



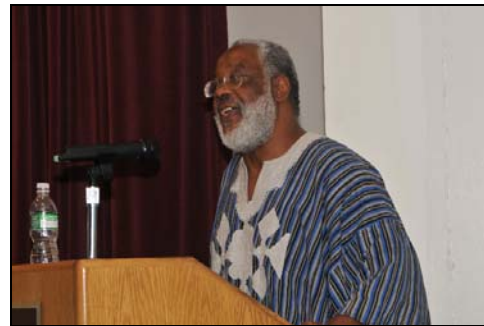
The recent Art and Culture Conference of the Black Panther Party in Atlanta organized to commemorate the 42nd anniversary of the Black Panther Party was an astounding success! Over 300 attended the two-day event where former members, their families, friends, special guests and academics discussed the generational impact of the organization and the continuing international influence of politically charged art made famous by Emory Douglas, former Minister of Culture of the Black Panther Party.

The conference opened on historic Auburn Avenue at the Research Library on African American Culture and History with Master of Ceremony, Sultan Ahmad of the Philadelphia BPP chapter. Dr. Charles E. Jones, founding chair of the Department of African American Studies at Georgia State University welcomed the attendees to a weekend of activities that included the opening of an art exhibit and a panel discussion.



Dr. Jahti-Jackson-Maasai

The legacy of BPP photographer-community activist Dr. Jahti Jackson-Maasai (Tony Jackson) was honored posthumously. Artist-activist Emory Douglas and Billy X (BJ) Jennings, BPP Historian and founder of **“It’s About Time,”** the highly successful website that promotes the legacy of the Black Panther Party were also honored.



Baba Mukasa (PHOTO BY JIM ALEXANDER)

Willie “Mukasa” Ricks, veteran of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and “Beloved Baba” to generations of Atlanta University Center students brought “revolutionary greetings” in his fiery and enthusiastic style. Mama Charlotte O’Neal presented a video greeting from Panther-in-exile Pete O’Neal in Tanzania East Africa and performed a song from her latest CD. Kathleen Cleaver, Law Professor and former BPP Communications Secretary and Emory Douglas, celebrated Artist closed out Friday afternoon at the Research Library.

Friday evening conference attendees caravanned to the Southwest Art Center for the opening reception of the Emory Douglas Art Exhibit.

On Saturday morning, Georgia State University was the site of several highly successful and well attended workshops. Ward Churchill, Harold Taylor, Robert King, Gail Shaw and Dawn McGhee of Field-Up Productions provided updates on political prisoners, the Angola 3, and the San Francisco 8.

Former panthers were the focus on Saturday as Dr. Jones and his staff at Department of African American studies facilitated the collection of oral histories. Minister Server of the “Temple of Hip Hop” chaired a lively panel with Professor Griff of Public Enemy and King Downing, legal rights activist.



Emory Douglas (PHOTO BY JIM ALEXANDER)

Mama Charlotte engaged attendees with news from Tanzania in the form of music, art and reports of community service inspired by the Black Panther legacy and sponsored by United African Alliance Community Center and partners from around the globe.

The morning workshops were followed with film screenings at the Auburn Avenue Research Library. Sam Obae and Anway Msechu, two young Kenyan film makers presented a short documentary about the relevance of Hip Hop in East Africa with a focus on Arusha, Tanzania. where the “Spirit of the Panther” inspires the young to serve

the people. Another film, “**Solar Power to the People**” illustrated the success of solar power projects in Tanzanian villages.

Emory Douglas presented an art talk and autographed his book, *Black Panther: The Revolutionary Art of Emory Douglas*.

In addition, Kerrie Cotten Williams, Archivist at the Research Library facilitated a workshop for those interested in the care of documents, photographs and artifacts in their possession.

A panel composed of Natsu Saito, Professor of Law, Georgia State University; Ward Churchill, Professor and political writer; Kathleen Cleaver, Professor of Law, Emory University and Cynthia McKinney, Former Georgia Congresswoman and Green Party Presidential Candidate discussed the devastating effects of the United States’ government’s counter-intelligence (COINTELPRO) program on the Black Panther Party and other Black Liberation organizations. This final activity proved to be the most popular event of the day with over 200 persons in attendance. People came from all over the country to participate in this conference.



Kathleen Cleaver and Cynthia McKinney (PHOTO BY JIM ALEXANDER)

In closing, Negril’s Caribbean Restaurant, 180 Auburn Avenue, hosted a private reception for former Black Panther Party members and their guests.