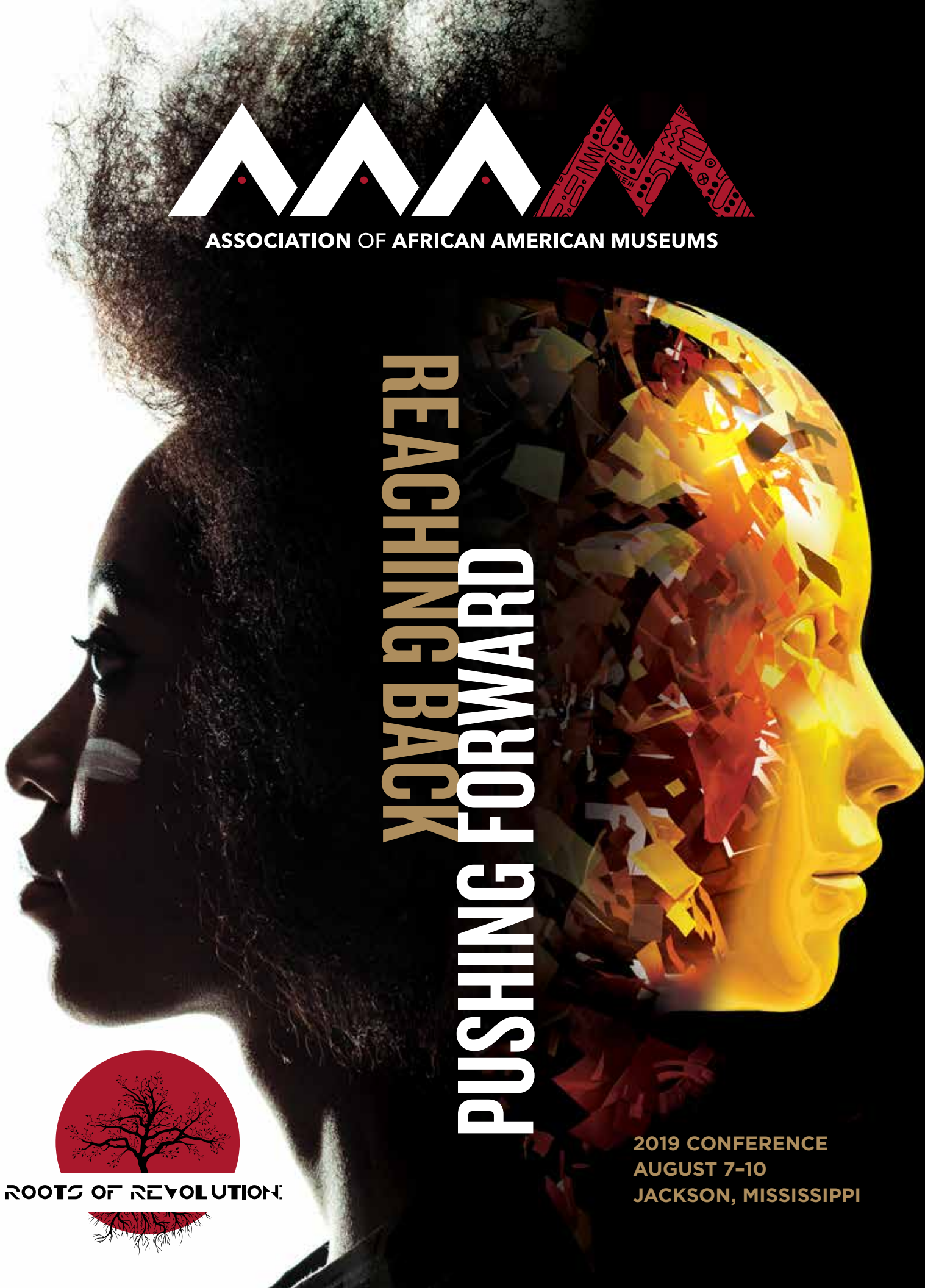




ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUMS

# REACHING BACK PUSHING FORWARD



ROOTS OF REVOLUTION



2019 CONFERENCE  
AUGUST 7-10  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI



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**2018-2019**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

---

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DR. ERIC WILLIAMS  
*District of Columbia*

---

Greetings,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Association of African American Museums, I want to welcome you to Jackson, Mississippi for AAAM's Annual Conference. AAAM has an incredible amount of momentum coming off its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we are well positioned with the addition of our newly hired Executive Director, Vedet Coleman-Robinson. The Association is seeing increases in membership, conference attendance, and continues to work hard to meet the needs of an ever-evolving African American museum sector.

The theme of the 2019 Conference is ***Roots of Revolution: Reach Back I Pushing Forward***: The Host Committee, led by AAAM Board Member Dr. Robby Luckett, and the Planning Committee, led by AAAM Board Member Marion McGee, have arranged and engaging slate of keynote speakers, creative sessions, and entertaining evening events, we'll have the opportunity to learn, reconnect, and reinvigorate our souls.

Museums, archives, libraries, galleries and historic sites have never been neutral, and African American cultural institutions have played central roles in revolutionary movements as we have reached back to the lessons of our past in order to push forward. We have created and sustained spaces of liberation that have fostered black racial and social consciousness and subverted systems of oppression.

This conference will focus on the reach and the push requisite in leading people, developing systems, improving organizations, protecting collections, and impacting futures through the preservation of African American art, history and culture. We will explore how technologies can extend institutions' capacities to make their collections and programs more accessible to users and the necessity of collaboration in a revolutionary digital age

Like you, I circle the AAAM Conference on my calendar each year and look forward to it with great anticipation. It has been my honor to serve on the AAAM Board for the past six years and to serve as Board President for three of those six years. I will be stepping down from the AAAM Board following the Conference in Jackson, having had the privilege of working with the Board and membership to accomplish a number of important goals:

- 1) Completion of a 4-year strategic plan to guide the future direction of AAAM;
- 2) Raising funds necessary to bring on a full time Executive Director; and
- 3) Bringing new members onto the Board with the energy, passion, and creativity needed to write the next chapter of AAAM's illustrious history.

So I thank you all for your support, your hard work, and your friendship during my time on the Board.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Carter  
Board President, Association of African American Museums





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Executive Committee

**Brian J. Carter**  
**President** (Outgoing)  
*4Culture*  
Seattle, Washington

**Lanesha Debardelaben**  
**President** (Incoming)  
*Northwest African American Museums*  
Seattle, Washington

**Marion Missy McGee**  
**Vice-President** (Incoming)  
*National Museum of African American History & Culture*  
District of Columbia

**Tsitsi (Tee) Jones**  
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*National Civil Rights Museum*  
Memphis, Tennessee

**Dr. Robert E. Luckett, Jr**  
**Secretary**  
*Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University*  
Jackson, Mississippi

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*The Black Archives History & Research Foundation of South Florida, Inc.*  
Miami, Florida

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**Jacqueline Dace**  
*National Underground Railroad Freedom Center*  
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**Dr. Robert Davis**  
*DRMD Strategies, LLC*  
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*The George Washington University*  
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**Dr. Ashley Jordan**  
*Evansville African American Museum*  
Evansville, Indiana

**Malika Polk-Lee**  
*B. B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center*  
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**Shirl Spicer**  
*Montgomery County Parks*  
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**Brenda Tindal**  
*International African American Museum*  
Charleston, South Carolina

**Ahmad T. Ward**  
*Mitchelville Preservation Project*  
Hilton Head, South Carolina

**Dr. Eric Williams**  
*National Museum of African American History & Culture*  
District of Columbia



**2018-2019**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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*Seattle, Washington*

TSITSI (TEE) JONES,  
*Treasurer*  
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DR. ROBERT E. LUCKETT, JR.,  
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*Jackson, Mississippi*

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MALIKA POLK-LEE  
*Indianola, Mississippi*

SHIRL SPICER  
*Silver Spring, Maryland*

DR. ERIC WILLIAMS  
*District of Columbia*

---

Greetings AAAM Members and Supporters:

I am pleased to welcome you Jackson, Mississippi, for our 41st Annual Conference of the Association of African American Museums! The Planning and Host Committees have spent a great deal of time since our convening in Hampton, Virginia last year to make sure that this conference meets and beats your expectations, and I can assure you that this year will not disappoint!

As we are in the midst of celebrating 400 years of African American History and Culture, I find it quite fitting that AAAM is perfectly aligned with this momentous celebration, and we are able to teach the Nation and the world about our rich history and legacies through the work that each of you do in your respective organizations. What we have is truly unique, and we must continue to fight the good fight to be the gatekeepers for and truth-tellers of our collective stories.

As we are here visiting Jackson, MS, I implore you to pay attention to the details that our AAAM Host Museum, the Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University, put into ensuring that this year's conference spoke to our membership. From the Smith-Robertson Museum to the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, each of our evening receptions meticulously entwines this year's theme, **Roots of Revolution: Reaching Back | Pushing Forward**, throughout their exhibit space! In addition, our keynote speakers, panelists, special workshops, and tours were all selected with you in mind so you could revel and thoroughly enjoy this experience!

