

*Continued*

## ***Why do we need a Black History Museum?***

***By Hewitt R. Joyner Jr.***

... the number of Black Youth in the Schools is very small and just slightly larger than the Native American Populations.

So we need a Black History Museum that tells the story of who we are, where we came from, what contribution we have made and the creativity and ingenuity of Black People across all disciplines. **So rather than talking about it, we are doing something about it!**

**The Silicon Valley Black Chamber of Commerce, African American Community Service Agency and the Joyner/Payne Youth Service Agency have joined forces in a collaborative effort (with the support of the Silicon Valley Branch NAACP) to establish a Black History Museum in San Jose by the year 2020.** The purpose of this collaborative is to create an educational institution that will enlighten the people of Silicon Valley (all races) about the Black Experience.

In order to begin the fundraising process, the collaborative will host an annual Black Tie/Red Carpet Ceremony to be known as the *Black Legend Awards of Silicon Valley*. The *Award Ceremony* will be a recognition event and fundraiser that will establish the *Black Legends Wall of Fame* and, eventually, the *Black Legends Hall of Fame*, a permanent recognition of local Black leaders who have made significant contributions to benefit the quality of life for Black Americans in Silicon Valley over the past 40 years, to be located in the *Black History Museum of Silicon Valley*.

The Museum (a one-of-a kind educational institution for use by our culturally-diverse community) would welcome all ethnicities. It would house six permanent displays which would take people on a journey through history from Africa and the plight of Africans, to the United States and The Americas.

The first annual *Black Legend Awards Ceremony* will take place on September 12, 2015, at the Parkside Hall of the San Jose Convention Center. This year's theme is, "Sankofa". ("Sankofa" is a Ghanaian word that means respecting tradition - looking back, while moving forward). Black Americans should remember the past, but not live in the past, as we teach for the future.

By contributing to this premier event, you will be supporting a collaborative effort of three non-profit 501 © (3) community service agencies and, ultimately, the creation of the *Black History Museum of Silicon Valley*. We ask that you consider a sponsorship donation of \$500.00 or more. Your donation will be recognized at the *Award Ceremony* and in all media campaigns. (Please see the attached Sponsorship Packages.) Tickets will cost \$150.00 and no tickets will be sold at the door. If you are buying tickets, there is a limited time offer; the first 100 tickets will be sold for \$100.00.

To make it possible for low-income seniors and youth to attend this historic event, we encourage you to:

1. Purchase tickets at \$150.00
2. Place your business ad in the souvenir booklet
3. Buy a sponsorship packet

We hope that we can count on you to help support our cause. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Hewitt Joyner at (408) 320-2111, or visit our website: [blacklegendawards.org](http://blacklegendawards.org). Donations may be made on-line and are, of course, tax deductible.