



## MAIN BUILDING

Critically acclaimed as an “architectural jewel,” the 36,000-square-foot main building combines an elliptically shaped, three-story, historic industrial building with extensive new architecture to contain six galleries, filled with art that explores one central exhibition theme at a time. The central stair balustrade and garden gates were handcast by metal artist David Hess and have been described as “alone worth the price of admission.”

## TALL SCULPTURE BARN

Formerly the Four Roses whiskey warehouse, the 45-foot ceilings can accommodate towering sculptural works. The Tall Sculpture Barn features a life-size, INTERACTIVE CHESS SET of sculpted metal angels and aliens made exclusively from found objects by North Carolina artist Lyle Estill and the 3000 square-feet of painted panels called THE SEVEN DAYS OF CREATION by visionary William Thomas Thompson. The Barn also functions as a host site for lectures, private receptions and celebrations. FREE during museum hours. Adjacent to WILDFLOWER SCULPTURE GARDEN.

## JIM ROUSE VISIONARY CENTER

**LEVEL 3 JRVC:** The Center for Visionary Thought and Expression, a whitewashed, barn-styled hall with seating capacity for 500 and access to David Hess’ 38-foot wide Bird’s Nest observation balcony

**LEVEL 2 JRVC:** The Hall of Social Visionaries, the place to link creative acts of social activism with the real art of living and home to an interactive exhibition on JIM ROUSE: REMEMBERING JIM INTO OUR FUTURE; The Thou Art Creative Classroom and The Creative Social Activism Classroom, two blue-glass-walled classrooms—one for hands-on art making inspired by visionary artists and the other hard-wired for exploring best global innovations to better community life

**LEVEL 1 JRVC:** Visionary Village, a cavernous exhibition arena for large sculptures, art cars, and whole visionary environments; The current exhibits feature Baltimore’s famed Screen Painters and London’s Cabaret Mechanical Theater automata, Emily Duffy’s 5-foot diameter Bra Ball and Andrew Logan’s 12-foot Divine

**OUTDOOR SCULPTURES AND AMENITIES:** Dick Brown’s mosaic Bluebird of Happiness; Dr. Tom Evermor’s 40-foot Phoenix; Andrew Logan’s 8-foot Cosmic Galaxy Egg; Adam Kurtzman’s 11-foot golden Divine Hand; The Hughes Family Outdoor Movie Theater; Small Outdoor Amphitheater; Giant “spangled” and neon O Say Can You See sign, a tribute to both vision and the National Anthem’s birthplace; The LeRoy Hoffberger Speaker’s Corner, a platform for celebrating and exercising free speech

## GIANT WHIRLIGIG

Baltimore’s most beloved outdoor sculptural landmark. Fifty-five feet tall, this brilliant, multicolored wind-powered sculpture was created in salute to Federal Hill and Life, Liberty & The Pursuit of Happiness by 76 year-old mechanic/farmer and visionary artist Vollis Simpson. FREE to visit anytime. CENTRAL PLAZA

(front & back covers) LEONARD KNIGHT, Leonard Knight and his Salvation Mountain  
Photos by Larry Yust

## WILDFLOWER GARDEN

Wildflowers provide the ideal visual metaphor for the Museum’s visionary artists. Wildflowers, aromatics, and climbing vines surround the museum’s wooden MEDITATION CHAPEL/WEDDING ALTAR built by visionary artist Ben Wilson, Clyde Jones’ 2 GIRAFFES by Clyde Jones and the FIVE-HEAD RIVER ROCK FOUNTAIN by Ted Ludwiczak.

## SCULPTURE PLAZA

Terraced and paved with granite and quartz stone, the outdoor plaza is where large groups gather; it is also the central circulation area between the main museum building, tall sculpture barn and garden. Plaza functions as the ground level connector to Federal Hill and Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. Site of the GIANT WHIRLIGIG.

