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Fact Sheet: ‘Caravans of Gold’ African institutional partnerships

EVANSTON, Ill. --- International partnerships have been fundamental to realizing the [Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University](#) exhibition “Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time: Art, Culture and Exchange Across Medieval Saharan Africa.”

The project was developed with the input of colleagues from the exhibition’s core African partner countries of Mali, Morocco and Nigeria. Partner nations have underscored the importance of the exhibition to international audiences and their own national patrimony.

Written statements of support for the project partners include:

From Mali

Moulaye Coulibaly, Director, Direction National du Patrimoine Culturel, Mali
Mohamed Diagayeté, Director General, Institut Ahmed Baba des Hautes Études et des
Rescherches Islamiques

Salia Malé, Director of Research and Acting Director General, Musée National du
Mali

Moussa Sow, Director, Institut des Sciences Humaines, in a joint statement:

“This endeavor promotes and disseminates understanding of the history of Mali and its central role in trans-Saharan trade, which for centuries has been a source of Malian prosperity and influence. As we work to protect Mali’s cultural heritage for posterity, it is heartening to be part of a project that has at its essence a declaration of a historical moment that was of such importance to the world.”

From Nigeria

Emeka Onuegbu, Acting Director General, Nigerian National Commission for
Museums and Monuments:

“The ‘Caravans of Gold’ exhibition and its accompanying publication provide an original context for reflecting anew on important artworks from Nigeria’s national collections. By considering these works through the perspective of medieval networks of exchange, the project breaks new ground in connecting Nigeria’s history to an expanded history regionally and globally.”

From Morocco

Abderrahim Chaaban, Director, Bank Al-Maghrib Museum, Rabat and
Abdellah Alaoui, Director of Cultural Patrimony, Ministry of Culture and
Communication, Kingdom of Morocco in a joint statement:

“‘Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time’ brings attention to the historic relations across North and West Africa for an international audience. It also advances the critical work of revising Western medieval history from an African perspective. In this endeavor, we look to these historic connections across the Sahara as a precedent for the role they can play in the region today.”