



**The Association of American Cultures**

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**Western States Arts Federation**

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**DENVER CHOSEN TO HOST NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
ART, CULTURE, AND GLOBAL MIGRATION**

DENVER, CO – The Association of American Cultures (TAAC) has selected the Mile High City to serve as the backdrop for its 11<sup>th</sup> biennial conference on art, culture, and diversity, *Open Dialogue XI: Global Connections to Cultural Democracy*. The four-day conference, sponsored by TAAC and hosted by the Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF), will take place in downtown Denver from Thursday, July 12, through Sunday, July 15, 2007.

*Open Dialogue XI* will bring together representatives from a wide range of diverse communities—from artists and arts organizations to cultural policy leaders and academics—to focus on the intersections of art, culture, and global migration. Conference participants will explore global connections, arts and cultural policy initiatives, and issues affecting communities of many cultural, ethnic, and racial backgrounds in the United States and worldwide. In addition to panel sessions, *Open Dialogue XI* will feature a high-level symposium with topics including cultural democracy, technology and the cultural landscape, global migration and the immigration debate, and agenda-setting for the future. Professional development workshops on various topics—from performing arts to technology and arts funding—will also be offered.

“The Association of American Cultures has always convened its *Open Dialogue* in major cities, but few in the West, other than California. We are so pleased to have the opportunity to take advantage of the natural beauty and vibrant diverse cultures of Denver this year,” said Mayumi Tsutakawa, TAAC board member.

*Open Dialogue XI* will open with a reception and keynote address delivered by Doudou Diène, Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance to the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights. Other conference presenters include James Early of the Smithsonian Institution, Dr. Maria-Rosario Jackson of the Urban Institute, Justin Laing of the Heinz Endowments, Ilona Kish, Secretary General of the European Forum on Arts and Culture, and a host of others.

“In this new era of global and transnational economic and cultural-identity connections, TAAC and WESTAF launch a new discourse in *Open Dialogue XI* about present day America and global cultural ties,” said James Early. “The people and living cultures in Denver reflect global migration, changing demographics, and expanding identity formations of a new generation of artists and cultural leaders across America.”

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Conference activities include a reception at the Museo de las Americas, as well as a performance showcase featuring the Rennie Harris PureMovement Dance Company of Philadelphia; the University of Denver-based Spirituals Project; Seattle-based spoken word artist, Laura "Piece" Kelly, a featured poet on HBO's Def Poetry Jam; and more, at the Denver Center for Performing Arts. The performance event will be open to the general public and tickets are priced at \$12.00.

"This national conference comes to Denver at a time of strong cultural growth in the city. The dialogue that will occur during the TAAC conference is expected to have a very positive influence on this growth," said Anthony Radich, Executive Director of the Western States Arts Federation.

Conference sponsors include the National Endowment for the Arts, the City and County of Denver, the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs, the Colorado Council for the Arts, Americans for the Arts, the Ohio Arts Council, the Illinois Arts Council, the Texas Commission on the Arts, the North Carolina Arts Council, the Washington State Arts Commission, Arts Midwest, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

Please visit [www.westaf.org/taac2007](http://www.westaf.org/taac2007) for more information and to register for *Open Dialogue XI*. To request a conference brochure or to inquire about attending the performance showcase, please contact Erin Bassity at [erin.bassity@westaf.org](mailto:erin.bassity@westaf.org) or (303) 629-1166.

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### **About TAAC**

Founded in 1985, The Association of American Cultures (TAAC) is a nonprofit organization that seeks to advocate for artists and arts organization, to represent the distinct and collective concerns of diverse populations in the United States, and to preserve the creative vitality of cultural identities through the arts. TAAC is committed to the concept of cultural diversity in U.S. public arts policy, and recognizes the importance of including representatives from all cultures and backgrounds in the *Open Dialogues*. For more information or to join TAAC, please visit [www.taac.com](http://www.taac.com).

### **About WESTAF**

The Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF) is a nonprofit arts service organization dedicated to the creative advancement and preservation of the arts. Founded in 1974, the organization fulfills its mission to strengthen the financial, organizational, and policy infrastructure of the arts in the West by providing innovative programs and services. WESTAF's constituents include the state arts agencies of the West, as well as artists and arts organizations located in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. WESTAF is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information, please visit [www.westaf.org](http://www.westaf.org).