

TUTANKHAMUN

“Wonderful things” from The Pharaoh’s Tomb October, 2008 through the end of January, 2009 at Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History

One hundred and twenty six (126) stunning and exact replicas of Tutankhamun’s, ancient Egypt’s boy king – pharaoh - sacred and personal possessions:

- His magnificent state chariot
- Golden shrines
- Beds
- Thrones
- Jewelry and adornment
- Spectacular funerary mask
- Sarcophagus
- His royal mummy

along with associated artifacts from the period surrounding Tutankhamun’s reign are presented in a nearly 5,000 square foot exhibition that reconstructs the historic discovery of the tomb by Howard Carter.

An innocent puppet-ruler, Tutankhamun was caught in the midst of a dangerous and profound political, spiritual, and artistic revolution against the entire pantheon of ancient Egyptian gods by the first monotheistic religious cult in history. The pharaoh’s much overlooked African heritage is explored, along with the religious magic of the sacred objects, and the infamous curse of Tutankhamun.

The exhibition is presented in 5 chambers, 1.) An introduction to Ancient Egypt, 2.) The archaeological discovery, 3.) The private pharaoh, 4.) The public pharaoh and, 5.) The royal burial. The artifacts are elegantly displayed on pedestals of simulated Egyptian granite, a sound-track of ambient music is also provided, especially composed to evoke the timeless mystery of the ancient tomb. This classic exhibition vividly brings to life the enigmatic opulent age of 18th Dynasty Egypt.

From 1961 to 1981 the traveling Tutankhamun exhibition from the Egyptian Museum, Cairo, toured the United States, Canada, Japan, France, England, West Germany, and the Soviet Union. After 20 years of wear-and-tear on the priceless objects (55 in all), the tour was concluded and the collection returned to Egypt. Superbly reproduced, this magnificent collection of 126 legendary artifacts faithfully preserves the grandeur and mystery of the most astonishing archaeological treasures ever discovered.

The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History is the North America’s largest historical and cultural institution dedicated to the African Americans and descendants of the African diaspora.

The Museum houses over 30,000 artifacts and archival materials and is home to the Harriet Tubman Museum Collection, Mayor Coleman A. Young Collection and the Horace Sheffield Collection of the American labor movement. The Museum features:

- The Central Exhibit: “And Still We Rise: Our Journey Through African American History and Culture.” Encompassing nearly 20,000 square feet, this exhibition is the nation’s largest survey of African American history. It spans a time period from the dawn of human origins through the late 20th century.
- A Glass Dome, 100 feet in diameter and 55-feet high. The architectural wonder is two feet wider than Michigan’s Capitol dome.
- The terrazzo tile creation, “Genealogy,” by Hubert Massey located under the dome in the Rotunda floor and within the Ford Freedom “Ring of Genealogy” that honors the contributions of noteworthy African American’s whom have been deceased for at least five (5) or more years.
- The Louise Lovett Wright Research Library that will re-open to the public and on-line in October, 2008.
- The General Motors Theater: a 317-seat facility for live performances, film screenings, lectures, presentations and more.

A Museum Store which sells unique African and African American art, educational materials, apparel, clothing accessories, music, movies, books and merchandise.