

African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter

Volume 10
Issue 3 *September 2007*

Article 10

9-1-2007

MoAD's I've Known Rivers

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Recommended Citation

(2007) "MoAD's I've Known Rivers," *African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter*: Vol. 10 : Iss. 3 , Article 10.
Available at: <http://scholarworks.umass.edu/adan/vol10/iss3/10>

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MoAD's *I've Known Rivers*

The Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) in San Francisco, <http://www.moadsf.org/>, presents an online exhibition entitled "I've Known Rivers: The MoAD Stories Project," <http://www.iveknownrivers.org>.

MoAD describes this project as follows --

"In Africa it is said that when a griot, or oral historian, dies, 'a library has burned to the ground.' In recognition of the fabled tradition of the griot and in an effort to document stories of the African Diaspora . . . [MoAD] has embarked on a landmark project."

"*I've Known Rivers: The MoAD Story Project* is an unprecedented effort by an international museum to collect, publish, and archive "first voice" narratives about people of African descent. In light of the recent devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina and its effect on the lives of thousands of African Americans, this project's story-collecting mission takes on an even greater significance."

"An international museum based in San Francisco, California USA, MoAD is poised to become one of the world's pre-eminent cultural institutions. Unlike anything ever offered by a modern museum, *I've Known Rivers: The MoAD Story Project* will be similar in vision to the historic WPA Federal Writers' Project (1936 -1940), which archived thousands of items, including essays, oral testimony, folklore, and authentic narratives of ex-slaves about life during slavery."

Themes of stories by young authors in this project include --

Origins: "Stories that speak to our cultural and familial roots in Africa, whether from generation to generation or across continents, countries, islands and villages - these are the stories that distinguish the African experience."

Movement: "Stories that document how individuals, families and communities move continuously, sometimes seeking fresh prospects, sometimes forced by slavery, war, disaster, employment, or hope for a better life."

Adaptation: "Stories that reflect the adjustments and struggles made by people of African descent as the traditions and memories we carry with us evolve amid new surroundings and other cultures."

Transformation: "Stories that reflect how we transform ourselves mentally, physically and spiritually in dialogue with new places and create new traditions and new cultures."

