



***Wrapped in Pride* Exhibition at the Willamette Heritage Center (WHC)
"Wraps Up" August 8**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wrapped in Pride--which explores the art of making kente, its symbolism in the culture of Africa, and its expression of identity in African American communities--will end soon.

The days are numbered for not only Salem residents to enjoy this outstanding exhibit, but for everyone in the Pacific Northwest. ***Wrapped in Pride's* final Northwest appearance is HERE.**

The brightly colored, geometrically patterned cloth called kente, made by the Asante (*uh SAHN tee*) peoples of Ghana and the Ewe (*AY vay*) peoples of Ghana and Togo, is the best known of all African textiles. In African American communities across the United States, kente is much more than mere cloth: it is a symbol of African pride and a powerful cultural icon.

Kente has its origins in the former Gold Coast of West Africa as festive dress for special occasions—traditionally worn by men as a kind of toga and by women as upper and lower wrappers. Over the past forty years, as kente's popularity has blossomed, the cloth has been used in hats, ties, bags, shoes, jewelry, and many other accessories worn on both sides of the Atlantic.

Additionally, the Oregon Northwest Black Pioneers have partnered with WHC to create a supplemental exhibit in the second floor lobby of the Mill building at WHC.

Don't miss this final opportunity!

Mission Mill Museum, part of the Willamette Heritage Center, has been designated an American Treasure by the National Park Service. Mission Mill Museum is a non-profit, five acre, historical museum that preserves and interprets two homes from the 1841 Methodist Mission Station in Salem, the 1847 home of the Oregon Trail traveling John D. Boon Family, the oldest Presbyterian Church in the Pacific Northwest, and the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill established in 1889. The museum's histories are shared with visitors through daily and group tours, speakers, living history, children's programs, hands-on activities, special events, the museum store and rental facilities. For high resolution photos, contact Cheryl Clark at 503-371-1279. For more information call 503-585-7012 or visit <http://www.missionmill.org>.

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