It is my hope, that as you move through sessions, hustle to workshops, and relax at the receptions, that you take this time to reach back, by intentionally finding and introducing yourself to a member who has been a part of our organization for quite some time. I also hope that you reach forward and introduce yourself to a first-time attendee, a student member, or a member who is particularly new to our association. We have a lot to learn from one another and the collective knowledge that we possess in this point of time is unparalleled to any other organization as it pertains to Black Museums as well as throughout the field.

We are in a unique space in AAAM, where we can look at our membership and can reach out and touch several of our Founding Members and individuals who laid the foundation for us to be where we are today! Let's take this time while in Jackson, MS, the City with Soul, to get reacquainted with the soul of AAAM! Again, welcome, and I look forward to interacting with you!

Kind regards,

Vedet R. Coleman-Robinson  
Executive Director, Association of African American Museums





# HISTORIC OVERVIEW

## MISSION

The Association of African American Museums (AAAM) is a non-profit member organization established to support African and African American focused museums nationally and internationally, as well as the professionals who protect, preserve and interpret African and African American art, history and culture.

Established as the single representative and principal voice of the African American museum movement, the Association seeks to strengthen and advocate for the interests of institutions and individuals committed to the preservation of African-derived cultures.

The services provided by AAAM enhance the ability of those museums to serve the needs and interests of persons of African ancestry and those who wish to know more about the art, history and culture of African-derived cultures.

## AAAM FOUNDERS

AAAM was established to provide professional development and networking opportunities to serve its membership base and African American and African diaspora audiences broadly. The Association has a longstanding success rate of convening leaders, from national and international institutions, around issues of professional development and capacity building, boasting a membership of over 500 individual and institutional members rallying around this worthy cause.

Membership is comprised of museums, museum professionals, institutions, and individuals that share an interest in African American art, culture, and history. Through training opportunities and member services, AAAM supports the goals of African American museums and museum professionals. The Association includes cultural organizations, historical societies and museums which not only collect, preserve, and exhibit objects valuable to art, history and science, but also educational institutions, research agencies and cultural centers.

AAAM works as an advocate for the interests of institutions and individuals committed to the support of African and African derived cultures. It defines a relationship for the body of such institutions within the national museum community, and seeks to strengthen such institutions through improved communication, shared resources, training, annual conferences, technical assistance, and fundraising guidance. The Association also provides, through newsletters, placement bureaus, etc., services supportive for the professional needs of its membership.

AAAM shares a common core of knowledge and sense of purpose with of our member institutions to advance the professional and scholarly attainments of our members by supporting opportunities for sound professional preparation,

observing high ethical standards, and providing outlets for research and collaboration that foster improvement of the museum profession.

## AAAM FOUNDERS

In the late 1960s, Dr. Margaret Burroughs, founder of the DuSable Museum in Chicago, and Dr. Charles H. Wright, of the Museum of African American History in Detroit, initiated a series of conferences for Black museums. In 1978, a consortium of six Black museums, with funding from the National Museum Act (administered by the Smithsonian Institution), presented a series of conferences at participating institutions. The conferences provided the opportunity for an ad hoc committee to lay the groundwork for yet another organization. Under the chairmanship of E. Barry Gaither, the committee prepared by-laws, which were ratified in Detroit in February of 1978. The new organization adopted the name "African American Museums Association" (AAMA), and elected its first governing council. AAMA's first office was at the Museum of the National Center for Afro-American Artists in Boston, Massachusetts.

During the General Session of the 1997 AAMA Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, the members present voted to change the name to "Association of African American Museums," dissolving the former name of AAMA. Reorganized as the Association of African American Museums (AAAM) in 1998, the organization continued servicing constituents with annual conferences and fellowship opportunities. Under the leadership of a dedicated volunteer executive director, William "Bill" Billingsley, AAAM relocated to the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center in Ohio and expanded its operations to serve the burgeoning number of new institutions focused on African American content. During this period, the organization set out to provide improved communication (including a website and newsletter), shared resources, professional training, and technical assistance.

In the 2000s and beyond, the Association has focused on identifying the composition and needs of its constituents and the larger African American museum community, aided by the support of the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Including, a number of projects surveying the Black Museum field and supporting strategic planning for the Association. Continuing its core work and collaborating with the new National Museum of African American History and Culture, AAAM looks forward to future success in furthering and implementing the important work of the organizations and professionals dedicated to preserving and promoting the art, history, and culture of African and African American communities nationally and internationally.

August 7, 2019

Greetings:

On behalf of the Host Committee for the 2019 annual meeting of the Association of African American Museums (AAAM), I welcome you to Jackson: *The City with Soul*. We have been hard at work for more than a year to make sure that your time here will be unforgettable and that AAAM 2019 will be remembered as one of the best conferences ever.

Mississippi represents much of the the black experience in America, the tragedy and the pain as well as the triumph and the perseverance. We are proud of the many cultural organizations and museums that lift up African American history and culture in its totality and serve our communities, not only here in Jackson, but across our state. From the Margaret Walker Center and the Smith Robertson Museum to the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and so many others, we are proud to be able to share with you the work that is happening in this regard in Mississippi, and we believe that your time here will move you.

It is our great honor to have you and AAAM visit us in Jackson. We stand in awe of the work that all of you do throughout the nation, and we are proud to stand with you as partners in preserving, interpreting, and promoting the African American experience.

Our current state of affairs in America makes the work that we do that much more vital. African Americans, African American institutions, and their allies have always stood to demand the recognition of human dignity, social justice, and civil rights for all people. We believe it is appropriate that AAAM and its members now stand in Mississippi, where the “Roots of Revolution” are deeply implanted, as we continue to lift our voices, “Reaching Back: Pushing Forward.”

Sincerely,



Robby Lockett, PhD  
Director, Margaret Walker Center



# HOST COMMITTEE

**April Blevins, Manuscripts Curator,**  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

**Elizabeth Coleman, Director of Volunteer Services,**  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

**Noel Didla, Community Engagement Strategist,** Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba

**Cindy Gardner, Museum Division Director,**  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

**Emily Havens, Executive Director,**  
Grammy Museum Mississippi

**Redell Hearn, Curator of Art and Civil Rights,**  
Tougaloo College and Mississippi Museum of Art

**Pamela Junior, Director,**  
Two Mississippi Museums

**Marlin King, Historic Preservation Division Director,**  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

**Stephanie King, Historic Resources Specialist,**  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

**Joyce Dixon-Lawson, Outreach Coordinator,**  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

**Robby Luckett, Director,**  
Margaret Walker Center

**Christine Blackmon-McInnis, Director of Services,**  
Visit Jackson

**Rachel Myers, Two Mississippi Museums Deputy Director,**  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

**Latoya Norman, General Manager,**  
African American Military History Museum

**Malika Polk-Lee, Director,**  
B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center

**Dorian Pridgen, Director of Visitor Experience,**  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

**Okolo Rashid, President and Co-Founder,**  
International Museum of Muslim Cultures

**Shelley Ritter, Director,**  
Delta Blues Museum

**John Spann, Historic Resources Specialist,**  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

**Maggie Stevenson, Tourism Development,**  
Visit Mississippi

**Angela Stewart, Archivist,**  
Margaret Walker Center

**Brandon Thompson, Senior Graphic Designer,**  
Jackson State University

**Charlene Thompson, Museum Manager,**  
Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center

**Trina Toles, Building Administrator/Administrative Assistant,**  
Margaret Walker Center

**Minnie Watson, Curator,**  
Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home

**Patrick Weems, Executive Director,**  
Emmett Till Memorial Commission

**Lance Wheeler, Historic Resources Specialist,**  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

**Darrell White, Director of Cultural Heritage Tourism,**  
Visit Natchez

**Floyd Williams, Director of Tradeshows and National Accounts,**  
Visit Jackson

## A special thank you to the following:

City of Jackson  
Jackson State University  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
State of Mississippi  
Visit Jackson  
Visit Mississippi



Good Day:

On behalf of the National Conference Planning Committee, it is my pleasure to welcome you to AAAM 2019! This year's programmatic offerings were coordinated by 25 of the most brilliant minds in our field, each demonstrating the great breadth and depth of expertise among museum professionals of color across the country. Your 2019 conference is the result of a collaborative effort among an inspired group of individuals, dedicated to providing you with an unforgettable experience.

***Roots of Revolution: Reaching Back | Pushing Forward*** is more than a theme; it is a call to action from one generation to the next to take collective responsibility and decisive steps to advance our institutions and create lasting change in the communities we serve. In planning the 2019 conference, we prioritized an intentional ***reach*** across multiple generations, disciplines, and partners to collaboratively address the ***push*** requisite in leading people, developing systems, improving organizations, protecting collections, and impacting futures through the uplift of Black culture.

Of note are the robust offerings of concurrent sessions, providing hands-on learning opportunities for people in all stages of the museum profession and cultural sector. As well as the dynamic plenaries and keynote conversations exploring the necessity and challenges of collaboration in a revolutionary digital age. All of which would not be possible without our generous sponsors and stakeholders.

This meeting of the minds is proof of AAAM's ever-increasing global presence, as evidenced by participants from over 400 museums, libraries, historic sites and cultural centers in the United States, West Africa, Canada, South Africa, and the Caribbean. The outpour of support and excitement from Mississippi's capital, one of the south's most soulful cities, is sure to give every AAAM conference participant a token of unsurpassed hospitality.