## SIDESHOW/MUSEUM SHOP

Surround yourself with original art, great books, jewelry, fun toys, novelties, vintage memories, and a great selection of cards and stationery. Come shopping, leave smiling. LEVEL 1 MAIN BUILDING

## MUSEUM HOURS

Open 6 days; closed Mondays\*; 10am–6pm Tuesday–Sunday

Closed: Christmas and Thanksgiving

\*Open Monday, January 15, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. FREE

## ADMISSION

Adults \$12; students & seniors \$8; children 6 & under FREE

Groups of 10+ (K–12) \$5 per person

Groups of 10+ adults \$6 per person

## FAN CLUB

Become an official member and receive FREE ADMISSION FOR ONE YEAR to AVAM and all special exhibitions • 10% discount in Museum Shop • 2 BIG FAN guest passes • VISIONS Magazine • FANS ONLY advance mailings for programs and special events • The Official Fan Club Declaration • A very Special Fan Club Card, and some Cool Stuff for fans only!

\$25 Student Fan • \$35 Senior Fan/Far-out Fan (fan outside MD)

\$50 Single Fan • \$75 Couple Fans • \$100 Family Fans

## PARKING

Parking lot on Key Highway near Rusty Scupper Restaurant. \$

Abundant metered parking. Handicapped Accessible.

## INFORMATION

American Visionary Art Museum

800 Key Highway, Baltimore, MD 21230-3940

410.244.1900 fax: 410.244.5858

Website: www.avam.org

Museum Rental/Special Functions: 410.244.1900 x. 228 Alicia Karoll

Group Sales/Group+School Tour Info: 410.244.1900 x. 227 Heather Skane

JRVC Classroom Workshops: 410.244.1900 x. 232 Felice Cleveland

Museum Store, SIDESHOW: 410.244.1900 x. 236 Ted Frankel

Public Relations/Press: 410.244.1900 x. 241 Pete Hilsee



to our American Visionary Art Museum’s 13th original mega-exhibition, *All Faiths Beautiful: From Atheism to Zoroastrianism, Respect For Diversity of Belief*. It has been said that it is the impermanence of life—death and sickness—that fuels humankind’s need to make sense of our existence and, ultimately, leads to the creation of religion. Here, at The Visionary, this past year was full of sad partings: the death of our adored Board Director Walter Sondheim, Jr.; the passing of our faithful volunteer Ellis Rosen; the early retirement due to illness of our Director of Maintenance Purnell Jones; the ascent to the big Kinetic Sculpture Race in the sky of Race Founder Hobart Brown; Sally L. Smith is the visionary founder/director of The Lab School of Washington, a school she founded and designed in 1967 for intelligent children and adults with learning disabilities, and the loss of our beloved and electric Anita Roddick, passionate activist and philanthropist without whom we would never have had an American Visionary Art Museum. To this list, I add a more personal loss of my teacher, Marcel Marceau, who made me and millions realize that non-verbal forms of saying things could speak volumes in ways that transcend barriers of spoken language.

Foretold that his son would renounce kingship and become a great monk, a King conspired to keep all signs of sickness, death, and aging, from his son’s eyes. Happily newly wed to a great beauty, the young prince ventured out with his bride and saw an old man. Instantly, he knew the reality of humankind’s destiny. He renounced his kingship, his marriage, and set out to find truth and enlightenment. As The Buddha, he bequeathed what he then learned.

What the process of creating this exhibition taught me is best expressed through the inclusion of Frank Warren’s faith-related *Post Secrets*. Whereas much has been made of interfaith discussion (surely meritorious) the deeper reality is that faith is never a monolithic thing, but rather a most personal, individualistic, phenomena. As Jews, Christians, Muslims, Mormons, Sufis, Pagans, Atheists, whatever collective label, we each have our very personal, self-prescribed, way of understanding, believing, and not believing. In this spirit, this exhibition is offered as a table set to sample the beauty of beliefs that may be other than your own and to encourage more and deeper exploration.

