

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

Huff + Gooden Architects
Ray Huff, Partner & Associate Professor

Huff + Gooden Architects is the lead design architect to expand the California African Museum while addressing the growth and development related to the Exposition Park cultural campus and California Science Center Master Plans. The project team formed by Huff + Gooden Architects was commissioned to develop the original expansion study in order to define the goals, parameters and constraints for the museum expansion. The museum existing facility is approximately 45,000 sf. The addition and renovation will expand the facility to 114,000 sf.

A word wall consisting of a glass scrim covers the new galleries and administration tower. The surface plane of the glass scrim panels vary to render different interpretations and meanings. The words, taken from noted African American writers, are etched in between layers of the glass. On bright sunny days, the surface reflects light and renders the "reading" differently. At dusk, the text resonates and in the evening, the panels are back lit rendering an entirely different experience and interpretation. Thus then scrim affects the reading of the building in many ways avoiding simplistic interpretations not unlike that which is often bestowed upon perceptions of the African American experiences.

