AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE

MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER

NOV. 23, 1985

Our primary concern is to channel the sympathetic and/or hostile racial attitudes into the development of a positive African American cultural institution to help create a better understanding and appreciation of the African American community's contribution to America and the world. In the history of all people there comes a time when it is necessary to take action to stop the continued mental and physical abuse resulting from racial discrimination.

Today is such a moment in the history of African American people. Today we formally establish this site as the AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER for the following reasons:

1) The exclusion of African American history from school curriculums in an accurate and proper perspective has resulted in the misunderstanding of the social, economic and political conditions impacting the African American community.

2) City, County, State and Federal government have failed or have been much to slow in recognizing the necessity of establishing African American Heritage Museums while recognizing the importance of establishing ethnic museums in white and other ethnic communities and refering to Blacks as "Culturally Deprived".

3) African American males in particular suffer from a lack of historical understanding of the forces of racism that encourage their academic failure and high rate of imprisonment and unemployment.

4) We have repeatedly petitioned for funds to develope an African American Heritage Museum with any results but the Seattle City Council votes to spend $276,000 for two "GOLD MONKEYS".

5) While City official and community leaders have professed their support for the museum, their inability to prioritize this project, compounded by the crisis of Blacks students, have forced those of us who are sincere to take action now.

Therefore in the spirit of Frederick Douglas, Nat Turner and John Brown we pledge to defend our right to this newly founded AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER with all of our heart, mind and Christian conscience and if necessary our freedom and our lives. Four hundred years have been much to long to wait and our patience has expired.

Signed

Omari Tahir Anti apartheid Business Leader Employment Union

[illegible] Young Voter League

Charles James

Lawrence D. Robinson – Buy Freedom Program

[illegible]

[illegible] – Black Youth [illegible]