We invite you to continue your support in growing our annual conference attendance through deep engagement with your fellow leaders from national and international institutions. Your continued presence is essential to the fulfillment of our mission to support the professionals who protect, preserve and interpret African and African American art, history and culture.

Sincerely yours,

**Marion Missy McGee**, 2019 AAAM Conference Chair  
Board Member | Association of African American Museums



# PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Ahmad Ward, Executive Director**, Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park (Mitchelville, SC)

**Anjali Lalani, Smith Fund Interns and Fellows Program Administrator**, National Museum of African American History & Culture (Washington, DC)

**Auntaneshia Staveloz, Supervisory Program Manager**, National Museum of African American History & Culture (Washington, DC)

**Charles Woods, Education Programs Manager**, Birmingham Civil Rights Museums (Birmingham, AL)

**Chris Miller, Director of Education & Community Engagement**, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center (Cincinnati, OH)

**Elon Evora, Administrative Coordinator**, Association of African American Museums (Washington, DC)

**Eric Williams, PhD., Curator of Religion**, Center for the Study of African American Religious Life, National Museum of African American History & Culture (Washington, DC)

**Hannah Wallace, Educational Programming Manager**, African American Museum (Philadelphia, PA)

**Izetta Mobley, Consultant/Researcher**, Office of Historic Alexandria (Alexandria, VA)

**Jacqueline Dace, Deputy Director**, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center (Cincinnati, OH)

**Jennifer Zazo-Brown, Museum Programs Specialist**, National Museum of African American History & Culture (Washington, DC)

**Jocelyn Imani, Curatorial Assistant**, Cultural Interpretation Consultants LLC (Nashville, TN)

**John Parker, President**, Hutchinson Design Group (Washington, DC)

**Kiah Graham, I.T. Consultant**, Sirius Web Solutions (Miami, FL)

**Kyle Hutchinson, CEO**, Hutchinson Design Group (Washington, DC)

**Maretta Hemsley Woods, CEO**, MHW Consulting, LLC (Washington, DC)

**Michelle Banks, President**, Board of Directors, African American Firefighter Museum (Los Angeles, CA)

**Nicole Bryner, Museum Programs Specialist**, National Museum of African American History & Culture (Washington, DC)

**Noelle Trent, Director of Interpretation, Collections, & Education**, National Civil Rights Museum (Memphis, TN)

**Phyllis Ford, Director**, Laurel Grove School Museum (Clifton, VA)

**Robby Luckett, Jr., PhD., Director**, Margaret Walker Center (Jackson, MS)

**Stacie Ford-Bonelle, Visitor Services and Volunteer Manager**, Northwest African American Museum (Seattle, WA)

**Terrance Cribbs Lorrant, Executive Director**, Black Police Precinct and Courthouse Museum (Miami, FL)

**Traka Lopez, HBCU Intern**, Association of African American Museums (Washington, DC)

**Vedet Coleman Robinson, Executive Director**, Association of African American Museums (Washington, DC)

# Mississippi Civil Rights Museum



Hilferty creates  
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(and award winning)  
visitor experiences



hilferty museum planning & exhibit design

Honored with a dozen state, national, and international awards including:

2018 AASLH Award of Merit - Mississippi Civil Rights Museum

2018 Gold MUSE Award - Cheney Goodman Schwerner Theater

2018 Honorable Mention MUSE Award - Freedom Summer Immersive Theater



**BENNIE G. THOMPSON**  
SECOND DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY  
CHAIRMAN

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HOUSE EDUCATION CAUCUS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2402**

August 6, 2019

Greetings:

It is with great pleasure that I bring you greetings from Mississippi's Second Congressional District. I wish you much success during your 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference for The Association of African American Museums, here in Jackson, MS.


The theme you have chosen this year, "Roots of Revolution: Reaching Back/ Pushing Forward," signifies your vision of a chance to usually look to our shared past to inform and empower the crafting of our futures amid challenging times. I am elated to see the continuation of this event as you continue to recognize the rich legacy of some outstanding public figures, leaders, volunteers and highlighting the history of our past, which has paved ways for our today. I commend each of you for the time and dedication that you continue to spend to gather our history. This kind of commitment and dedication is being displayed in our African American Museums, all over the world.

It is only through you, that leadership and collaboration from such a great organization can ever hope to permanently instill the importance of our roots in the minds of today, tomorrow and future. This is indeed a valuable event and I encourage you to continue to make an outstanding impact in which we can all take pride.

I wish you the very best for a most successful and enjoyable event.

***Keep the Faith!***

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

BGT/no

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# AAAM 2019 Host Committee

Welcomes the  
Association of African American Museums  
to Jackson - the “City with Soul!”



Office of the Mayor  
Chokwe A. Lumumba, Mayor



219 South President Street  
Post Office Box 17  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017  
Telephone: 601-960-1084  
Facsimile: 601-960-2193

July 15, 2019

### Greetings!

On behalf of the City of Jackson, we would like to welcome you to the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Association of African American Museums. We are so elated you have joined us in Jackson!

We are so excited that members of your organization will get a chance to experience the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum at some point during the conference. This museum highlights the struggles of where we came and the future of where we are going. Similarly, this year's conference theme, "Roots of Revolution: Reaching Back | Pushing Forward" models the artifacts at the Civil Rights Museum.

It is our belief that Jackson is building its reputation to be the most radical city in the nation. As mayor, I am a firm believer in the value of family in the community and the belief of viewing the community as family.

Jackson is the capital city and together we will make it a symbol of unity, prosperity and progression. Thank you for your continued support and best wishes for a memorable event!

*One City, One Aim, One Destiny!*

Sincerely,

Chokwe A. Lumumba, Mayor  
City of Jackson





We design and build destinations where people connect with stories and each other.



**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF  
AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC**

*One Nation Under A Groove*

**EDUCATE**  
**PRESERVE**  
**CELEBRATE**

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Saltine

Fine & Dandy

MS Civil Rights Museum

District at Eastover

Iron Horse Grill

Eat, drink and be soulful in  
Jackson. The City With Soul.

**VISIT** *Jackson!*  
MISSISSIPPI  
[visitjackson.com](http://visitjackson.com)

July 16, 2019



Association of African American Museums  
600 Maryland Avenue SW  
Suite 550E-MRC 509  
Washington, DC 20024 United States

Dear AAAM Convention Delegates,

On behalf of the Visit Jackson Board of Directors, Staff, and the entire Jackson Tourism Industry, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 41st Annual Conference of the Association of African American Museums (AAAM) in Jackson, Mississippi.

During the week of August 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> it is our hope that you continue to fulfill AAAM's mission by strengthening and advocating for the interests of institutions and individuals committed to the preservation of African-derived cultures. We are honored to have you experience our growing museum product by sharing culture and heritage and having the opportunity to enlighten the world's next generation. There is no better time to be in Jackson to further your association's philosophies and achieve your conference theme: Roots of Revolution: Reaching Back | Pushing Forward. Our Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, Smith Robinson Museum and Cultural Center, Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument, and the International Museum of Muslim Cultures are examples of Jackson's dedication to AAAM's mission.

It is our wish that Jackson, Mississippi provides the optimum environment to network and further strategies that will impact transformational leadership and growth for AAAM. I hope that the impact of your collective ambition continues to be effective and impactful.

Jackson ... *the City with Soul* is honored to have played a small role in the success of this conference. If there is anything that Visit Jackson can do to enhance your Jackson experience, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

Best wishes on a successful conference and again, Welcome to Jackson!

