

## Social Committee Museum Outing

On Tuesday, July 11, the UAA Social Committee organized a summer group trip to the National Portrait Gallery. Seven UAA members participated in this inaugural event. The Gallery's Director of Docents and Interns arranged for a knowledgeable docent to guide us through the Gallery, providing a comprehensive overview of the exhibitions. We were particularly interested in the exhibits "One Life: Frederick Douglas" (on display until December 31, 2027) and "I Dream a World: Selections from Brian Lanker's Portraits of Remarkable Black Women (Part II)" (on display until September 10, 2023).



*Robert Bianco, Jeff Cochrane, Denise Rollins, Antoinette Almageur, Sharon Pauling, and Karen Freeman*



*Antoinette Almageur, Karen Freeman, Joan Johnson, Sharon Pauling and Denise Rollins*

"I Dream a World" is a captivating exhibition showcasing Brian Lanker's photographs of African American women who have made significant contributions. The exhibition is based on Lanker's book of the same name, which focuses on 76 remarkable women. This two-part exhibition features portraits of writers, entertainers, athletes, activists, and politicians, all of whom were interviewed by Lanker and photographed according to their preferences. Part one was exhibited from October 2022 to February 2023, while part two is the current exhibit, featuring fourteen portraits of extraordinary women. The exhibit includes well-known women such as Cecily Tyson (actress), Angela Davis (activist), Sonia Sanchez (poet), Dorothy Height (activist), and Katherine Dunham (dancer), Elizabeth Catlett (artist), and Charlayne Hunter Gault (journalist) and lesser-known such as Ellen Stewart of La Mama Theater in New York.

Since the publication of "I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America" over thirty years ago, African American women have gained greater visibility and recognition nationally and globally. Lanker expressed the importance of preserving the historical lives of these women, as they played key roles in advancing America through the civil rights and women's movements.

The women featured in "I Dream a World" overcame significant adversity, and their personal challenges, inspiring journeys, and unwavering determination serve as a source of inspiration for all. In the book's foreword, Maya Angelou noted that these women's gazes acknowledge, understand, and reach beyond us, demonstrating their resilience and determination to persevere.

After the museum tour, we gathered at Jaléo by José Andres in Chinatown, where we enjoyed a fabulous lunch consisting of delicious small plates. The atmosphere was filled with engaging conversations, laughter, and joy, making it a truly great time for everyone involved. UAA Members included Karen Freeman, Denise Rollins, Sharon Pauling, Alfreda Brewer and Jeff Cochrane. Antoinette Almaguer (Frank's wife) and Robert Bianco (Jeff's husband) also attended. We ran into UAA member Joan Johnson after our tour and corralled her into joining us for lunch.



