



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FORT WORTH, TX – January 30, 2012 -- The National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum (NMWHM) will launch a new Community Garden Education Series as part of the indoor and outdoor learning center located on the grounds of the museum's Pam Grier Community Garden (3534 E. Berry Avenue, Ft. Worth, Texas 76105) beginning Saturday, February 4, 2012.

The “How To’s” Gardening classes that will provide tips on how to begin and maintain a successful community garden is a collaborative community effort between Texas AgriLife Extension-Texas A& M System and the museum as a part of AgriLife’s Master Gardner Speakers Bureau of which Camille Thomason is Chair. *“We will offer a practical guide to starting a community garden. Successful community gardens are planned by a community and evolve into what the community comes together to create”* says Dr. Dotty Woodson, Extension Program Specialist – Water Resources Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department, Texas A&M University.

The community gardening program welcomes residents of all ages, cultures and backgrounds to learn gardening skills and become stewards of equitably distributed plots of land to grow organic vegetables, fruits and flowers. This program empowers participants to meet their need for health, recreation, good nutrition, job skills, community security and natural beauty. If you like to garden, the public is invited to call the museum’s business office for information on space availability and program details.

“We are fortunate to have a City Council, community partners, and volunteers who are committed to working together for a healthier Ft Worth,” said Gloria Austin, Museum Co-Founder. The Community Garden provides many social, economic, and public health benefits. The garden will provide healthy food and physical activity for families that garden the spaces, offer fresh produce donations to the local food bank, offer educational sessions, create a sense of community, act as a public meeting place, and beautify the neighborhood”. “Everyone’s saying – ‘Let’s do this! The City is celebrating first steps, we have a ways to go, and we’ll get there. The future demands that we build a larger museum and education center. It is our goal to build a sense of community and pride and to act as a center for educating and encouraging others to participate in gardening communities wherever they live” says Jim Austin, Museum Co-Founder.

Community Garden Classes will be held the 1st and 3rd Saturdays February through April of 2012, 9:30AM to 11:30AM, at the museum’s present location at 3400 Mount Vernon Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76103. Class fees are nominal at \$5.00 per class and include informational handout about harvesting and preserving vegetables (food safety, canning, freezing, drying) throughout the various classes. Topics include Vegetable Gardening led by Master Gardener Frank Durda (2-4-12); Starting and Managing a Community Garden led by Master Gardner Dianne Spradling (2-18-12); Soil Preparation and Composting led by Master Gardner Theresa Thomas (3-3-12); Insect, Disease and Weed Control led by Master Gardner Lance Jepson (3-17-12); Drip Irrigation led by Dr. Dotty Woodson (4-7-12) and Rainwater Harvesting led by Dr. Dotty Woodson (4-21-12). Registration for the class will be through National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum Business Office at (817) 922-999 or email info@cowboysofcolor.org.

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ABOUT NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM

The National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum (formerly Cowboys of Color Museum) was founded to give recognition to the “forgotten cowboys” of multicultural ancestry who played a role in settling the early American western frontier. The National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum acknowledges a diverse group of individuals who continue the legacy of western culture, tradition and play a part in keeping this important piece of American History alive. The Museum offers a true and complete historical perspective of the people and activities that built the unique culture of the Old West. The work of artist who documented the people and events of the time through journals, photographs and other historical items are part of the collection. The NMWHM created an indoor and outdoor learning center in partnership with educators to ensure the content developed met the state requirements for reading and writing proficiency skills as well as other educational requirements. The program builds reading, writing, researching skills, healthy self-esteem, respect for their ancestors and other cultures. For more information, please visit www.cowboysofcolor.org . Volunteer opportunities are available for youth and adults. For inquiries about the museum and outdoor learning center activities, please contact museum executive director Gloria Reed Austin at (817) 922-9999 or email gaustin@cowboysofcolor.org.

NMWHM mission is to educate visitors a true and complete historical perspective of the people and activities that built the unique culture of the American West.

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