Sincerely,

*Rickey L. Thigpen*

**Rickey L. Thigpen, MSL**  
President & CEO

cc: Christine Blackmon-McInnis

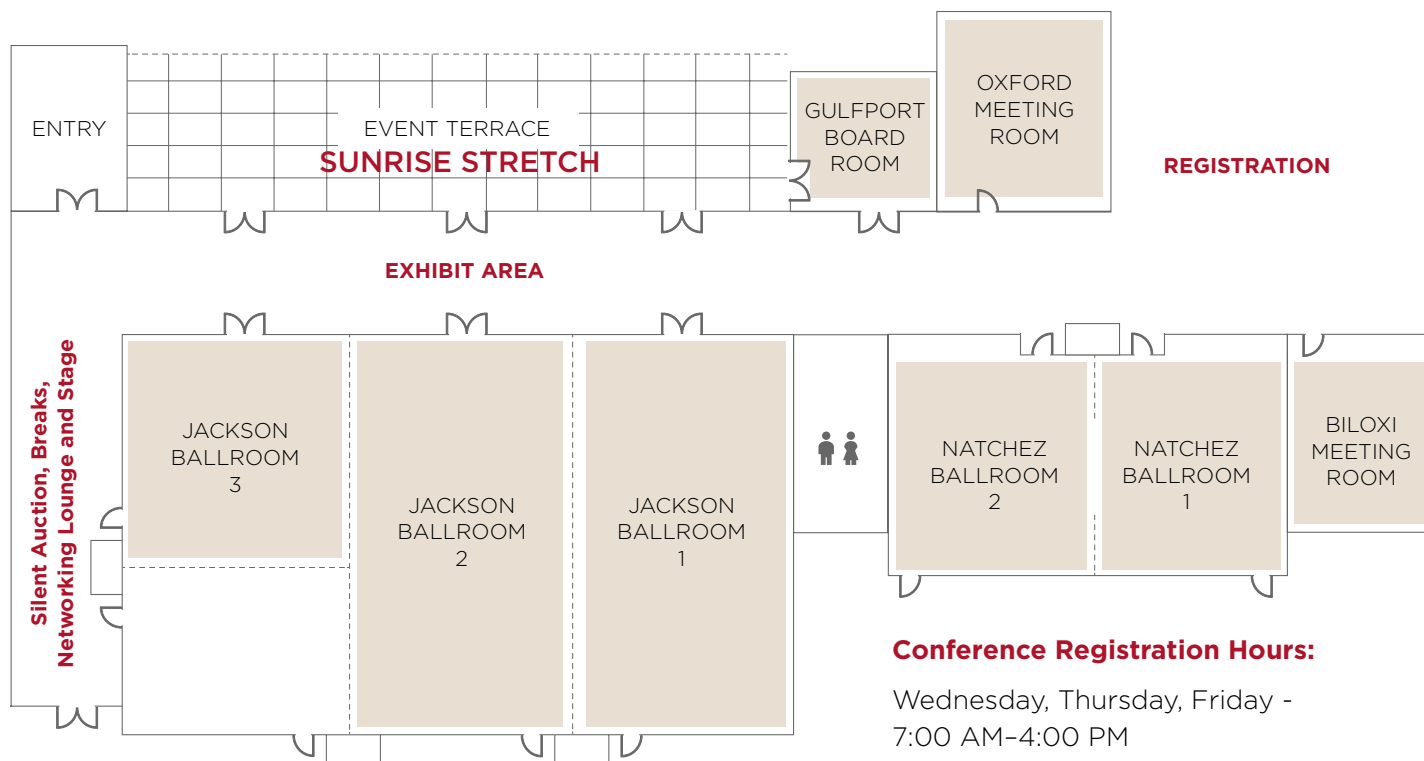


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Jackson, MS 39201  
601.960.1891  
1.800.354.7695  
601.960.1827 FAX  
[www.visitjackson.com](http://www.visitjackson.com)



# CONFERENCE FLOOR PLAN



## Conference Registration Hours:

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday -  
7:00 AM-4:00 PM

## Silent Auction Open:

Wednesday - 1:00-5:00 PM  
Thursday - 7:00 AM-5:00 PM  
Friday - 7:00 AM-2:00 PM  
(winners announced at 3:15 PM)

## Exhibitors

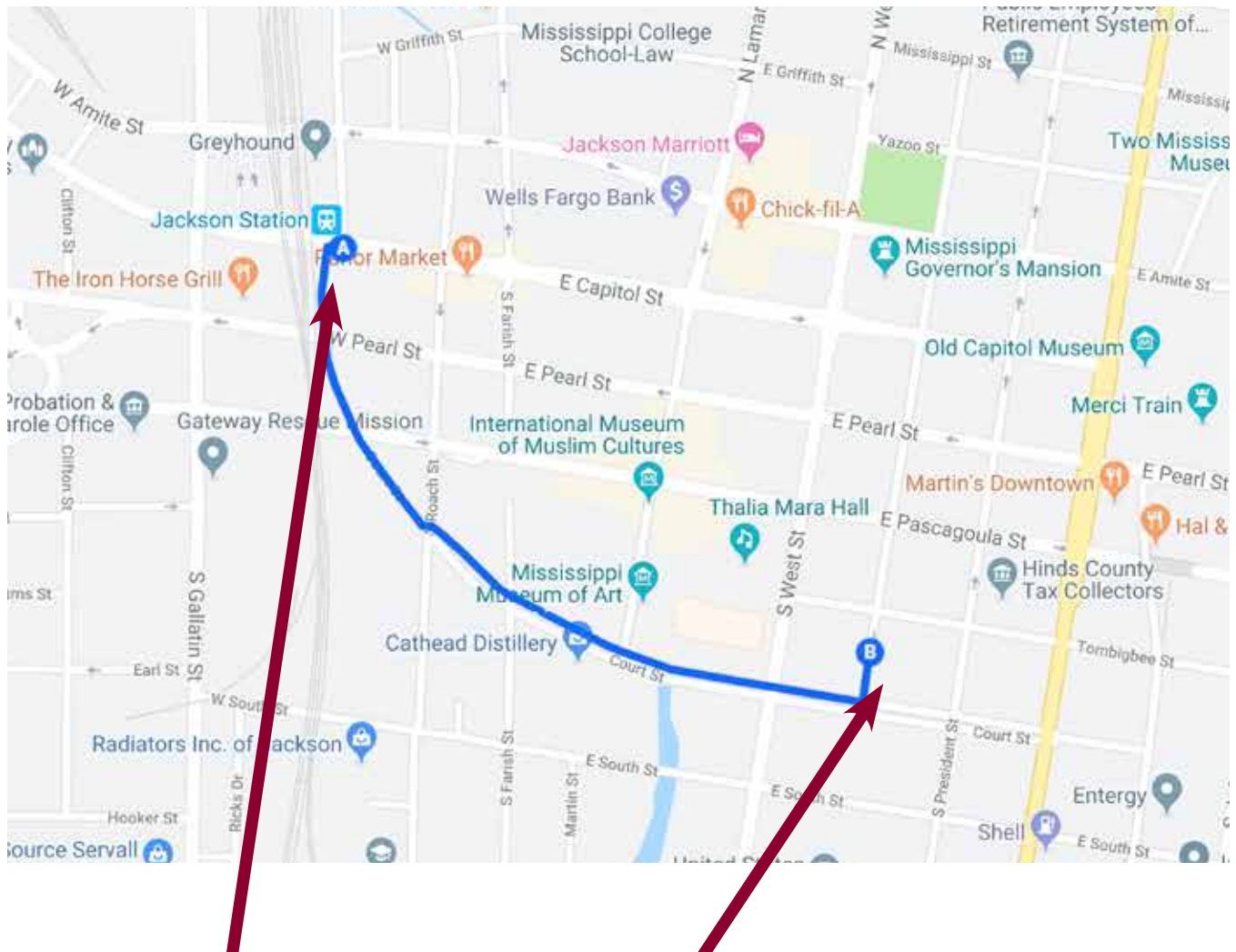
American Association for State and Local History  
1220 Exhibits  
African American Museum of Nassau County  
Alkebu-Lan Images Bookstore  
Ben & Jerry's Inc.  
Charlene's Classy This & That  
Delta Designs, Ltd.  
Exhibit Concepts, Inc.  
F.O.R. Natchez  
HealyKohler Design  
Hollinger Metal Edge, Inc.  
Howard University Graduate School  
Kaji, Inc.  
McGee Distribution

Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Monticello  
National Endowment for the Arts  
NMHS Unlimited Film Productions  
Surreal Box  
TimeLooper, Inc.  
Urban Intellectuals  
Visit Jackson!  
Water Kolours Fine Arts

## Exhibit Hall Hours:

Wednesday - 1:00-5:00 PM  
Thursday - 7:00 AM-5:00 PM  
Friday - 7:00 AM-5:00 PM

# HOTEL INFORMATION



## OVERFLOW HOTEL

Hilton Garden Inn Jackson Downtown  
235 West Capitol Street  
Jackson, Mississippi, 39201  
TEL: (601) 353-5464

## HOST HOTEL

The Westin Jackson  
407 South Congress Street  
Jackson, Mississippi, 39201  
TEL: (601) 968-8200

Estimated between the two hotels:  
Walk 1 mi, 13 minutes

# CONFERENCE-AT-A-GLANCE

All conference sessions will be held at the WESTIN HOTEL  
(407 S. Congress Street | Jackson, MS 39201), unless otherwise noted.

