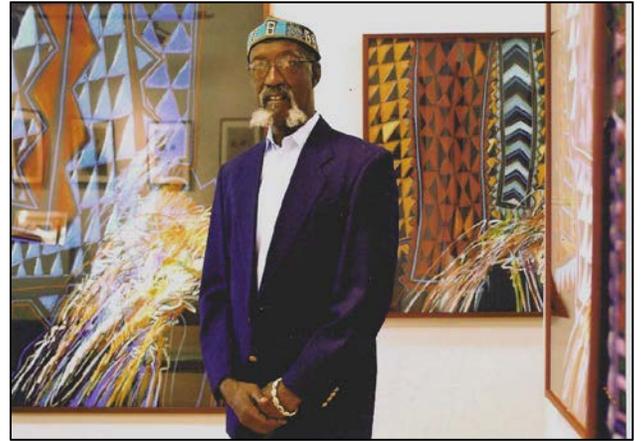




John Biggers Seed Project Master and Lead Local Artists

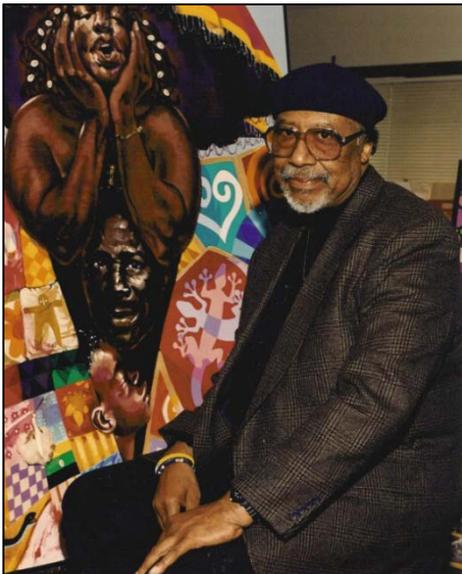
Willis “Bing” Davis, Dayton Ohio, grew up in Dayton, Ohio, where he lives today. He has degrees



from DePauw University; the School of the Dayton Art Institute; and Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. His has been an educator in the Dayton Public Schools, DePauw and Miami Universities; and Central State University (CSU) in Wilberforce, Ohio. While at CSU, Mr. Davis was Art Department Chair and Director of the Paul Robeson Cultural and Performing Arts Center. He has also served as an artist-in-residence

for the School of Education at the University of Dayton and visiting scholar at Wright State University. He is President of the Board of Directors of the National Conference of Artists.

Davis' record as an artist and a curator includes exhibitions at the Studio Museum of Harlem; American Craft Museum; Renwick Gallery; Maryland Institute College of Art; Savannah College of Art and Design; Anacostia Museum, National Museum of Art of Senegal, West Africa; U.S. Embassy Accra, Ghana; Society for Contemporary Crafts in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; and the Museum for Angewandte Kunst in Frankfurt, Germany. He curated the groundbreaking exhibition, *Uncommon Beauty in Common Objects: The Legacy of African-American Craft Art*, which toured the United States in the mid 1990's.

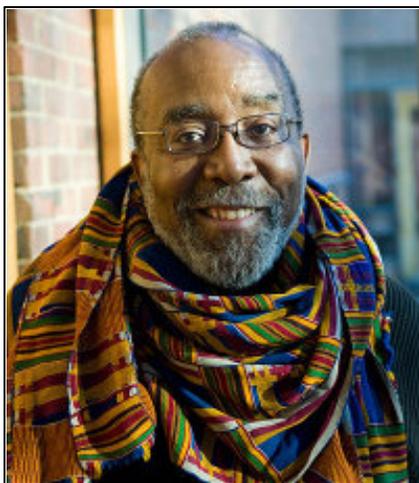


Jon Onye Lockard, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Jon Onye Lockard is a painter, portraitist, muralist, educator, and illustrator. He teaches at the Center for Afro-American and African Studies at the University of Michigan and Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor, Michigan. His works are in private collections and museums throughout the country. He also exhibits biannually at the National Black Arts Festival in Atlanta, Georgia.

Lockard on the board of directors and is the past president of the National Conference of Artists. He is a member of the Portrait Society of America, Pastel Artists International, and the Pastel Society of Washington. He is listed in “Who’s Who in American Artist, Who’s Who Amongst Art Teachers and Who’s Who Amongst African-Americans.”

He has traveled throughout Africa and the African Diaspora. He dedicated his work to his family and the millions lost in the Atlantic Ocean during the trepidous history of the middle passage.

Tacoumba Aiken, St. Paul, has been making art since he was three years old. He creates to heal the hearts and souls of people through positive imagery. For 42 years he has been involved in more than 300 community murals and public sculptures, with themes ranging from community history to his unique style of rhythm patterns and spirit writing.



Aiken's paintings can be found in the collections of Walker Arts Center, Minnesota Museum of Modern Art, Dain Raucher Corparaion, Piper Jaffery, Honeywell, General Mills, Herbie Hancock, Taj Mahal, Earth Wind and Fire, James Earl Jones and Maya Angelou. He has received awards from the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Bush Visual Artist Fellowship, the Pollack-Krasner Fellowship, the Gottlieb Fellowship, and the Saint Paul Companies Leadership Initiative in Neighborhoods.

Aiken has also worked as an art administrator, art educator, curator and set designer. As a community activist, he has served on several boards, including the Minneapolis Arts Commission, African American Cultural Arts Center, Forecast Public Arts, Saint Paul Arts Collective and Intermedia Arts

Seitu Jones, St. Paul, creates large-scale public artworks and set designs. His art has been exhibited throughout the US. He has received the Minnesota State Arts Board Fellowship, McKnight Visual Artist Fellowship, Bush Artist Fellowship, Loeb Fellowship, Bush Leadership Fellowship and a National Endowment for the Arts/Theater Communication Group (NEA/TCG) Designer Fellowship.

Jones has created set designs for Penumbra Theater (where he is a company member), Macalester College, and Pangea World Theater, First Stages in Milwaukee, the Chernin Center for the Arts in Chicago, the Minneapolis Children's Theater, the Guthrie Theater, the Illusion Theater, the Walker Art Center and PS 122 in New York.

Jones uses environmental art and horticulture as tools for public art and community development in St. Paul, Minneapolis and across the country. He has created a memorial bench for novelist Richard Wright in Fort Greene Park in Brooklyn, New York. His other public artworks include a Lino Lakes Correctional Facility Chapel, a collaborative work with George Roberts for Sumner Library, bridges and headwalls for the Heritage Park, and an installation at Project Row Houses in Houston Texas.



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