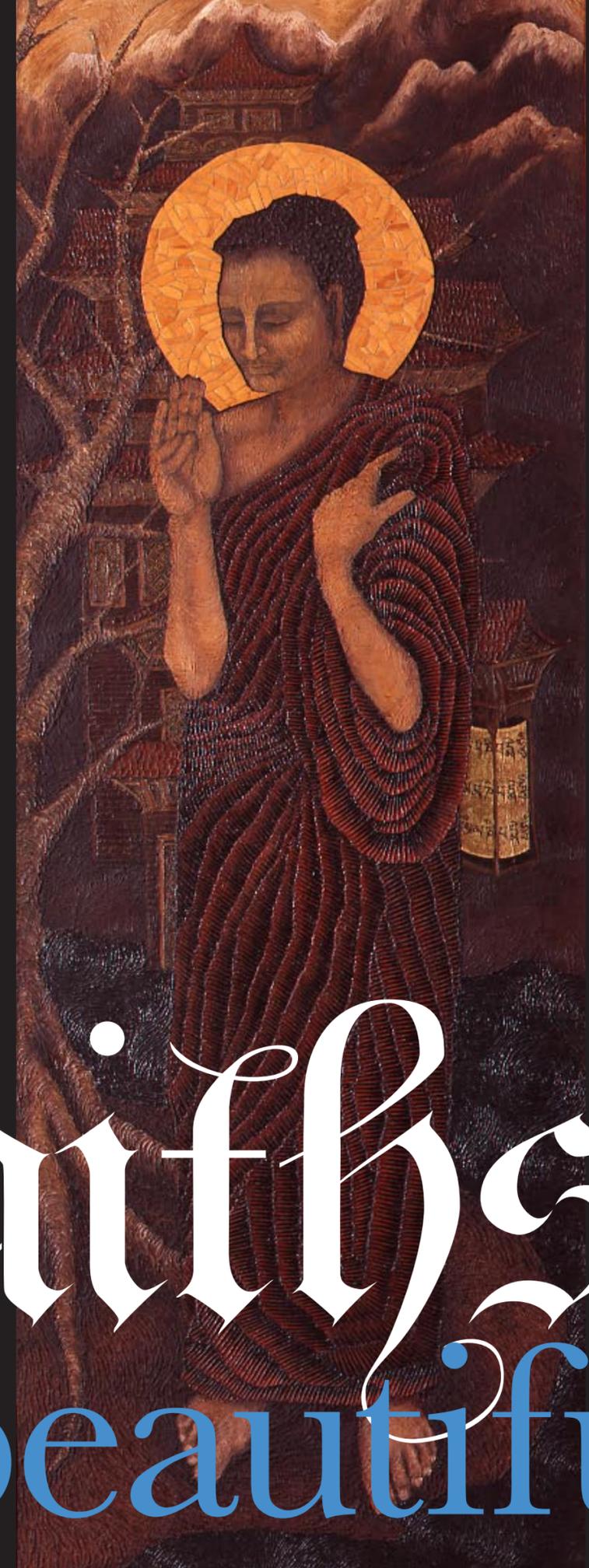
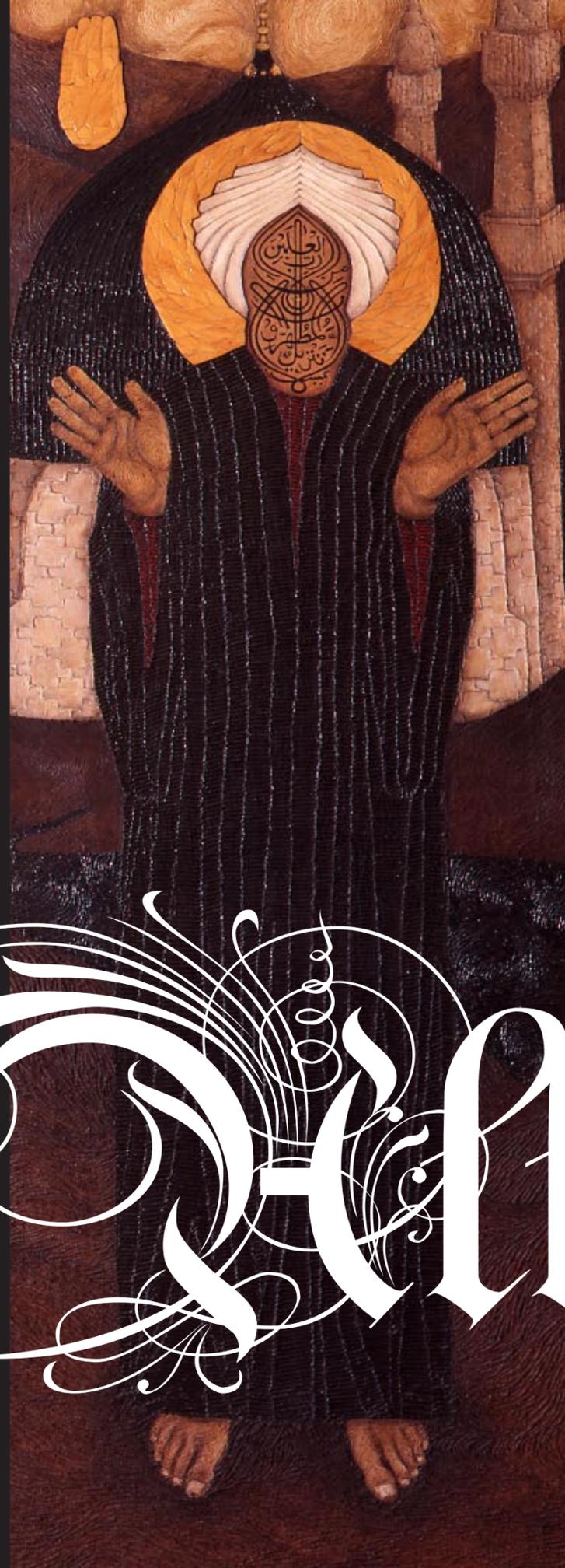
That the American founders who drafted The First Amendment saw the linkages between all matters of personal conscience—speech, press, religion, and the right to peaceably assemble to protest their grievances—speaks to their great intuitive wisdom. The first week of *All Faiths Beautiful* opening coincided with the senseless slaughter of 900 peaceful Buddhist Burmese monks, protesting on everyone’s behalf the lack of democratic process. A new millennium and the old battles remain to be fought.

