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INTRODUCTION

A charismatic and innovative figure, George Washington Carver was a trailblazer in many fields. This traveling exhibition from The Field Museum, developed in collaboration with Tuskegee University and the National Park Service, explores the role of this exceptional individual as a scientist, conservationist, and educator.

Step into Carver’s world and learn about the “Mighty Vision” that informed his life’s work: a dream of health, beauty, and prosperity for all people. Follow Carver from his birth into slavery to his triumph over the social and financial obstacles that challenged his quest for education; from his successful career as a scientist and educator at Iowa State College and Tuskegee Institute to his service as a conservationist and humanitarian among poor African American farmers in the South. Marvel at Carver’s development of unexpected products from common farm crops, and become inspired by his drive to educate farmers about soil quality and crop rotation.

The largest and most comprehensive traveling exhibition ever created about this African American leader, George Washington Carver will encourage visitors of all ages and backgrounds to discover and improve the world around them.

Visitors to this exhibition will:
- Become inspired by Carver’s courage in overcoming obstacles and his dedication to providing others with the knowledge necessary for their own success
- Learn about the multifaceted man who was a pioneering inventor, curious naturalist, and passionate educator
- Make connections between Carver and the present-day scientists and conservationists
- Develop an understanding of soil science and sustainable farming

Highlights:
- Glimpse daily life on the Carver family farm in a diorama of Carver’s childhood home
- Explore a touchable, full-scale replica of the Jesup Wagon Carver used as a moving classroom
- Examine Carver’s lab equipment and botanical specimens
- View personal artifacts including his spectacles, and field notes, and hear a recording of Carver’s distinctive voice
- Hear from modern scientists and educators inspired by Carver to carry on his legacy of innovation, sustainability, and education for all
EXHIBITION SPECIFICATIONS

Size: Approximately 4,500 square feet (418 square meters)

Rental Fee: $125,000 USD for 3 months (Discounts available for African American Museums)

Shipping: One-way, inbound, paid by host venue

Insurance: Host venues need to provide coverage for $1,000,000 USD in general liability

Language: All text in English

Support:

- Field Museum staff technician leads onsite installation and de-installation
- Educators’ Guide, including information for teacher, student, and public programs
- Exhibitor Toolkit, including logo, installation photographs rights-free images, press releases, and sample marketing materials
- Link to robust exhibition website (www.fieldmuseum.org/carver)
- Range of wholesale products developed for the exhibition
- Installation and design manual detailing exhibition layout, installation, and maintenance
EXHIBITION WALKTHROUGH

SECTION 1: CARVER’S MIGHTY VISION

George Washington Carver envisioned a world of peace and prosperity that could be fulfilled through exploring and investigating nature. Visitors first meet Carver as a complex and fascinating individual whose contributions extend far beyond his notable work with peanuts, and whose teachings have special relevance to problems faced by the world today. Discover George Washington Carver’s life and achievements, beginning with the amazing story of his earliest days.

 Objects and Displays                                      Interactives & Media
• A special case displays Carver’s spectacles as a symbol of his life and vision
• Portrait of Carver by William H. Johnson

• Introductory video: overview of Carver’s life and work
SECTION 2: FROM SLAVE TO SCHOLAR

Born a slave in 1864, orphaned as an infant, and plagued by ill health, Carver overcame enormous obstacles. Become acquainted with the story of Carver’s childhood, including his dramatic rescue from slave-raiders, early signs of genius, and 20-year quest for education. Pieces of his handiwork, embroidered linens, and bits of lace—skills he learned from Susan Carver when he was too sick to help on the farm—convey his early talent for art, and his guitar attests to an enduring love of music. Carver quickly exhausted the knowledge available to him and at the age of 13 embarked on an educational quest that spanned many locations and several years. His desire for a formal education led him to enroll at Simpson College, and later Iowa State College, where he became the first African American student and then professor.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Objects and Displays</th>
<th>Interacts &amp; Media</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Personal rock and mineral collection</td>
<td>• Diorama of Carver’s childhood home in Diamond, Missouri: gain insight into daily life on the Carver family farm, and catch a glimpse of the woods young George explored</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Artwork: paintings, crochet, embroidery</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Personal possessions: guitar, typewriter, National Guard jacket, Ivory-handled knife</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Diplomas from Simpson College and Iowa State College</td>
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<td>• Civil War-era map graphic depicting his travels</td>
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![Image of a display case containing personal items and a guitar]
SECTION 3: THE PEOPLE’S SCIENTIST

Carver’s life’s work was dedicated to “helping the man lowest down.” It was because of his dedication to service that he decided to leave the abundant resources of Iowa State College and accept Booker T. Washington’s invitation to join the faculty at Tuskegee Institute. Upon arriving in Alabama and seeing the “acres of scraggly cotton,” Carver set out to improve the soil and the lives of farmers who depended upon it. Witness his commitment to teaching others through a life-size reproduction of the original Jesup wagon, a moveable school designed by Carver. The wagon is stocked with objects such as tools, preserved foods, pigments, and soil samples that Carver used to show the benefits of sustainable land use practices.

