

Group Exhibition featuring artwork by

African American Quilt Guild of Oakland

“Inspiration and Improvisation: Echoes of Gee’s Bend Quilters”

Presented by the Alameda County Arts Commission

June 1, 2026 – July 30, 2026

Alameda County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, 5th Floor, Oakland



The goal of this exhibition is to provide a positive and uplifting experience for visitors through the creativity and imagination of local artists. This group exhibition features 20 quilts created by members of the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland (AAQGO).

Inspired by the legacy of the Gee’s Bend Quilters, members of the AAQGO present small-scale artworks that honor a tradition of bold improvisation, resourcefulness, and cultural memory. Rooted in the inventive use of everyday materials and mostly hand-sewn construction, these quilts transform remnants into powerful visual narratives that connect past and present through the enduring language of African American quilting.

As a guild, the AAQGO is dedicated to preserving and continuing the rich traditions of African American quilting through creativity, education, and community engagement. The guild promotes fellowship among individuals interested in all aspects of quilting, from traditional techniques to contemporary textile art. Through regular meetings, workshops, exhibitions, and special community events, AAQGO encourages artistic growth and cultural expression. The organization also works to increase public knowledge, appreciation, and understanding of quilts and quilting traditions while supporting generations of quilters in sharing stories, history, craftsmanship, and the continuing legacy of African American quilt making.

The Alameda County Arts Commission thanks the exhibiting quilters for sharing their quilts with the public and also Ora Clay and Dolores Presley, AAQGO members, who assisted with the exhibition.

For more information about the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland, visit their website:
www.aaqgo.org

To inquire about purchasing and commissioning quilts, contact AAQGO Exhibition Coordinator:
Ora Clay at oclay@yahoo.com

For more information about exhibitions, contact Alameda County Arts Commission Exhibition Coordinator: Violet Harlo at 510-891-5716 or violet.harlo@acgov.org

Quilt Image: *Airing of Quilts* by Beverly Davis



The Arts Learning Gallery exhibitions provide opportunities for community members of all ages to experience art in their daily lives.