



RECOVERING VOICES

Seminar Series in
Endangered Languages and
Indigenous Knowledge

Raymond Silverman

Professor, History of Art, Afroamerican & African Studies, and Museum Studies, University of Michigan
Senior Research Fellow, NMAfA and NMNH, Smithsonian Institution

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NMNH, Kerby Room

Heritage Dialogues: Locating “Culture” in a Ghanaian Community

Techiman is the capital of Bono, Ghana's first centralized state. It is also the site of Ghana's largest agricultural market. Today, Techiman is a cosmopolitan community comprised of peoples from all over West Africa. Here, “culture” is perceived as Bono heritage and Bono chiefs serve as its custodians. Roughly twelve years ago the Traditional Council of Chiefs of Techiman launched an initiative to create a cultural center as a site for celebrating Bono heritage. The project has had its “ups and downs” and though there are tangible plans for the center it still has not been built. This talk presents a critical review of the project. It explores the dynamics of what may be called “collaborative culture work.” I argue that engaging community in thinking about cultures and heritages—in Techiman and beyond—offers a means for encouraging democratic practice and strengthening civil society.



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