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MUSEUM EXPLORES CAMP MEETINGS ACROSS TIME IN NEW EXHIBIT

Edgartown, MA—September 7, 2016 — Camp meetings grew out of the evangelical revivals of the early 19th century. *This Far by Faith*, a new exhibit at the Martha's Vineyard Museum, explores contemporary camp meetings across the southern United States and juxtaposes them with the historic camp meetings that once occurred in Oak Bluffs.

A traveling exhibition designed by professor Minuette Floyd of the University of South Carolina and sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, *This Far by Faith* explores contemporary camp meetings across North and South Carolina. The exhibition is supplemented with objects, photographs, and stories of the Island's past camp meetings that drew crowds each summer. Visitors can explore the differences and similarities between the Island's historic, traditionally white camp meetings and today's African-American meetings in the south.

This interactive exhibition describes Floyd's journey to discover the camp meeting tradition beginning as a young child attending camp meetings in North Carolina. Later as an adult, she returned to the tradition, and realized that the camp meeting tradition had unique roots in various regions across the United States. Visitors can dive into seven campgrounds in the south, and learn how they're different from Oak Bluffs' old camp meetings.

Minuette Floyd is an associate professor of art education and Director of the Young Artist's Workshop at the University of South Carolina School of Visual Art and Design. Her research interests focus on multicultural art education, interdisciplinary art instruction, and documentation of folk traditions. Floyd's book entitled *A Place to Worship: African-American Camp Meetings in the Carolinas* will be published soon.

This Far By Faith will be open in the Museum Galleries through October 9th. Grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the South Carolina Humanities Council, and the South Carolina Arts Commission first allowed for the creation of a photographic documentary based on African-American Camp Meeting Traditions. In 2014, the National Endowment for the Arts funded the traveling exhibition.

Visit www.mvmuseum.org for more information about upcoming programming and exhibits. The Martha's Vineyard Museum inspires all people to discover, explore, and strengthen their connections to this Island and its diverse heritage. The Museum is open year round. Summer hours are Monday-Saturday 10am to 5pm, and Sundays Noon to 5pm. Admission is free to Members; admission for non-Members is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$5 for children 6 to 12 and free for children under 6.