



RACE

Are We So Different?[®]

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WHAT: "RACE: Are We So Different?"[™]
traveling exhibit—a public education program of the American Anthropological Association

WHEN: Saturday,
February 2, 2008

WHERE: Liberty Science Center,
Jersey City, New Jersey

ON THE WEB:
www.understandingRACE.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 30, 2008

RACE Goes to Jersey City, NJ New Exhibit to Open at Liberty Science Center

Black History Month is a time to reflect on the effects of race and racism in the United States. Yet as we as a nation discuss tolerance and celebrate diversity, we often fail to ask a basic question: What is race?

On Saturday, February 2, the American Anthropological Association's award-winning *RACE: Are We So Different?* traveling exhibition opens at Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, NJ to answer this question and more.

"The American Anthropological Association is proud to display the RACE exhibit in the diverse New Jersey-New York metropolitan area. The symbolic location of the exhibit – across the shore from the Statue of Liberty – provides the ideal setting to discuss race and its legacy in the United States," said AAA President Setha Low.

The exhibit, developed with the Science Museum of Minnesota, explores the science, history and lived experience of race and racism in the United States. By using interactive exhibit components, historical artifacts, iconic objects, compelling photographs and multimedia presentations, RACE conveys three key messages:

- Race is a recent human invention.
- Race is about culture, not biology.
- Race and racism are embedded in our institutions and everyday life.

"I think visitors will be surprised by some of the facts and fictions about race. For instance, many people don't realize that all humans share a common ancestry in Africa," said RACE project director Mary Margaret Overbey.

A project of



American Anthropological Association

Funded by the Ford Foundation and National Science Foundation

Jersey City is the third stop for the RACE exhibit on its five-year traveling tour of 13 US cities. Over 800,000 people have viewed the RACE exhibit and website since January 2007. The popular exhibit is booked until 2012.

RACE: Are We So Different? is part of a larger public education program developed over five years with \$4 million in funding from the Ford Foundation, the National Science Foundation and the American Anthropological Association. The program includes the 5,000 square foot RACE exhibition, an interactive website, www.understandingRACE.org, and educational materials.

Liberty Science Center is the New Jersey-New York City region's largest education resource. Motivated by an innovative philosophy and enabled by a \$109 million expansion and renewal, Liberty Science Center is bringing the excitement of science to students, educators, families and adults in engaging new ways and establishing a progressive benchmark for the science center field. Visit www.lsc.org to learn more about Liberty Science Center, located in Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NJ.

For information about the *RACE: Are We So Different?* program and traveling exhibition, please visit www.understandingRACE.org, or contact Mary Margaret Overbey at 703-528-1902, ext. 3006, or poverbey@aaanet.org

For a complete listing of exhibition tour dates, please visit <http://www.understandingrace.org/about/tour.html>.

RACE press kits including an exhibit description and brochure are available upon request. Please contact Jennifer Steffensen at jsteffensen@aaanet.org to request a kit.

Founded in 1902, the American Anthropological Association is the world's largest professional organization of anthropologists and others interested in anthropology, with an average annual membership of more than 10,000. The Arlington, Va.-based association represents all specialties within anthropology — cultural anthropology, biological or physical anthropology, archaeology, linguistics and applied anthropology.

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