### Objects and Displays
- Carver’s educational bulletins for tenant farmers
- Carver’s handmade lab equipment
- Correspondence between Carver and Booker T. Washington
- Bricks made by students to build Tuskegee campus
- Boll Weevil specimens
- Jesup Wagon with replicated objects

### Interactives & Media
- Interactives:
  - Touchscreen: a home makeover from nature
  - Touchscreen: how to improve soil
- Media:
  - Soil ecology animation

![Image of the Jesup Wagon with replicated objects]
SECTION 4: PLANT POWER

A laboratory stocked with Carver’s own equipment is the centerpiece for the story about his groundbreaking experiments with peanuts, sweet potatoes, and other plants. Carver was considered the “father of chemurgy,” the movement to develop industrial products from plants, through which his friendship with Henry Ford and other prominent personalities developed. Listen to Carver’s own description of himself as a “cookstove chemist,” and connect the hundreds of products he developed with the plants from which they are made. See samples of his lab concoctions, objects from the Field Museum’s Economic Botany collection, and a display of modern eco-conscious and organic products that demonstrate the evolution of the green movement from Carver’s time to today.

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<tr>
<td>Reproduction of Carver’s lab table featuring his own equipment and specimens</td>
<td>Interactive: Match Carver’s products with their plant origins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Correspondence with Henry Ford</td>
<td>Listening station: radio interview with Carver</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plant-based products made by Carver</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plant products from The Field Museum’s Economic Botany collection</td>
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<td>Products made from organic materials</td>
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SECTION 5: CARVER’S LEGACY

Carver’s exemplary lifestyle—his discipline, hobbies, and eccentricities—endeared him to the public during his lifetime and today. Explore his scientific and humanitarian legacy, and discover how Carver viewed his diverse activities and endeavors as part of a singular quest for truth and understanding. His unique worldview and the example of his life are perhaps his most powerful legacy. Become familiar with contemporary research in medicinal plants, bio-products, and fuels, including studies now underway at the Carver Agricultural Research Station at Tuskegee University.

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<td>• Photographs of Carver with other famous figures, including Thomas Edison and President Roosevelt</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Medals, honors, and commemorative items</td>
<td>• Video of Carver’s enduring scientific and humanitarian legacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Magazine articles, including <em>Time</em> and <em>Ebony</em></td>
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CURATOR AND CONTENT ADVISORS
Michael O. Dillon, Ph.D.
Curator Emeritus, Vascular Plants, The Field Museum

Dr. Michael Dillon, former Botany Department Chair at The Field Museum and now Curator Emeritus, received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Missouri Botanical Garden. For over 35 years, his field research has focused on the systematic study and conservation of New World tropical plants with particular emphasis on Andean flora. His current research involves documenting the role of El Niño events on plant communities along the Pacific coast of South America.

Luther S. Williams, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Tuskegee University

Prior to his 2006 appointment as Provost of Tuskegee University (where Dr. Carver worked for over 40 years), Dr. Luther Williams served as dean of graduate studies and director of Tuskegee’s Integrative BioSciences Ph.D. program, for which he was awarded the prestigious George Washington Carver Achievement Award. Dr. Williams has held positions on numerous advisory committees, including chairman of the White House Biotechnology Science Coordinating Committee, and vice chairman of the National Science and Technology Council’s Committee on Education and Training.

Peter Duncan Burchard
Carver Historian

Known as the foremost expert on George Washington Carver, Peter Duncan Burchard has spoken, consulted, or conducted research at every significant Carver site in the United States. He was a speaker and moderator in the week-long 1999 dedication of the George Washington Carver Center, the new USDA headquarters in Beltsville, Maryland, for which he received the U.S. government’s Honor Award of Excellence. Mr. Burchard’s current projects include a comprehensive biography of Carver, drawing upon more than twenty years of research and writing.

Alaka Wali, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Cultural Understanding and Change and John Nuveen Curator in Anthropology, The Field Museum

As Director of The Field Museum’s Center for Cultural Understanding and Change (CCUC) in the division of Environment, Culture, and Conservation (ECCo), Dr. Alaka Wali manages a range of programs designed to enhance interdisciplinary work at the Museum, strengthen public programming on cultural issues, and promote efforts to draw museums closer to local communities. Dr. Wali is the author of two books, several monographs, and over 30 articles and has received major grants from the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Rockefeller Foundation, and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.
Since its inception in 1893, The Field Museum has dedicated itself to exploring the Earth and its peoples, building on the strength of its world-renowned collections and scientific research to engage visitors of all ages. Through innovative exhibitions and education programs, cutting-edge environmental conservation projects, and pioneering fieldwork undertaken on every continent, over 500 full-time Field Museum staff members share their knowledge about important scientific, cultural, and environmental issues with an average of 1.5 million guests each year.

The Field Museum is an international leader in evolutionary biology, paleontology, archaeology, and ethnography. The Museum's approximately 300 curatorial and scientific staff in the four departments of Anthropology, Botany, Geology, and Zoology conduct research in more than 90 countries around the world. These scientists also study and preserve the 24 million artifacts and specimens within The Field Museum’s collections and collaborate with the departments of Education and Exhibitions to create exciting and informative public programs.

Field Museum traveling exhibitions combine cutting-edge research with award-winning design. From the world’s most famous dinosaur to the natural and cultural history of chocolate, from natural disasters to landmark scientific discoveries, The Field Museum’s exhibitions explore intriguing topics that encompass natural history, contemporary science, ethnology, community participation, and popular culture. Clients as varied as natural history museums, science centers, art museums, children’s museums, and local history centers have enjoyed The Field Museum’s engaging exhibitions and exceptional service and support.

CONTACTS
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