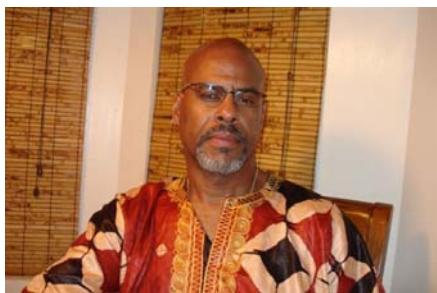




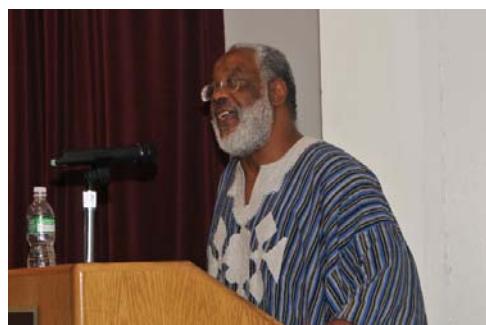
The recent Art and Culture Conference of the Black Panther Party in Atlanta organized to commemorate the 42nd anniversary of the Black Panther Party was an astounding success! Over 300 attended the two-day event where former members, their families, friends, special guests and academics discussed the generational impact of the organization and the continuing international influence of politically charged art made famous by Emory Douglas, former Minister of Culture of the Black Panther Party.

The conference opened on historic Auburn Avenue at the Research Library on African American Culture and History where Dr. Charles Jones, founding chair of the Department of African American Studies at Georgia State University welcomed the attendees to a weekend of activities that included the opening of an art exhibit and a panel discussion.



Dr. Jahti-Jackson-Maasai

The legacy of BPP photographer-community activist Dr. Jahti Jackson-Maasai (Tony Jackson) was honored posthumously. Also honored were artist-activist Emory Douglas and Billy X (BJ) Jennings, BPP Historian and founder of “**It’s About Time**,” the highly successful website that promotes the legacy of the Black Panther Party.



Baba Mukasa (PHOTO BY JIM ALEXANDER)

Willie “Mukasa” Ricks, veteran of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and “Beloved Baba” to generations of Atlanta University Center students brought “revolutionary greetings” in his fiery and enthusiastic style. Mama Charlotte O’Neal presented a video greeting from Panther-in-exile Pete O’Neal in Tanzania East Africa and performed a song from her latest CD. Kathleen Cleaver, former BPP Communications Secretary and celebrated artist Emory Douglas closed

out Friday's session. Later Friday evening, attendees caravanned to the Southwest Art Center for the opening reception of the Emory Douglas Art Exhibit.



On Saturday morning, Georgia State University was the site of several highly successful and well attended workshops. Ward Churchill, Harold Taylor, Robert King, Gail Shaw and Dawn McGhee of Field-Up Productions provided updates on political prisoners, the Angola 3, and the San Francisco 8.

Former Panthers were the focus on Saturday as Dr. Jones and his staff at Department of African American studies facilitated the collection of oral histories. Minister Server of the "Temple of Hip Hop" chaired a lively panel with Professor Griff of Public Enemy and King Downing, legal rights activist.



Emory Douglas (PHOTO BY JIM ALEXANDER)

Mama Charlotte engaged attendees with news from Tanzania in the form of music, art and reports of community service inspired by the Black Panther legacy.

The morning workshops were followed with short films at the Auburn Avenue Research Library. Young film makers from Tanzania presented a work in

progress featuring hip hop artists from South and East Africa. Another film, "**Solar Power to the People**" illustrated the use of solar power in Tanzania.



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Emory Douglas presented an art talk and autographed his book, *Black Panther: The Revolutionary Art of Emory Douglas*.

In addition, Kerrie Cotten Williams, Archivist at the Research Library facilitated a workshop for those interested in the care of documents, photographs and artifacts in their possession.

A panel discussion examining the devastating effect of the government's counter-intelligence (COINTELPRO) program on the Black Panther Party and other Black Liberation organizations was the most popular event of the day with over 200 persons in attendance-- It was standing room only!



Kathleen Cleaver and Cynthia McKinney (PHOTO BY JIM ALEXANDER)

A special reception for former members of the Black Panther Party and their guests was held at Negril's Caribbean Restaurant 180 Auburn Avenue, NE.