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2019 | DAY 1

### PRE-CONFERENCE

<b>8:00 AM–4:30 PM</b>	Digital Humanities Afro-Futurism Workshop, Part 1
<b>1:00–4:00 PM</b>	NMAAHC/AASLH StEPs Pre-Conference Convening @ Mississippi Civil Rights Museum (2nd Floor Conference Room)
<b>6:00–8:30 PM</b>	AAAM Directors & Trustees Reception ( <i>Invitation Only</i> )

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2019 | DAY 2

### PRE-CONFERENCE

<b>8:00–11:45 AM</b>	Digital Humanities Afro-Futurism Workshop, Part 2
<b>9:00 AM–4:00 PM</b>	Museum Educators Workshop @ Mississippi Museum of Art
<b>10:00–11:30 AM</b>	AAAM Directors & Trustees Listening Session @ Westin Hotel Conference Room
<b>1:00–4:00 PM</b>	Pre-Conference Local Heritage Tour
<b>1:00–5:00 PM</b>	IMLS Convening of AAHC Grant Recipients @ Westin Hotel Conference Room
<b>2:00–3:30 PM</b>	Robert Frederick Smith Fund Intern Reception ( <i>Invitation Only</i> )
<b>3:30–4:30 PM</b>	First Time Attendee Meet-Up (Open to all First Time Conference Attendees)
<b>4:30–6:00 PM</b>	Opening Plenary-Kindred Literary Discussion @ Westin Hotel Conference Room
<b>6:30–9:00 PM</b>	2019 Conference Welcome Reception @ JSU Margaret Walker Center
<b>9:30–11:00 PM</b>	AAAM's EPG Presents: Wine-Down Wednesday

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019 | DAY 3

<b>6:00-6:45 AM</b>	AAAM's EPG Presents: Self-Care Sunrise Stretch
<b>7:00-8:15 AM</b>	Morning Networking Lounge (Continental Breakfast Provided)
<b>7:45 AM-3:00 PM</b>	Heritage Excursion to Hattiesburg, MS
<b>8:15-11:30 AM</b>	Concurrent Sessions
<b>11:45 AM-1:45 PM</b>	Luncheon Keynote Conversation
<b>1:45-2:00 PM</b>	AAAM's EPG Presents: Mid-Day Meditation
<b>2:00-3:15 PM</b>	Concurrent Sessions
<b>3:15-3:45 PM</b>	Afternoon Networking Lounge (Complimentary Refreshments Provided)
<b>3:45-5:00 PM</b>	Concurrent Sessions
<b>4:00-5:30 PM</b>	Speed Networking Mentorship Session
<b>7:00-9:00 PM</b>	Evening Reception at the Smith-Robertson Museum
<b>9:30 PM-Until</b>	AAAM's EPG Presents: The After Party

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2019 | DAY 4

<b>6:00-6:45 AM</b>	AAAM's EPG Presents: Woke+Wellness Workout
<b>7:00-8:15 AM</b>	Morning Networking Lounge (Continental Breakfast Provided)
<b>8:15-11:30 AM</b>	Concurrent Sessions
<b>11:45-1:45 PM</b>	Luncheon Keynote Conversation
<b>1:45-2:00 PM</b>	AAAM's EPG Presents: Mid-Day Meditation
<b>2:00-3:15 PM</b>	Concurrent Sessions
<b>3:15-3:45 PM</b>	Afternoon Networking Lounge (Complimentary Refreshments Provided)
<b>3:45-5:00 PM</b>	Concurrent Sessions
<b>3:45-5:45 PM</b>	Closing Plenary: Activists-Authors Dialogue & Book Signing
<b>7:00-10:00 PM</b>	Closing Reception at the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum
<b>10:00 PM-Until</b>	AAAM's EPG Presents: The After Party

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2019

### POST-CONFERENCE TOURS \$125/Per Person

#### 7:45 AM-7:00 PM

##### Mississippi Delta Blues Tour

Tour of the Delta Blues Museum  
Lunch at The Senator's Place  
Tour of the Grammy Museum Mississippi  
Tour of the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center

#### 8:45 AM-6:00 PM

##### Mississippi Civil Rights Tour

Tour of the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home  
Tour of the Bryant's Grocery/Emmett Till Freedom Trail Marker  
Lunch at the Sumner Grille  
Tour of the Courthouse and Emmett Till Interpretive Center  
Travel past the Parchman Penitentiary  
Tour of the Fannie Lou Hamer Memorial



# PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

## DIGITAL HUMANITIES AFRO-FUTURISM

August 6, 2019 | 8:00 AM–4:30 PM

August 7, 2019 | 8:00–11:45 AM

### PURPOSE:

Advancing digital learning, alliance-building, and resource sharing through highly interactive discussions with leading Digital Humanities scholars and practitioners in Digital Humanities. Designed to provide an intensive, community-oriented, and foundational approach to learning technical skills in service of historically African American institutions and affiliated organizations focused on the care, collection, and preservation of Black culture.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Practitioners from African American museums, libraries, historic sites and cultural centers in the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean seeking insight on how technology can extend their institutional capacity, thereby making their collections and programs more accessible to the communities they serve.

### WHAT TO EXPECT:

**Build Community** | Join a growing network of leaders, scholars, and technologists to explore new modes of inquiry that thoughtfully integrate digital tools and methods and service the mission of your institution. **Learn New Skills** | Build technical and professional skills through collaborative, hands-on workshops, and a project development lab to help explore, enhance, or increase your digital literacy and confidence using digital tools. **Share Resources** | Engage with leaders who are passionate about using digital tools to enhance their work and share best practices in a dynamic meeting of the minds in which a meaningful exchange of ideas will emerge.

Generously Supported by:



## ACTIVATE, LISTEN, EMPOWER: A Special Workshop for Museum Educators

August 7, 2019 | 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

An interactive session, which will feature case studies and examples of how museums across the country have tackled the challenges of interpreting difficult history within today's social climate; as well as gain tools, techniques, and resources. Participants will also discuss the re-establishment of a formal community of AAAM museum educators.

### The Museum Educators Workshop will feature:

- Curator's tour of the exhibition *A Tale of Two Collections* at the Mississippi Museum of Art
- Interactive African drum and dance clinic with Alkebulan Music Philosophy
- National Park Service presentation
- The William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation presentation

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Educators and Interpreters from African American museums, libraries, historic sites and cultural centers in the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean seeking insight on how technology can extend their institutional capacity, thereby making their collections and programs more accessible to the communities they serve.

### GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY:

The William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation and the National Civil Rights Museum

Generously supported by:



# PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2019

## Local Heritage Tour

1:00–4:00 PM

Fee: \$40/per person

This mid-day excursion features some of Jackson's most treasured historic gems, cultural sites, and African American museums. The event is graciously sponsored by the Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University located in Jackson, Mississippi.

- 1:00 PM** Bus Departs from the Westin + Hilton Hotels
- 1:15 PM** Arrive COFO Civil Rights Education Center
- 2:00 PM** Travel to Greyhound Bus Station (1963 Woolworth's Sit-in Mississippi Freedom Trail Marker)
- 2:15 PM** Freedom Riders Mississippi Freedom Trail Marker
- 2:30 PM** Travel to Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home
- 3:00 PM** Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home
- 3:45 PM** Depart Evers Home
- 4:00 PM** Bus Arrival/Drop-off at Westin + Hilton Hotels





# African American

MILITARY HISTORY MUSEUM

The African American Military History Museum showcases the history and important role of the African American soldier through field trips, community outreach programs and special events such as investiture, and retirement ceremonies.

WEDNESDAY – FRIDAY ★ 10AM – 4PM

SATURDAY ★ 12PM – 4PM\*

\*10AM – 12AM APPOINTMENT ONLY



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# MID-CONFERENCE TOUR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019

## Heritage Excursion to Hattiesburg, MS

8:00 AM–3:00 PM

Fee: \$40/per person

This half-day excursion features some of Hattiesburg's finest African American historic sites museums, and cultural treasures. The event is graciously sponsored by the African American Military Museum located in Hattiesburg, MS.

- 8:00 PM** Bus Departs from the Westin + Hilton Hotels
- 9:45 PM** Tour of the African American Military History Museum in Hattiesburg
- 11:15 PM** Lunch at Historic Eureka School Museum
- 12:00 PM** Tour of the St. Paul United Methodist Church
- 12:30 PM** Travel to Kelly Settlement: Vernon Dahmer Home
- 12:45 PM** Interactive discussion with family of Vernon Dahmer
- 1:30 PM** Depart Hattiesburg
- 3:00 PM** Bus Arrival/Drop-off at Westin + Hilton Hotels







# Be part of a legacy!

Nina Simone's legacy stretches from the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s into today, with her life and music inspiring artists like Jay-Z, Aretha Franklin, Bob Dylan, Lauryn Hill, and Levon Helm.

Work is underway to restore the home where she was born, but we need your help to cross the finish line. Join our crowdfunding campaign and help fund critical restoration work. By doing so, you can claim exclusive, Nina Simone-inspired perks that will let you show the world your love for the "High Priestess of Soul."

**CLAIM YOUR PERKS!** Donate to our campaign to restore Nina Simone's childhood home at [SavingPlaces.org/Nina](https://SavingPlaces.org/Nina)

#NinaSimone

The African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund is a national initiative to uplift stories of Black achievement, activism, and community.



National Trust for Historic Preservation

**African American**  
Cultural Heritage Action Fund

# Lucille is talking at the B.B. King Museum



While you're here, pay your respects at the final resting place of the King of the Blues.

"Absolutely splendid! Worth revisiting many times."

- Tom & Anne from Belgium

"One of the finest exhibitions I have ever seen."

- Geoff from England



400 Second Street / T 662-887-9539

bbkingmuseum.org /





# SILENT AUCTION

## BENEFITING THE ANNUAL BURROUGHS-WRIGHT FELLOWSHIP

### Cultivating Future Museum Professionals

The AAAM Board of Directors and Executive Director, Vedet R. Coleman-Robinson, seek your support of our efforts to raise \$10,000 for the Burroughs-Wright Fellowship. The fellowship is awarded to qualified university students and first-year museum professionals to honor the legacy of black museum pioneers, Margaret T. G. Burroughs and Dr. Charles H. Wright. Silent auction proceeds allow us to further the mission of providing fellows with professional development, technical training, and mentorship opportunities.

