



New AAAM Board President Committed to Growing, Preserving Organization's Legacy

By Brian J. Carter
AAAM President

With great enthusiasm and serious determination, I assume the role of Board President for the Association of African American Museums. I count this an honor and a privilege. I stand on the shoulders of those who birthed and nurtured this organization. With solicitude, I recognize the importance of caring for AAAM so the next generation also may reap its benefits.

From my first Annual Conference, I have felt welcomed and uplifted by the unique mix of passion, professionalism, and kindness that define the people of this necessary association. AAAM's mission to support organizations and professionals who, "protect, preserve and interpret African and African American art, history, and culture," meant I found a community that understood and encouraged who I am, and what I believe in. AAAM has given me much, and I intend to use my term as board president to push the organization to new heights.

Toward that end, I would like to share a few projects the AAAM Board has undertaken. With generous support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Board is in the midst of a 4-year strategic planning project and charting a path forward. This planning project will be accompanied by a review/revision of AAAM's by-laws and an assessment of member offerings and programs. It is the goal of the Board that we listen to the needs of our members so that AAAM's programmatic offerings are relevant and developed and delivered with operational precision. I'll keep you informed on our progress.

I would also like to thank those involved with the 2016 Annual Conference in Riverside, CA. The local Host Committee, led by Lovella Singer (Dora Nelson African American Art & History Museum) and Rose Mayes, truly rolled out the Riverside red carpet, and on behalf of the Board and membership,



we thank you. The session presenters, keynote speakers, volunteers, and attendees thoughtfully explored the ways in which our audiences are changing, and the adaptations and innovations our museums must undertake to keep them engaged. During the conference, a number of individuals were recognized and celebrated for their outstanding contributions to the field. They include:

- Samuel W. Black, recipient of the Dr. John E. Fleming Award
- Dr. Norman Towels, recipient of the Museum Leadership Award
- Ashley Jordan, recipient of the Pace Setter Award
- Camille M. Bethune Brown, Tatiana M. Daguillard, and Vanessa Moorer, recipients of Margaret T. Burroughs and Charles H. Wright Fellowships.

Thank you all for your continued belief in, and support of, the Association of African American Museums. I look forward to the work ahead!

About Brian J. Carter

Carter joined 4Culture in March 2016 to lead the Heritage Program. He is the former deputy director and head curator of the Northwest African American Museum in Seattle, WA. He is also the former Director of Interpretation at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture and the former Museum Director of the Oregon Historical Society. He has earned an undergraduate degree in History from Stanford University and a Masters in Museum Studies from the University of Washington.