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## **OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA EXPLORES OAKLAND'S MULTI-LAYERED WORLD OF FOOD IN NEW HANDS-ON EXHIBITION**

*Take Root: Oakland Grows Food* Covers How and Why Food is  
Grown in Oakland

*Family-friendly exhibition on view in the Museum's Gallery of California  
Natural Sciences December 16, 2017 – January 13, 2019*

**(OAKLAND, CA)** August 29, 2017—This December, the Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) presents ***Take Root: Oakland Grows Food***, a new family-friendly exhibition exploring the **many aspects of Oakland's food communities** and **what factors determine where, how, why, and what is grown by residents throughout the city.**

Through **hands-on interactive displays** and **personal stories**, visitors will learn about Oakland's many thriving **urban farms and gardens** where locals are cultivating healthy food, right in the middle of our city. Motivations for growing food—including access to healthy ingredients, environmental and social justice values, or simply the joy of tending garden—will also be explored.

"With this exhibition, we want our visitors to learn not only what factors help Oaklanders grow food within our city, but also what makes an urban garden thrive as an ecosystem," says Sarah Seiter, associate curator of natural sciences at the Oakland Museum of California. "This exhibition will encourage exploration and discovery, as well as provide a connection to locals and their neighbors through stories of growing food. We are excited to provide a space where visitors and families can have fun learning and interacting, while also absorbing important information about our local food communities."

Other interactive elements featured in the exhibition will include **video footage of insect predators in action**; a **microscope for visitors to explore beneficial insects** within our gardens; opportunities to **draw your own garden** inspired by local crops and plants; an **animation station** based on organisms in urban gardens; and a **photo contribution wall** where Oaklanders can share photos of themselves and their crops. And, a video

interview with food growers in Oakland will share personal and collective stories of why people grow food.

The exhibition will be on view in the Oakland Museum of California's Gallery of California Natural Sciences December 16, 2017 through January 13, 2019. *Take Root: Oakland Grows Food* is supported by Kaiser Permanente and the Oakland Museum Women's Board.

### **ABOUT THE OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA**

The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) brings together collections of art, history, and natural science under one roof to tell the extraordinary stories of California and its people. OMCA's groundbreaking exhibits tell the many stories that comprise California with many voices, often drawing on first-person accounts by people who have shaped California's cultural heritage. Visitors are invited to actively participate in the Museum as they learn about the natural, artistic, and social forces that affect the state and investigate their own role in both its history and its future. With more than 1.9 million objects, OMCA is a leading cultural institution of the Bay Area and a resource for the research and understanding of California's dynamic cultural and environmental heritage.

### **VISITOR INFORMATION**

The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) is at 1000 Oak Street, at 10th Street, in Oakland. Museum admission is \$15.95 general; \$10.95 seniors and students with valid ID, \$6.95 youth ages 9 to 17, and free for Members and children 8 and under. There is a \$4 charge in addition to general admission pricing for special exhibitions. OMCA offers onsite underground parking and is conveniently located one block from the Lake Merritt BART station, on the corner of 10th Street and Oak Street. The accessibility ramp is located at the 1000 Oak Street main entrance to the Museum. [museumca.org](http://museumca.org)

### **UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS & PROJECTS**

#### **[Question Bridge: Black Males](#)**

***September 29, 2017–February 25, 2018***

Hailed as one of the Bay Area's Top Exhibitions in 2012 by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Question Bridge: Black Males* returns to the Oakland Museum of California this fall. Immerse yourself in intimate videos—woven together and arranged to simulate face-to-face conversations between participants—among a diverse group of 150 black men across the United States. Hear these men answer each other's questions with exceptional honesty and vulnerability, and share stories, beliefs, and values in a personal portrayal of their lives. Encompassing themes of family, love, interracial relationships, community, education, and wisdom, *Question Bridge: Black Males* presents nuanced portraits of past, present, and future of black men in American society.

Listen, watch, learn, and start your own conversations with this profoundly moving installation.

In 2012, the Oakland Museum of California presented *Question Bridge: Black Males*, an innovative and widely exhibited video installation from artists Chris Johnson and Hank Willis Thomas in collaboration with Bayeté Ross Smith and Kamal Sinclair. Joining the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Brooklyn Museum, OMCA is proud to acquire this groundbreaking and poignant work for its collection.

