

Dear Prospective Board Member,

We are writing to introduce you to our exciting new not for profit organization, More Black Art about More Black Ish...Art Fund (MBA) and the opportunities that we are offering to emerging artists.

MBA is the brainchild of a group of young artists and art enthusiasts working to expand the reach of black art in America. Our goal is to nurture talent, facilitate exhibition opportunities, and provide professional development assistance for emerging artists of the African Diaspora.

Based in Brooklyn, N.Y. and Washington D.C., we will accomplish our goals through a variety of programs including juried exhibitions, seminars, workshops, networking sessions, and membership initiatives primarily held along the east coast of the United States.

MBA will host three exhibitions in 2009 catering to emerging artists, the first of which is currently slated to open late spring 2009 in Washington DC. Entitled "Dawning of a New Day: Perspectives on Black America," this inaugural showcase will be a juried exhibition open to artists of all media. The juror will be Wendell Brown, renowned fiber artist and assistant professor of Art at Benedict College in South Carolina, whose work is part of public and privately held collections across the United States including several notable museums.

We are also in the process of developing several professional development tools for artists. These tools will include a seminar/workshop series called Art as an Industry. This will be a five part series that will tackle different aspects of the art world and provide artists with the building blocks for success in each area. Topics will include Self Promotion and Marketing, Understanding the Gallery System, Public Art and Becoming a Public Artist, Alternative Careers in Art, and Not a Starving Artist: Funding a Career in Art. We will also facilitate networking events for the art community and informal artist talks to introduce burgeoning artists to the intricacies of the Art World.

We invite you to become a part of our organization. We believe that your support in the form of a small time commitment and access to your skill sets will be invaluable in our quest to make a difference in the careers of emerging artists of the African Diaspora. Our logo is the juxtaposition of two West African Adinkra symbols, one representing the idea of reciprocity, and the other meant to reflect dynamism and times of change. We offer artists opportunities that will allow us to help them help themselves, and we are certain that with your support we can precipitate a time of change in the art world.

Attached you will find an explanation of why MBA exists, a description of the types of services and skills sets we are seeking to strengthen the organization and a time commitment survey. We hope that you will seriously consider becoming a part of our family.

For more information about More Black Art about More Black Ish...Art Fund, please visit www.moblackart.org.

Respectfully yours,

Melissa A. Matthews
Co-founder/CEO
More Black Art about More Black Ish

Michael J. Cooper
Co-founder/COO
More Black Art about More Black Ish



Organizational Overview

MBA will be a 501(c)(3) corporation, headquartered at 111 Court St., Suite 2L, Brooklyn, NY, with an office in Fairfax, VA. The Executive Board consists of two people: Melissa Matthews, CEO, Co-Founder and Curatorial Director; and Michael J. Cooper, COO/CFO, Co-Founder and Business & Development Director.

MBA was formed to fill what its founders perceive as a huge gap in the American and International arts landscape, given the contribution of African and Diaspora art and aesthetics to the modern artistic canon.

MBA's mission is to nurture talent, facilitate exhibition opportunities, and provide professional development assistance for emerging artists of the African Diaspora. As the only art fund for emerging black/Diaspora artists that we are aware of, we take our mission and our place in the art landscape very seriously.

MBA's vision is as ambitious as its mission is serious. The organization seeks to become a player in the art landscape, helping elevate and promote black art in the United States, and eventually, globally. Rotating Biennials between Africa, Europe and the U.S., an art center with gallery and studio space, fellowships and grant programs, and publishing books and/or periodicals are among the ideas that fit within the scope of MBA's grand vision.

In 2009, MBA will mount two exhibitions, the first of which, juried exhibition "Dawning of a New Day: Perspectives on Black America" will take place in spring and the second, an open exhibition "The Art of Storytelling: I AM" will take place in the fall.

The organization will also sponsor approximately 12 workshops and seminars beginning in March of this year.

MBA has taken the initiative to establish promotional partnerships with local galleries, artist collectives, and nonprofits across its target cities. The organization is strengthening its position and expanding its reach every day.



Volunteer Needs

Advisory Board:

- Marketing and Advertising professionals
- Professional Artists
- Curators
- Gallerists
- Agents and Dealers

Development Committee:

- Assistance with fundraising strategies and efforts in conjunction with the COO/CFO, Advisory Board and Public Relations / Marketing Team.
- Building relationships with prospective sponsors.
- Participation in the strategic planning process.

Programs Committee:

- Assistance with the logistics of organizational events and programs.
 - Venue rental
 - Catering
- Work in conjunction with Public Relations/Marketing Team on event promotion.
- Building relationships with prospective vendors and partners.

Administration Team:

Individuals that will assist with:

- Database development
- Mailing List maintenance
- Email and Mail monitoring and correspondence

Interns:

- Development