#### Types of Auction Items Available

- Designer Apparel and Accessories,
- Event Packages and Special Event Tickets,
- Gift Certificates,
- Resort Destinations or Stay-cations,
- Artwork, and
- Books

Winning bids over the fair market value are eligible for a tax deduction. Please consult your tax professional.

#### Silent Auction Open:

Wednesday - 1:00–5:00 PM

Thursday - 7:00 AM–5:00 PM

Friday - 7:00 AM–2:00 PM  
(winners announced at 3:15 PM)





# Museum Studies

**CERTIFICATE OR MASTER'S DEGREE**

**CROSS-DISCIPLINARY THEORY AND PRACTICE**

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**21ST CENTURY LITERACY**

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# OPENING PLENARIES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2019  
4:30-6:00 PM

## Kindred Literary Discussion

Featured Panelists include:

Explore the politics of racial identity and historical memory through a highly interactive fishbowl conversation. Panelists will discuss the ways in which classical Africana art and literature can be interpolated into the work of Black museum practitioners, through the lens of Octavia Butler's literary masterpiece.



**John Jennings**  
*Kindred Graphic Novelist  
and Scholar*



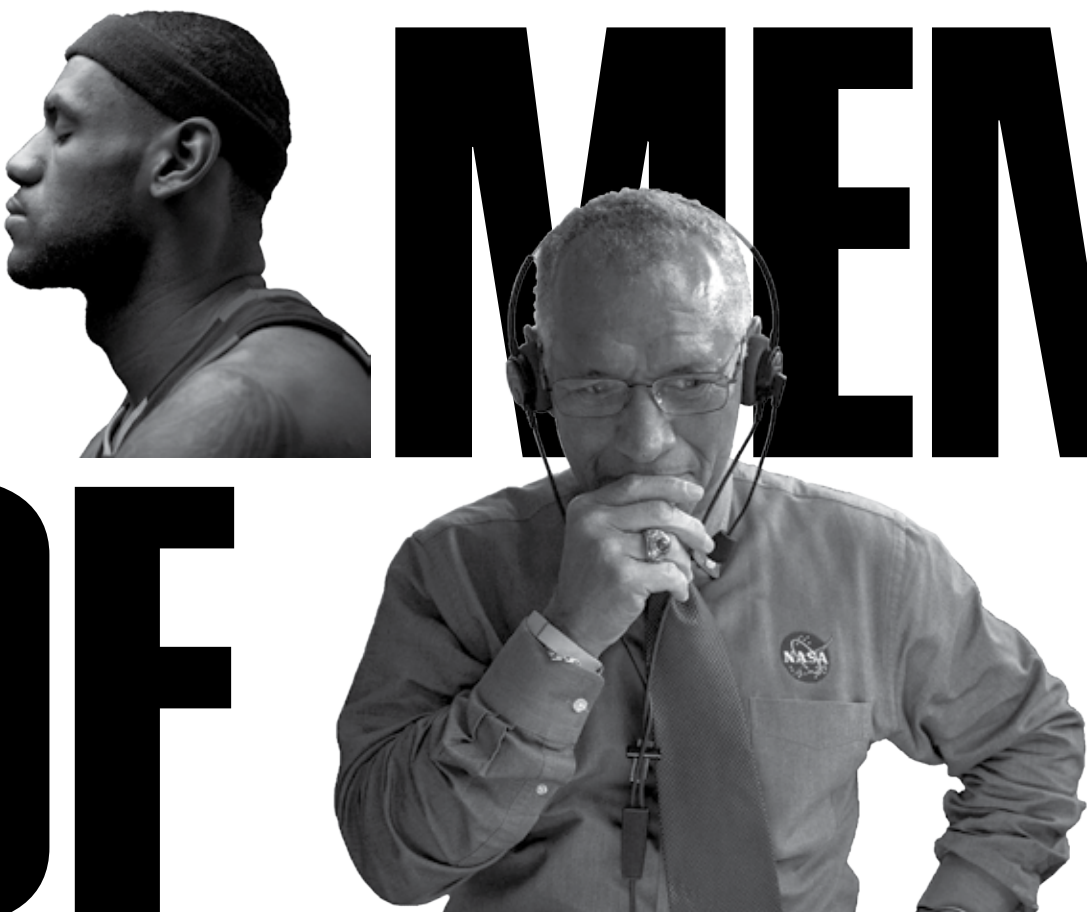
**Ytasha Womack**  
*Leading Afrofuturism Expert,  
Author & Filmmaker*



**Julian Chambliss**  
*Premiere Scholar on  
Generative Digital History,  
Comics, Cities & Culture*



**Moderator: Ayofemi Kirby**  
*Account Director,  
Sutton | Cultural Communications  
Company*



# MEN OF CHANGE

**Power. Triumph. Truth.**

A Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition  
August 17, 2019 — December 1, 2019

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Railroad Freedom Center

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Cincinnati, OH 45202

513.333.7739

[freedomcenter.org](http://freedomcenter.org)



Smithsonian



FORD MOTOR COMPANY FUND

*Men of Change: Power. Triumph. Truth.* was developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and made possible through the generous support of the Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services.



National Underground Railroad  
FREEDOM CENTER

LeBron James: Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of Walter Ioss, © Walter Ioss | Charles Bolden: NASA/Bill Ingalls



# KEYNOTE LUNCHEON SPEAKERS

Featured Panelists include:

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019  
11:45 AM-1:45 PM

## Preserving Black Joy through Travel, Recreation and Exploration



Reflecting on our shared past can inform and empower the crafting of our futures. The preservation of joy, amid challenging times, often involves reconnecting with loved ones, embarking on leisurely adventures, or taking a stroll down memory lane.

This keynote conversation will feature a screening of the highly acclaimed documentary film, *The Greenbook: Guide to Freedom*, in partnership with the Smithsonian Channel. The post-film discussion will highlight filmmaker Yoruba Richen's innovative approach to making the film, which vividly elevates Black creative exploration.



**Yoruba Richen,**  
Award-Winning  
Director,  
Filmmaker  
& Scholar

The moderated post-film discussion will also examine ongoing efforts of panelists Marquette Folley, Candacy Taylor, and Brent Leggs, who are all actively engaged in the preservation of important figures like Victor Green and other entrepreneurs who undertook social, political, and economic justice efforts to create access and meaningful change.



**Marquette Folley,** Content Director,  
*Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit Service*



**Brent Leggs,** Executive Director,  
*African American Cultural  
Heritage Action Fund*



**Candacy Taylor**  
Author, Photographer, Cultural Documentarian  
Taylor Made Culture



**Damion Thomas, Moderator**  
Curator of Sports, *National Museum of  
African American History & Culture*

# LUNCHEON SPEAKERS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9  
11:45 AM-1:45 PM

## Architects of the Black Freedom Movement

The active nature of reaching and pushing is the work of revolutionary movements, both old and new. No matter the generation, we are direct beneficiaries of the Black Freedom Movement spanning from the Civil Rights Era to present day.

Museums, archives, libraries, galleries and historic sites have never been neutral spaces. Therefore, the movement to subvert systems of oppression by creating and sustaining spaces of liberation that foster positive black racial and social consciousness, is in itself a revolutionary act.

This engaging keynote conversation will uplift the individual and collaborative approaches to the work of political, economic, and social justice for Black people, while highlighting the multi-generational commitment to advancing truth, justice, and reconciliation through activism, education, and mobilization. Prepare to be empowered and reignited to engage in the work ahead.

Generously Supported by:



### Patrisse Khan-Cullors, Moderator

Patrisse Cullors Social Activist, Best-selling Author of *When They Call You A Terrorist* & Co-Creator of the Viral Twitter Hashtag and Movement, **#BlackLivesMatter**

Artist, organizer, educator, and popular public speaker, Patrisse Cullors is a Los Angeles native and Co-Founder of the Black Lives Matter Global Network and Founder and Board Chair of grassroots Los Angeles based organization Dignity and Power Now.

In 2013, Patrisse co-founded the global movement with the viral twitter hashtag **#BlackLivesMatter** which has since grown to an international organization with dozens of chapters around the world fighting anti-Black racism. As an artist Patrisse has directed and produced world renowned theater, performances pieces and docu-series. Most recently she conducted her first solo show titled: *Respite, Reprieve and Healing: An Evening of Cleansing*. Her work focuses on trauma, healing and resilience. Patrisse is currently an Associate Professor at Prescott College where she teaches in the Masters program for Social Justice and Community Organizing Program. She developed and created a class that focuses on the intersections of art and social justice.

Featured Panelists include:



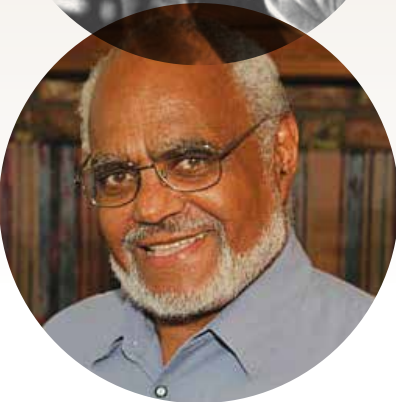
**Charles Cobb**



**Ericka Huggins**



**Bob Moses**



**Sonia Sanchez**





# 2019 AWARD RECIPIENTS

## The MARGARET T. G. BURROUGHS and CHARLES H. WRIGHT Fellowship



Two Margaret T. G. Burroughs and Charles H. Wright Fellowship are awarded: one award goes to a senior-level undergraduate or graduate student, and a second award is awarded to a first-year museum professional. Applicants must outline their contributions to the African American and/or African diaspora museum field. Burroughs-Wright Fellowship recipients receive full conference

registration for the 2018 AAAM Annual Conference in Hampton, VA (August 8-10), three night hotel accommodations at the conference hotel, and a one year individual membership to the Association of African American Museums.

