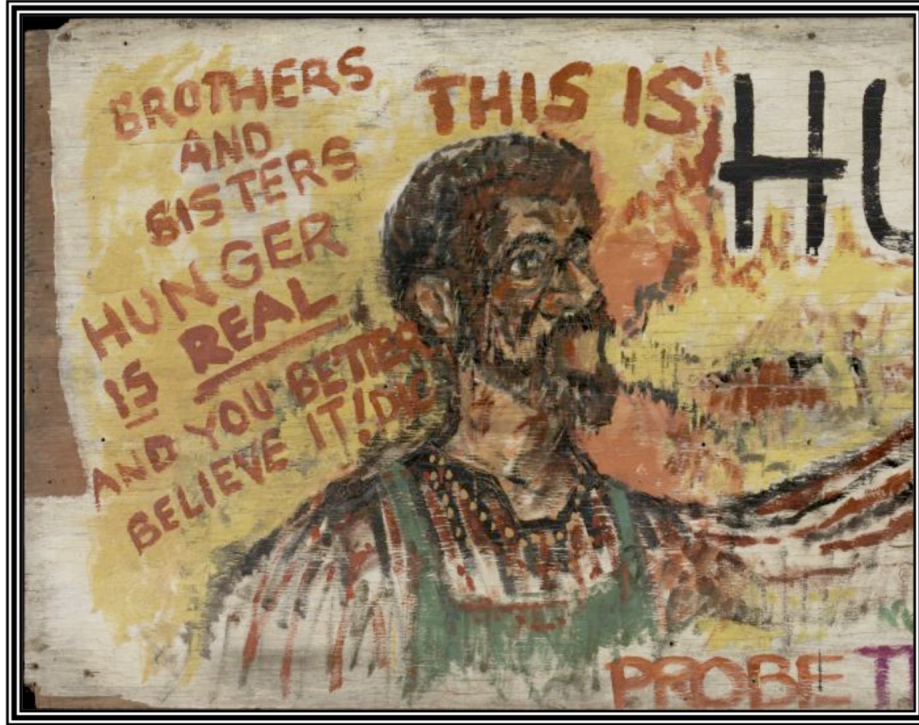


JUST IMAGINE...

*WELCOMING CHILDREN INTO THE
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN
AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE*

JUST IMAGINE DRAWING & PAINTING (SOMETIMES ON THE WALLS)...



*Plywood panel from a mural at Resurrection City (1968)
Created during the Poor People's Campaign, Washington, D.C.*

"What did you see? What do you think that means?" If presented with swaths of blank paper, how would young visitors reflect upon their journeys within the National Museum of African American History and Culture ("NMAAHC")? Would the "The Card Series II: The Rounds" by Whitfield Lovell inspire portrayals of their own kin; will the "Training aircraft used by Tuskegee Institute" ignite drawings of daredevil flight? Might children begin to fathom the Underground Railroad's precious valor as they decorate cardboard quilting patterns of "The North Star"? When imagining album or book covers for a great musician or author, what words and art would young visitors select or create? Illustrators of children's literature would be invited to sketch NMAAHC coloring sheets; unquenchable paper would cover the walls on days when visitors respond to history by collaborating on a mural.

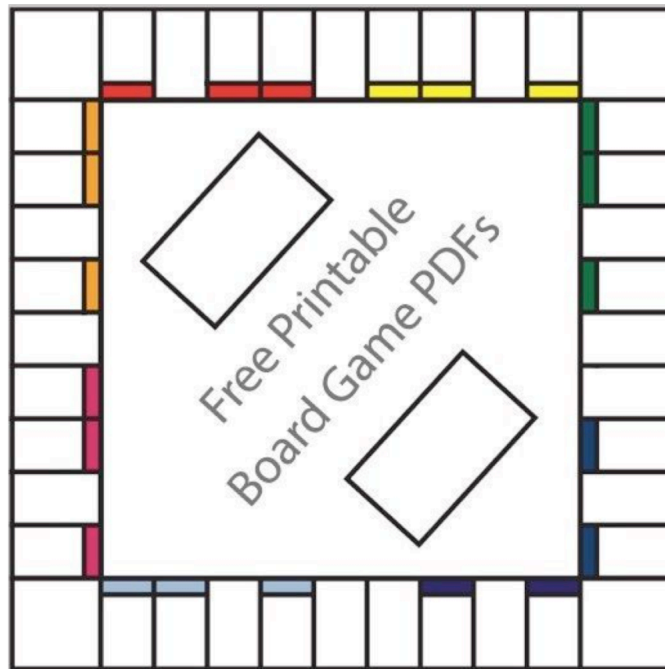
JUST IMAGINE FANTASTIC STORYTELLING...