*May what you believe (and what you don’t) bring you greater meaning, fuller participation, more abundant compassion, and a Joy that transcends all!*

Truly,

Rebecca Alban Hoffberger, Founder & Director

# Three Faiths beautiful





# all these religions • all this singing one song

—The 13th c. Afghan-born poet, Rumi



elcome to our birthday celebration for the love-filled Persian poet, Jelaluddin Rumi, born 800 years ago this year. The American Visionary Art Museum has quoted the writings of Rumi more than any other source of wisdom. The United Nations has proclaimed 2007 the international, “Year of Rumi,” and Rumi has become the No. 1 best-selling poet in both America and Europe. *All Faiths Beautiful: From Atheism to Zoroastrianism, Respect for Diversity of Belief*, our museum’s 13th

original art exhibition, is dedicated to the inclusive spirit of Rumi and to the personal illumination of what belief can mean for each of us. Be it deeply personal and whole, a work in progress, a torment or a blessing, what we believe—and especially what we don’t—is our most precious life-shaping human experience. Freedom to express that belief is central to any notion of individual liberty. Our *All Faiths Beautiful* exhibition is a communal invitation to open heart and mind.

The good news of our modernity is that where religious identity was once almost exclusively dictated by geography and biology—the “where” and “to whom” you were born—we now have unprecedented access and freedom to explore and examine the core teachings, traditions and practices behind many beliefs. We can study the course and influence of those beliefs through history, and make more deeply informed choices for ourselves.

It is not our intention in this exhibition to dissuade or preach to anyone, but rather to encourage a reflection on Faith. In the words of The Buddha, “Believe nothing, no matter where you read it, or who said it, no matter if I have said it, unless it agrees with your own reason and your own common sense.”

As Rumi, whom we celebrate, wrote, “Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I’ll meet you there.” May this museum and special exhibition constitute that safe field for public communion, spiritual refreshment, and Peace.

