Sankofa:
The Treatment and Analysis of
“The Surveying of Washington, DC
by Benjamin Banneker”

LaStarsha McGarity
3rd Year Graduate Intern in Objects Conservation at Saint Louis Art Museum
Advisor: Jonathan Thornton
Co-Advisors: J.J. Chen, James Hamm, Fiona Beckett, Theresa J. Smith, Rebecca Ploeger
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Examination and Analysis
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Conclusions
Acknowledgements
San – to return
Ko- to go
Fa- to fetch, to seek and take
San – to return
Ko- to go
Fa- to fetch, to seek and take

Images: Tuskegee University, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Buffalo State College, and University of Delaware.
Images (left to right): American Negro Exposition Guidebook, American Institute for Graphic Arts, and Today in African American History.
Held from July 4th to Labor Day 1940 in Chicago, Illinois

Considered the first major display of the talents of African Americans

Viewed by more than 250,000 fairgoers

“The Surveying of Washington, DC by Benjamin Banneker” was 21 in the series of 33 dioramas.
"I AM fully sensible of the greatness of that freedom, which I take with you on the present occasion; a liberty which seemed to me scarcely allowable, when I reflected on that distinguished and dignified station in which [sic] you stand, and the almost general prejudice and prepossession, which is so prevalent in the world against those of my complexion.

I suppose it is a truth too well attested to you, to need a proof here, that we are a race of beings, who have long labored under the abuse and censure of the world; that we have long been looked upon with an eye of contempt; and that we have long been considered rather as brutish than human, and scarcely capable of mental endowments."

-Excerpt from correspondence between Benjamin Banneker and then Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson on August 19, 1791 (National Archives, 2018).
Materials

Wood
Masonite board
Plaster
Modeling wire
Wire mesh
Electrical wiring
Light fixtures
Stone
Screws and nails
Canvas
Watercolor
Materials

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Treatment included:

Dry surface cleaning
Aqueous cleaning
Consolidation
Filling
Removal of a previous repair
Reintegration of loose components
Inpainting
Lighting
Housing
Dirt layer

Deionized Water

Gamsol

Watercolor and Plaster layers
Incandescent Light, recorded color temperature of 2782K

Image: Popular Mechanics

New LED Ribbonlyte, recorded color temperature of 2677K

Image: Acolyte Complete Integrated LED Lighting Solutions.

Image: Kaitlyn Wright
Before Treatment

After Treatment
Before Treatment

After Treatment
Before Treatment

After Treatment
Sincere gratitude is owed to:

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