The Margaret T. G. Burroughs and Charles H. Wright Fellowship honors the founders of the Association of African American Museums by recognizing emerging museum professionals demonstrating excellence in interpretation and preservation of African American and African diaspora history, art, and culture. In the late 1960s, Dr. Margaret Burroughs, founder of the DuSable Museum in Chicago, and Dr. Charles H. Wright, of the Museum of African American History in Detroit, initiated a series of conferences for Black museums. The National Association of Museums and Cultural Organizations and the Black Museums Conference, the first informal Black museum association, evolved from these conferences.



**Kaila Austin**  
Assistant Preparator,  
Eskenazi Museum of Art  
(Bloomington, IN)



**Lauren O'Brien**  
PhD Candidate,  
American Studies  
Rutgers University  
(Newark, NJ)

# 2019 AWARD RECIPIENTS

## Museum Leadership Award

This award recognizes professionals who have contributed outstanding expertise and exceptional dedication to African and African American focused institutions nationally and internationally, through a career spanning 10 years or more.



**Pam Junior**

## Pace Setter Award

This award, recognizes museum professionals who have demonstrated exceptional innovation and dedication to African and African American focused institutions nationally and internationally, during the first 10 years of their career.



**Dennis Doster**

---

## 2019 Awards Subcommittee

**Ahmad Ward,**  
Executive Director,  
Mitchelville Preservation Project  
(Hilton Head, SC)

**Carlyn Pinkens,**  
2017 Burroughs-Wright Fellow,  
African American Museum & Cultural  
Center of New Mexico  
(Albuquerque, NM)

**Phyllis Ford,**  
Executive Director,  
Laurel Grove School Museum  
(Clifton, VA)

**Quantia “Key” Fletcher,**  
Deputy Director,  
Mosaic Templars Cultural Center  
(Little Rock, AR)

**Marion “Missy” McGee,**  
Research & Program Specialist,  
National Museum of African American History  
& Culture  
(Washington, DC)

**Vanessa Moorer,**  
2016 Burroughs-Wright Fellow,  
National Museum of African  
American History & Culture  
(Washington, DC)

# 2019 JOHN E. FLEMING AWARDEE

This award, the highest honor presented, recognizes professionals who have contributed outstanding expertise and exceptional dedication to African and African American focused institutions nationally and internationally, through a career spanning 20 years or more.

## Celebrating the Legacy of Phil Freelon (1953–2019)

“I have worked through my career as an architect to create environments that are uplifting, inspiring, and set the tone for sharing knowledge and facilitating cultural exchange. You see, I believe that the built environment—that’s buildings and landscapes—can and should contribute in a positive way to the lives of everyday people. Beautiful architecture should be accessible to all.”

### An Honorable Leader

Phil, known for his extraordinary clarity of expression in both his architecture and communication, made invaluable contributions to our firm over the years, for which we are deeply grateful. In addition to serving as the Design Director of our North Carolina practice since 2014, he played a critical role on our Board of Directors, our Design Board, and our Research Board—helping to define our firm’s overall strategy and determine our path forward. Phil constantly challenged us to raise the bar on design excellence even higher.



Phil, always at the heart of his family. Clockwise from left: Pierce, Deen, Maya, Nnenna, and Basie the dog. Photographed in 2019.

Photo Courtesy of Perkins&Will



Phil signs and gifts to President Barack Obama a replica of the bronze panels adorning the National Museum of African American History and Culture, 2016.

Photo Courtesy of Perkins&Will

### Designing a Socially Equitable World

Over the course of his 42-year-career, Phil was committed to breaking down socioeconomic and cultural barriers in architecture and design. This was evident not only in his long-standing efforts to diversify the profession through community outreach and mentorship, but also in his championing of beautiful, dignified public spaces—particularly those in underserved urban neighborhoods.

### Bridging Cultural Divides

Phil believed strongly in the power of design to unite individuals—and entire communities—through the expression of shared human values and the exchange of cultural differences. He devoted much of his career to designing public places and institutions that promote learning, acceptance, and inclusion. And he always made it a point to actively engage community members, soliciting their input to help design places they’d be able to cherish for years to come.





Today, we celebrate the life and legacy of Phil Freelon—our colleague, our friend, our great source of inspiration. Phil's lifelong dedication to designing places that express the spirit of community, promote cultural equity, and effect positive social change has left a profound impact on us, and on the entire nation.

Whether through his professional work or his personal passions, Phil touched the lives of so many people. We invite you to share your favorite memories of him:

[www.rememberingphil-perkinswill.com](http://www.rememberingphil-perkinswill.com)



**Perkins&Will**

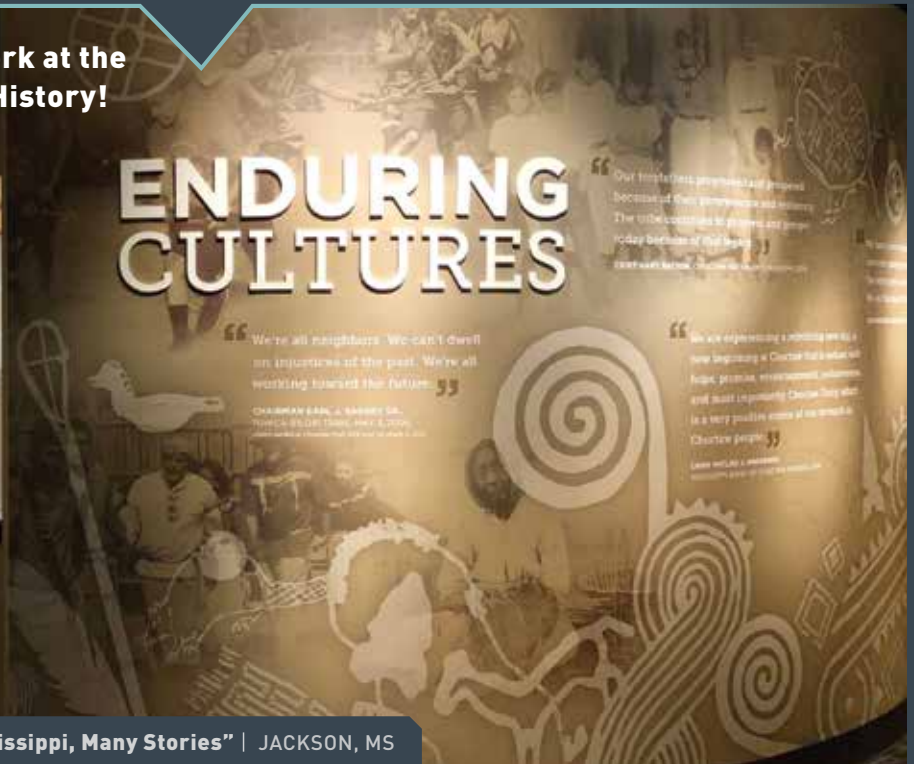
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▼ SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY + CULTURE: "More Than A Picture" | WASHINGTON, DC





# 2019 TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution, generously provided funding to support the following recipients to attend this year's conference.

Anastacia Scott  
Angel Thompson  
Bessie Smith Cultural Center  
Black Archives History and Research  
Foundation of South Florida  
Cassandra Rush  
Courtney Larry  
Denise Jamerson  
Jacqueline Hudson  
Jada Frazier  
Jamie Jones

Jocelyn Hurtado  
Jocelyn Imani  
Kali-Ahset Amen Strayhorn  
Keith D. Lee  
LaToya Thompson  
Lewis Latimer House Museum  
Mary Carter  
Tiffanee Thompson  
Tonika Berkley  
Trenda Byrd  
Vanessa Mooror



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# EVENING RECEPTIONS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2019

## Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University

Ayer Hall, 1400 John R. Lynch Street, Jackson, MS 39217

6:30–9:00 PM

**The Margaret Walker Center** welcomes you to celebrate the start of AAAM's 2019 conference with a southern seafood affair. The menu will feature a delicious array of Gulf seafood and regional fare, such as fried catfish, shrimp, fried oysters, cornbread, Mississippi Mud Pie (*other nonshell fish, vegan, and vegetarian options will be available*). Plus plenty of cocktails and refreshments to keep you cool.

