



THE  
LEDONIA WRIGHT  
AFRICAN-AMERICAN  
CULTURAL CENTER



## THE CENTER

The Ledonia Wright African-American Cultural Center at East Carolina University opened its doors in fall 1995. The center, named for the popular and respected professor who founded and advised the first African-American student organization at East Carolina, serves as a facility for research and educational programming and as a repository for the university's collection of African and African-American art.

## THE PURPOSE

The center is designed to provide an educational, social, and cultural support system for African-American students at East Carolina. Its mission is to increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of African-American history and culture through the development and implementation of culture-specific programming. These programs promote a culturally sensitive environment and provide a forum for a healthy and informed cross-cultural exchange between diverse populations on campus and in the community.

## THE FACILITY

Located in the Bloxton House in the heart of the university's east campus, the center features a newspaper reading room stocked with African-American newspapers from across the nation, a main lounge and reception area, two conference rooms, and an art gallery where African and African-American art is on display. Works of art by East Carolina students are featured throughout the center.

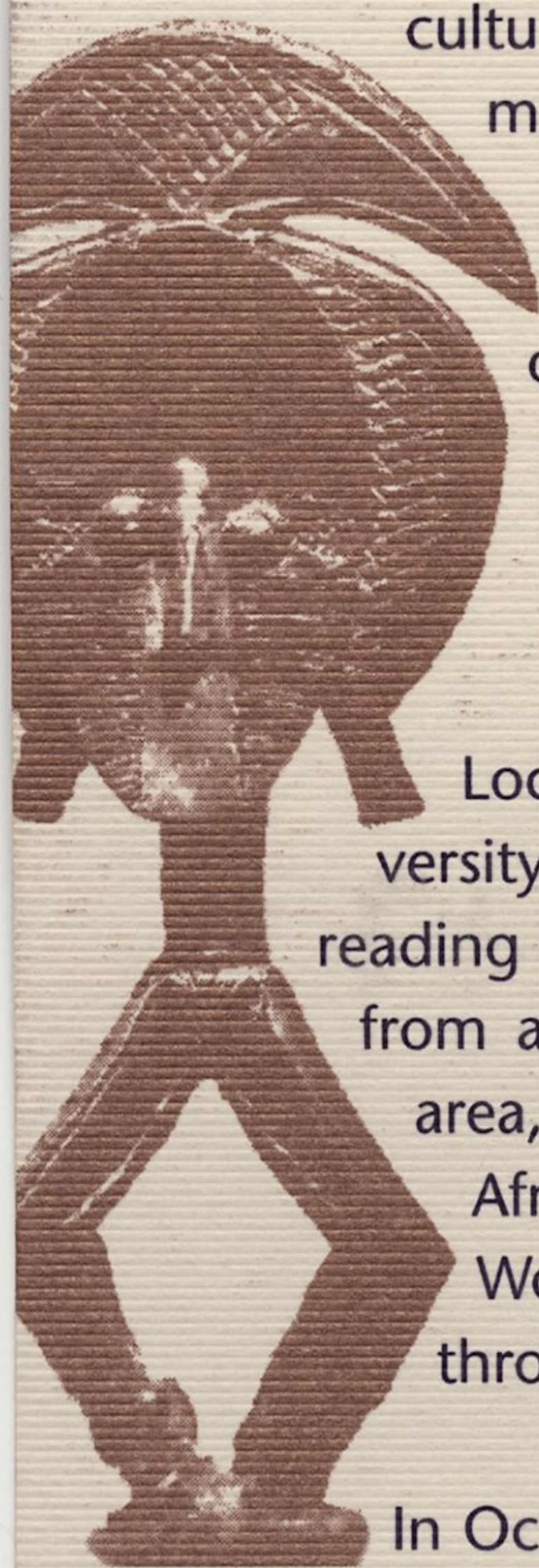
In October 1995 the center became home to an exhibition of more than 150 pieces of art from the Kuba people of Zaire. The collection was a gift to the East Carolina School of Art by James Lankton, physician and art collector, of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

## PROGRAMS

The Ledonia Wright African-American Cultural Center has developed comprehensive, culture-specific programming that serves the African-American student population, the university, and the greater community. The programs are divided into two major categories—special programs and in-house, ongoing programs.

### **Special Programs**

The center features various special programs throughout the academic year. Authors, lecturers, media personalities, critics, politicians, artists, and others are invited to share information, thoughts, and experiences. The center is also instrumental in attracting African-American theatrical and dance performances to the Greenville area.



Recent programs include:

*Our Young Black Men Are Dying and Nobody Seems to Care*, a choreopoem written by James Chapman and presented by the Living the Dream, Inc. repertory company.

*Restoring America's Self-Esteem: Why We've Lost Trust in Established Institutions*, a lecture by Bev Smith, host of the BET talk show *Our Voices*.



### **Ongoing Programs**

The center sponsors a variety of in-house, ongoing programs. These programs include:

**Young Aspiring Professionals (YAP)**—Twice each semester, African-American professionals from Greenville and surrounding areas network with university students in the center. The programs include a thirty-minute presentation on issues relevant to professional development and a one-hour networking session. YAP initiates positive relationships between students and professionals while offering students consistent exposure to achievers in professions of interest.

**The Nubian Novel Discussion Circle**—Student group members read and engage in discussion of an array of literature by African-American authors.

**The Saturday Noon Children's Storytelling Series**—Reknowned and local storytellers who specialize in the art of perpetuating African and African-American oral traditions present this educational series.

## **THE FUTURE**

Although its doors recently opened, plans are being made to expand the efforts of the Ledonia Wright African-American Cultural Center. The center is expected to be host to an African-American artist-in-residence program that will bring to campus visiting artists/faculty in the performing and visual arts and will sponsor a cross-cultural lecture series that will feature nationally and internationally acclaimed speakers.

The center also will enter Phase III of its renovation plan. This phase will convert unused space within the facility into a library and video screening room.

## **OPERATING HOURS**

The Ledonia Wright African-American Cultural Center is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Office hours during the academic year are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



For further information about the center  
or any of its programs, contact the  
Ledonia Wright African-American Cultural Center,  
East Carolina University,  
Bloxton House,  
Greenville, NC 27858-4353,  
or call 919-328-1680.

U.P. 96-071

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