### **Nature's Gift: Humans, Friends & the Unknown**

**October 7, 2017–January 21, 2018**

This fall, OMCA invites you to explore *Nature's Gift: Humans, Friends & the Unknown*, a dazzling immersive experience that takes you through the rainbow into another world. A one-of-a-kind and interactive environment by FriendsWithYou—the LA-based, fine art collaborative featuring Samuel Borkson and Arturo Sandoval III—this large-scale, light-filled installation sparks joy and positivity, and sets the stage for friendship, magic, and social connection. Featuring the world premiere of a new commissioned installation titled *Nature's Gift*, this enchanting and whimsical experience for all ages invites you into a magical, multi-sensory world where the line between imagination and reality are blurred. *There is a \$4 charge for this special exhibition in addition to regular Museum admission.*

### **Metamorphosis & Migration: Days of the Dead**

**October 18, 2017–January 14, 2018**

This year, OMCA's biennial Days of the Dead exhibition is inspired by the lifecycle of the Monarch Butterfly. Known for its mass migration each winter, this butterfly's journey spans several generations, all of whom follow the same routes their ancestors took. In Mexico, the returning Monarchs also symbolize the returning souls of loved ones who have passed away.

In *Metamorphosis & Migration: Days of the Dead*, explore *ofrendas* and artworks inspired by the Monarch's migration and themes of tradition and transformation. View rarely-seen butterfly specimens from OMCA's collection alongside newly commissioned artworks. Artist Hung Liu honors her mother's passing through a series of heartfelt paintings. Favianna Rodriguez ponders migration and immigration in a new way using her "Migration is Beautiful" butterfly imagery. Chris Treggiari and Peter Foucault honor colleague Alex Ghassan, who lost his life in the tragic Ghost Ship fire. And, traditional Days of the Dead altars by Bea Carrillo Hocker and Rafael Jesús González, as well as installations by Oakland International High School and Thornhill Elementary School, energize this communal space for reflection and empowerment in these turbulent times.

### **RESPECT: Hip-Hop Style & Wisdom**

**March 24–August 12, 2018**

Hip-hop is one of the widest reaching cultural and social movements of the last 50 years. Discover the unexpected story of how hip-hop changed the world, starting from its roots on the streets, before rap, DJing, street art, breakdancing, and street fashion launched into mainstream popular culture. Learn about the West Coast's and San Francisco Bay Area's influences on this global phenomenon. Hear first-person accounts from artists and experts about how, beyond big business, hip-hop continues to provide a platform for creative expression, activism, youth development, and education. *There is a \$4 charge for this special exhibition in addition to regular Museum admission.*

### **J.B. Blunk: Nature, Art & Everyday Life**

***April 21–September 26, 2018***

Discover northern California's best kept secret in design and craft: J.B. Blunk (1926–2002), a mid-century artist whose connection to nature governed his daily life. Inspired by Japanese philosophies of nature and art's inseparability, and influenced by rural utopian communities, Blunk's muse and often his source of materials was the beautiful natural environment of Inverness, California. Blunk's home property was his ultimate work of art, filled with his handcrafted furniture, ceramics, sculptures, and other functional objects used by his family. His remarkable craftsmanship also took the form of large-scale public works of art, including *The Planet*, a redwood sculpture commissioned by the Oakland Museum of California in 1969. *J.B. Blunk: Nature, Art, & Everyday Life* brings together a comprehensive survey of the artist's works. See northern California's landscape anew through Blunk's eyes, and get inspired to find the beauty of nature and art in your own daily life.

### **ON VIEW**

### **Bees: Tiny Insect, Big Impact**

***Through October 22, 2017***

This exhibition in OMCA's Gallery of California Natural Sciences takes a look at the wildly diverse and intricate world of one of the most important creatures to human agriculture and the natural environment. Through family-friendly experiences, hands-on activities, and media, *Bees: Tiny Insect, Big Impact* touches on topics of honeybees and Bay Area beekeeping, the diversity of California native bee species, citizen science projects, and the similarities between bees and humans. Visitors will discover real bee specimens under a microscope, crawl through a human-sized beehive, and try on a beekeeper suit. In an immersive gallery environment, visitors can explore the causes of bee population decline, learn about the significance of bees to California's economy and ecosystems, and discover how simple but powerful actions by Californians can help bees to survive in a changing world.

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