   From the concrete, I have grown

   Your Answer: ________________________________

2. A Giant stallion
   A city in flames
   An armed battalion
   With a victory to claim

   This famous story
   Of which we all know the end
   Has a different glory
   Of warriors with dark skin

   Your Answer: ________________________________

3. Cadillac and fur
   Symbols of Black luxury
   Glamour for him and her
   Their eyes glazed with serenity

   Capturing a moment
   Of these cultural icons
   In the wake of a major movement,
   The Harlem Renaissance

   Your Answer: ________________________________

Exhibit Scavenger Hunt

Use the clues in the following poems to determine which piece in this exhibit each poem is describing. Answers are on page 15.
4. Connected by 6 colors
   Gray, red, brown, white, orange, and green.
   A lovely father and mother
   As they both peacefully read.

   Outside the neighbors are busy
   Walking the dog and carrying bags
   But inside the couple is cozy
   And for that they must be glad.

   Your Answer: ____________________________________

5. We stand in the subway
   Leather jackets and brown hats
   At the turn of a decade
   Discussing this and that

   I put my fingers to my temple
   As an idea begins to flower
   And I say plain and simple
   That knowledge is power

   Your Answer: ____________________________________

6. Centered over multi colored fabric
   I appear warm and serene
   My attire is quite angelic
   And stands out in front of the trees

   From the title of this piece
   You will learn my name
   My eyes are full of peace
   Behind these white frames

   Your Answer: ____________________________________
Use the blank space below to create a sketch of your favorite piece from the exhibition.
Frozen in Time Word Search:

Exhibit Scavenger Hunt:

1. Willie Birch, *Graduation Day*
2. Romare Bearden, *Fall of Troy*
3. James VanDerZee, *Couple in Raccoon Coats*
4. Jacob Lawrence, *Aspiration*
5. Jamel Shabazz, *Knowledge is Power*
6. Faith Ringgold, *Coming to Jones Road #3: Aunt Emmy*