This fanciful storyteller's chair was discovered on [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com).

Storytelling experiences at the NMAAHC should be cherished by the imaginative of all ages long after a day's visit is complete. A galaxy of museum storytellers would propel visitors into the extraordinary universe of African-American literature—short stories, poetry, historic narratives, excerpted longer works, fables and myths. Epic leaders and artists (from Congressman John Lewis to “Queen Bey”) would be invited to ascend the “Griot Throne” and embellish their favorite tales. (Videotapes of these moments would be available for later viewing.) Adult visitors who wish to become a “Guest Griot” could request the appointment when reserving NMAAHC entry passes online. Appreciation of the oral tradition will be quickened as youngsters give birth to a saga by sharing their part of an original story with the group, then trusting another child's plot twists to move the adventure forward.

JUST IMAGINE KEEPSAKE GAMES...



<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/educational-board-games/>

Young history buffs can create keepsake board games that propel them past the roadblocks and onto those mountaintops revealed within NMAAHC exhibitions. Families, classes, and other visiting groups would select a subject, then position their block-by-block challenges on blank game boards. (For example, some players might begin at the back of a segregated bus and attempt to land at the 1963 March on Washington; others could launch a game singing in the school chorus and strive for that breakthrough moment in the Apollo Theater's spotlight.) Glue-on challenge boxes—and playing cards—would be available for teams that wish to set up their game boards quickly and begin to compete. Visitors intent on piecing together African-American culture can work jigsaw puzzles that capture iconic art and photographs exhibited within the NMAAHC. (An off-site puzzle cutter will allow these images to be prepared at different levels of difficulty.) Guests who submit PDFs of a treasured family photograph before their visit can look forward to spending time together reconstructing their own precious legacies.

JUST IMAGINE PLAYING DRESS-UP...



GEOFFREY HOLDER *Dorothy's costume for the Broadway production of "The Wiz" (1975)*

Platform shoes. Petticoats. Hoodies. *That* fedora. Playing dress-up (in old-fashioned bonnets, Negro League jerseys, faux feathers and furs) will transport young visitors "back into the day." Costume treasure trunks would be plenished by members of the NMAAHC's **Elizabeth Keckley Circle**, volunteer seamstresses and sewing groups from around the nation. (In addition to passwords providing access to a special web page, these artists would receive booklets describing apparel represented within the children's exploratory collection and suggestions on how to create designs inexpensively. Embroidered labels would identify their handiwork as a special gift to the museum; those who wish to sell other pieces in the Museum Store could become vendors.) Children also will relate culture to clothing while dressing paper dolls presented on illustrations of significant settings. On notable occasions, visitors can be invited to arrive wearing items commemorating that historic period or event.

JUST IMAGINE A PUPPET THEATER...



This captivating theater appeared on *lumberjocks.com*.

Designed by African-American craft artists and created using the wood of Georgia pines, a puppet theater would be the education center's enchantment venue. The theatrics of all storytellers would be welcomed—both the scripted presentations of experienced puppeteers and the spontaneous whimsy of visitors (children and adults) inspired to perform behind center stage. An eclectic palette of artists (for starters, Xenobia Bailey, Kimberly Camp, Bing Davis, Clayton Lang, Joyce Scott) would be asked to conjure a troupe of puppets that represents both “real life” and fantasy characters. This wondrous repertory would wait in the wings until tapped to appear in a tableau. The arrival of every new **NMAAHC Puppet Company** “player” would be an event!

JUST IMAGINE SOUNDS & MOTION...



DR. ERNEST C. WITHERS *Twins at WDIA, Memphis, TN (1948)*

Mobile microphones pop up everywhere when NMAAHC's young visitors are rocking kiddie karaoke as soloists or singing ensemble with recordings of artists ranging from Marian Anderson to The Jackson Five, Muddy Waters to (Big & Little) Stevie Wonder. A medley of instruments "hang out" on a mini bandstand waiting to be blown, bopped, plucked. Nearby, on a flat-screen video system, loops footage of legendary musicians and dancers; exploratory tales of such instruments as banjos, harmonicas and kalimbas also appear on this backdrop. An NMAAHC-style **Dance Blast** gets the joint jumping! During 10-15 minute, videotaped "rehearsals", children (and adults) trace the steps of revered dance masters like Misty Copeland, Savion Glover, Judith Jamison, and George Faison. After every class, newly minted aficionados christen the museum's floor with their inspired feet.