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## **BMA Hosts Author Isabel Wilkerson and Stoop Storytelling for Great Migration Exhibition Opening Events**

October 30 Community Day features live-streamed conversation with acclaimed author Isabel Wilkerson, sponsored by the Open Society Institute-Baltimore

November 3 Stoop Storytelling event features tales of modern-day migration

BALTIMORE, MD (October 17, 2022)—The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) today announced two special programs celebrating the public opening of *A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration*, a groundbreaking exhibition with newly commissioned works by 12 of the most acclaimed artists working today. The Community Day on Sunday, October 30, from 1 to 5 p.m., includes free admission to the exhibition, artmaking with [Safiyah Cheatam](#), dance performance by [Moving History](#), on-site participation in the [Legacies of the Great Migration Interactive](#), and light fare from [H3irloom Food Group](#) and [Mera Kitchen Collective](#). At 4 p.m., the BMA partners with Open Society Institute-Baltimore (OSI) to host a virtual conversation with acclaimed author [Isabel Wilkerson](#), who wrote the award-winning book *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*. Wilkerson will share her perspectives on the Great Migration and its relevance to present-day migration via Zoom for the audience in the BMA's auditorium and for a limited number of participants online. [Registration](#) is required for both in-person and virtual attendance. This event is part of OSI's [Talking About Race series](#), which first featured Wilkerson [in 2011](#). Recording is not permitted.

On Thursday, November 3, Baltimore's popular [Stoop Storytelling Series](#) comes to the BMA for "Movement in Every Direction: Stories about Modern-Day Migration." This free event features a variety of speakers who tell seven-minute true tales about escape and exodus, oppression and opportunity, resettlement, and regeneration—and the profound act of making a home away from home. The event begins at 6:30 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m. Visit [artbma.org](#) for more information and to register.

***A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration*** is a groundbreaking exhibition that explores the profound impact of a pivotal time in American history through the perspectives of 12 acclaimed contemporary artists. Akea Brionne, Mark Bradford, Zoë Charlton, Larry W. Cook, Torkwase Dyson, Theaster Gates Jr., Allison Janae Hamilton, Leslie Hewitt, Steffani Jemison, Robert Pruitt, Jamea Richmond-Edwards, and Carrie Mae Weems were commissioned to make new works that reflect on their connections to the South, migration, ancestry, and land. The exhibition encompasses an extraordinary range of painting, sculpture, drawing, video, sound, and immersive installations that are both communally resonant and deeply personal. The exhibition is on view from October 30, 2022, through January 29, 2023. Tickets are available beginning September 30.

*A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration* is co-organized by the BMA and Mississippi Museum of Art (MMA) and co-curated by Jessica Bell Brown (she/her), BMA Curator and Department Head of Contemporary Art, and Ryan N. Dennis (she/her), MMA Chief Curator and Artistic Director of the Museum's Center for Art and Public Exchange.

**Isabel Wilkerson**, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Humanities Medal, has become a leading figure in narrative nonfiction, an interpreter of the human condition, and an impassioned voice for demonstrating how history can help us understand ourselves, our country, and our current era of upheaval. She is a native of Washington, D.C., and a daughter of the Great Migration. She won the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing in 1994, as Chicago Bureau Chief of *The New York Times*, making her the first African-American woman to win a Pulitzer Prize in journalism. She then devoted 15 years and interviewed more than 1,200 people to tell the story of the six million people, among them her parents, who defected from the Jim Crow South. Her debut work, [\*The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration\*](#), won the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Heartland Prize for Nonfiction, the Anisfield-Wolf Award for Nonfiction, the Lynton History Prize from Harvard and Columbia universities, and the Stephen Ambrose Oral History Prize, and was shortlisted for both the Pen-Galbraith Literary Award and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize. Her latest book, [\*Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents\*](#) (2020), examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how a hierarchy of social divisions still defines our lives today. *Caste* is being adapted into a [Netflix film](#) directed, written, and produced by Ava DuVernay. For more information on this speaker, please visit [prhspeakers.com](http://prhspeakers.com).

### Open Society Institute - Baltimore

Open Society Institute-Baltimore is the Open Society Foundations' only U.S. field office. We are intensely focused on creating transformative change on the local level that can inform transformation in the U.S. and around the world. Our mission is to disrupt the long-standing legacy of structural racism in Baltimore by supporting powerful social change movements led by and centering the needs, interests, and voices of historically marginalized communities and communities of color. Our vision is the creation of a racially just and liberated Baltimore, one in which all residents have access to the supports and resources needed to actualize their highest potential, and race no longer serves as the single most powerful predictor of one's life outcomes and well-being.

### The Stoop Storytelling Series

The Stoop is a Baltimore-based live show and podcast founded by Laura Wexler and Jessica Henkin that features everyday people sharing the extraordinary true tales of their lives. The mission of The Stoop is to empower individuals and build community through the sharing of personal stories. Since its founding in 2006, The Stoop has featured the tales of more than 3,000 people onstage—including notable citizens such as Congressman Elijah Cummings, “The Wire” creator David Simon, activist DeRay Mckesson, and Senator Barbara Mikulski. The Stoop is featured weekly on 88.1, WYPR. Learn more at [stoopstorytelling.com](http://stoopstorytelling.com).

## Exhibition Sponsors

This exhibition is supported by a grant from the Ford Foundation.



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## Baltimore Museum of Art

Founded in 1914, the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) inspires people of all ages and backgrounds through exhibitions, programs, and collections that tell an expansive story of art—challenging long-held narratives and embracing new voices. Our outstanding collection of more than 97,000 objects spans many eras and cultures and includes the world's largest public holding of works by Henri Matisse; one of the nation's finest collections of prints, drawings, and photographs; and a rapidly growing number of works by contemporary artists of diverse backgrounds. The museum is also distinguished by a neoclassical building designed by American architect John Russell Pope and two beautifully landscaped gardens featuring an array of modern and contemporary sculpture. The BMA is located three miles north of the Inner Harbor, adjacent to the main campus of Johns Hopkins University, and has a community branch at Lexington Market. General admission is free so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

## Visitor Information

General admission to the BMA is free. The BMA is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended hours on Thursdays until 9 p.m. The Sculpture Gardens are open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to dusk. The museum and gardens are closed New Year's Day, Juneteenth, July 4, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. The BMA is located at 10 Art Museum Drive, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit [artbma.org](http://artbma.org).

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