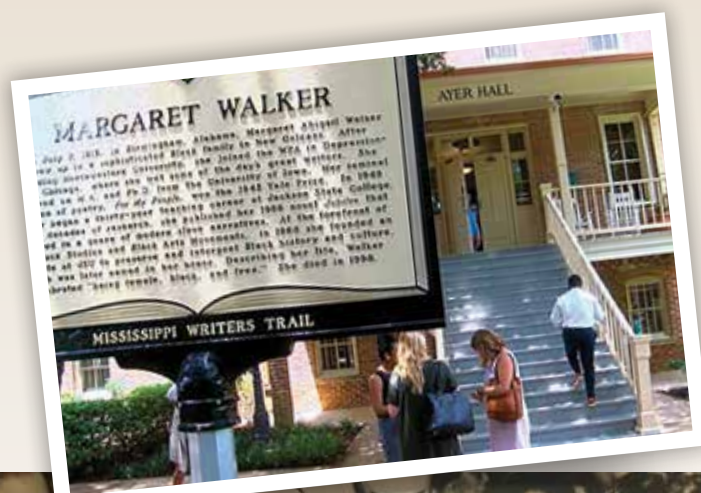
Founded by the acclaimed writer Margaret Walker as the Institute for the Study of the History, Life, and Culture of Black People in 1968, the Center is a special collections archive and museum dedicated to the African American experience.

*River Road on the Mississippi*, a collection of Roy Lewis photographs of life in 1970s Louisiana, will be on display in Ayer Hall, while the nearby Johnson Hall Art Gallery will feature the civil rights photography exhibition, *Let Us March On: Lee Friedlander and the Prayer Pilgrimage to Freedom*.

Local jazz saxophonist, Tiger Rogers, will entertain visitors in Ayer Hall, while DJ Young Venom will keep you on the dance floor in Johnson Hall.

Generously Supported by:

- Atmos Energy
- Margaret Walker Center Advisory Board
- The Honorable Fred and Dr. Pamela Banks
- Visit Jackson



THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019

## Smith Robertson Museum + Cultural Center

528 Bloom St, Jackson, MS 39202

7:00–9:00 PM

**The Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center** invites AAAM members and guests to an evening of fine artistry, fantastic food, and live entertainment. Visitors will journey through *Memories on Farish Street*, an intimate pictorial history of the once vibrant historically black business and residential district, and enjoy Chef Godfrey Morgan's wonderful creations of jerk shrimp, lobster, and crab dip; a loaded potato bar with Cajun brisket, mushrooms and cheese; sautéed yellow squash and zucchini with peppers and onions; bourbon chicken; an assorted dessert bar; and refreshing beverages.

While the Nellie Mack Project entertains with its popular blend of Blues and R&B, AAAM participants can engage permanent exhibitions on Medgar Evers, the martyred NAACP Mississippi Field Secretary; the infamous 1963 Woolworth's Sit-in in Jackson; and *Field to Factory: The Afro-American Migration, 1915-1940*, originally created by the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Services and Spencer Crew, today the Interim Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

A museum and repository for artifacts and manuscripts that educate and enlighten the public on African American contributions to the City of Jackson, the State of Mississippi and the United States, the Smith Robertson was once the City's first public elementary school for black children, including the likes of famed author Richard Wright.

Generously Supported by:

- African American Military History Museum





# Ben & Jerry's is proud to support the Roots of Revolution Conference



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# EVENING RECEPTIONS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2019

## The Two Mississippi Museums

222 North St #2205, Jackson, MS 39201

7:00-10:00 PM

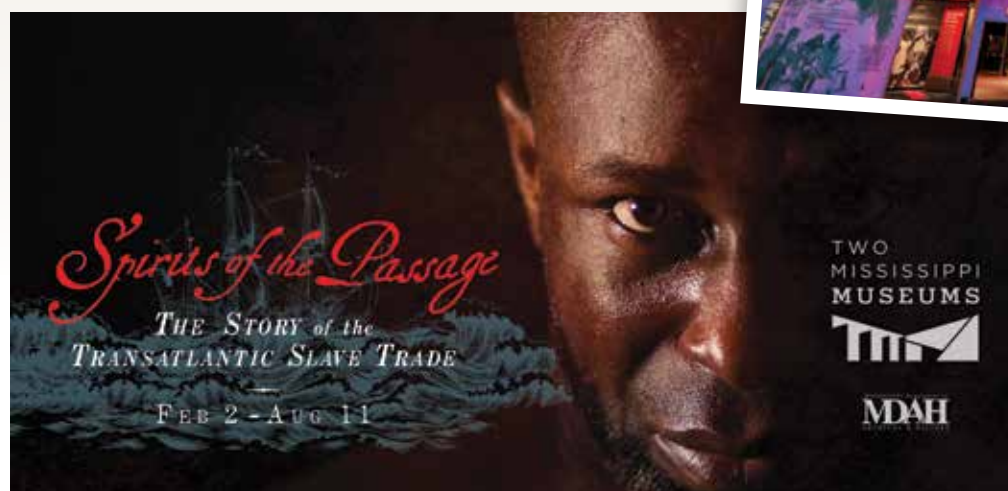
**The Mississippi Civil Rights Museum** and the **Museum of Mississippi History** invite AAAM members, guests, and friends to the culminating event of the 2019 conference.

This special evening will feature a soulful celebration of the African Diaspora through a splendid culinary journey, live performances, African drumming instrumentation, and even a comedic showcase featuring Jackson's own Rita Brent.

Take advantage of your final opportunity to take in the museum's premiere exhibition: *Spirits of the Passage* while enjoying great food, fun, and an unforgettable conference finale.

Generously Supported by:

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# POST-CONFERENCE EVENTS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2019

## Mississippi Delta Blues Tour

7:45 AM–7:00 PM

Fee: \$125/per person (fee includes lunch and snack breaks)

This FULL-DAY excursion features some of Mississippi's most iconic rhythm and blues sites and places of African American memory. All of which have given the state it's soulful sound and flavor. The event is graciously sponsored by the Margaret Walker Center located on the Jackson State University campus in Jackson, Mississippi.

### 7:45 AM

Bus Departs from the Westin + Hilton Hotels

Tour of the Delta Blues Museum

Lunch at The Senator's Place

Travel to Cleveland, MS

Tour of the Grammy Museum

Travel to Indianola, MS

Tour of the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center

Travel to Jackson, MS

### 7:00 PM

Bus Arrival/Drop-Off to the Westin + Hilton Hotels



# POST-CONFERENCE EVENTS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2019

## Mississippi Civil Rights Tour

8:45 AM-6:00 PM

Fee: \$125/per person (fee includes lunch and snack breaks)

This FULL-DAY excursion features some of Mississippi's most iconic sites and places of African American memory from the contemporary Civil Rights era. The event is graciously sponsored by the Margaret Walker Center located on the Jackson State University campus in Jackson, Mississippi.

### 8:45 AM

Bus Departs from the Westin + Hilton Hotels

Tour of the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home

Travel to Money, MS

Tour of the Bryant's Grocery/Emmett Till Mississippi Freedom Trail Marker

Travel to Sumner, MS

Lunch at the Sumner Grille

Tour of the Sumner Courthouse and Emmett Till Interpretive Center

Travel to Ruleville (Parchman Penitentiary)

Tour of the Fannie Lou Hamer Memorial

Travel to Jackson, MS

### 6:00 PM

Bus Arrival/Drop-Off to the Westin + Hilton Hotels



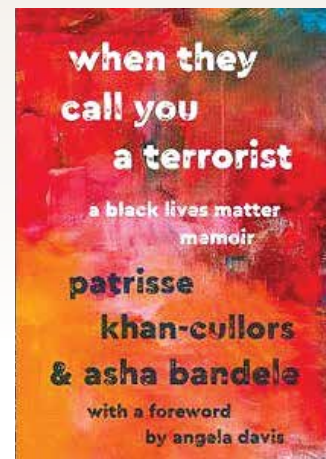
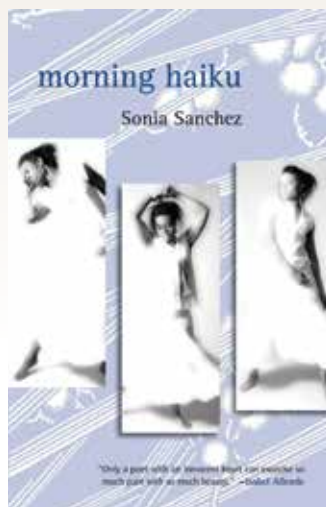
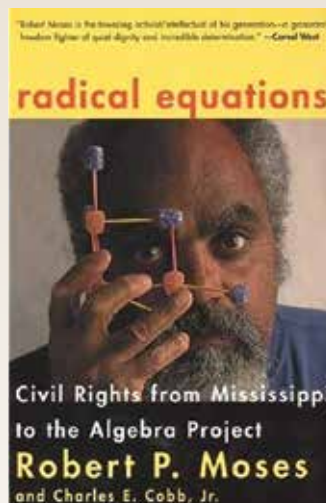
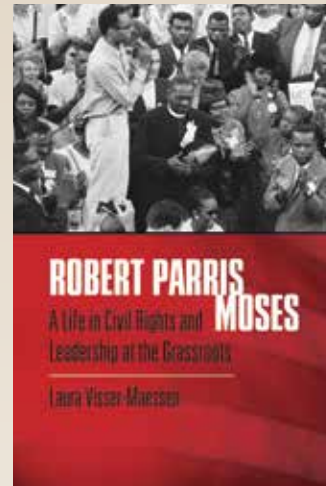


# CLOSING PLENARIES

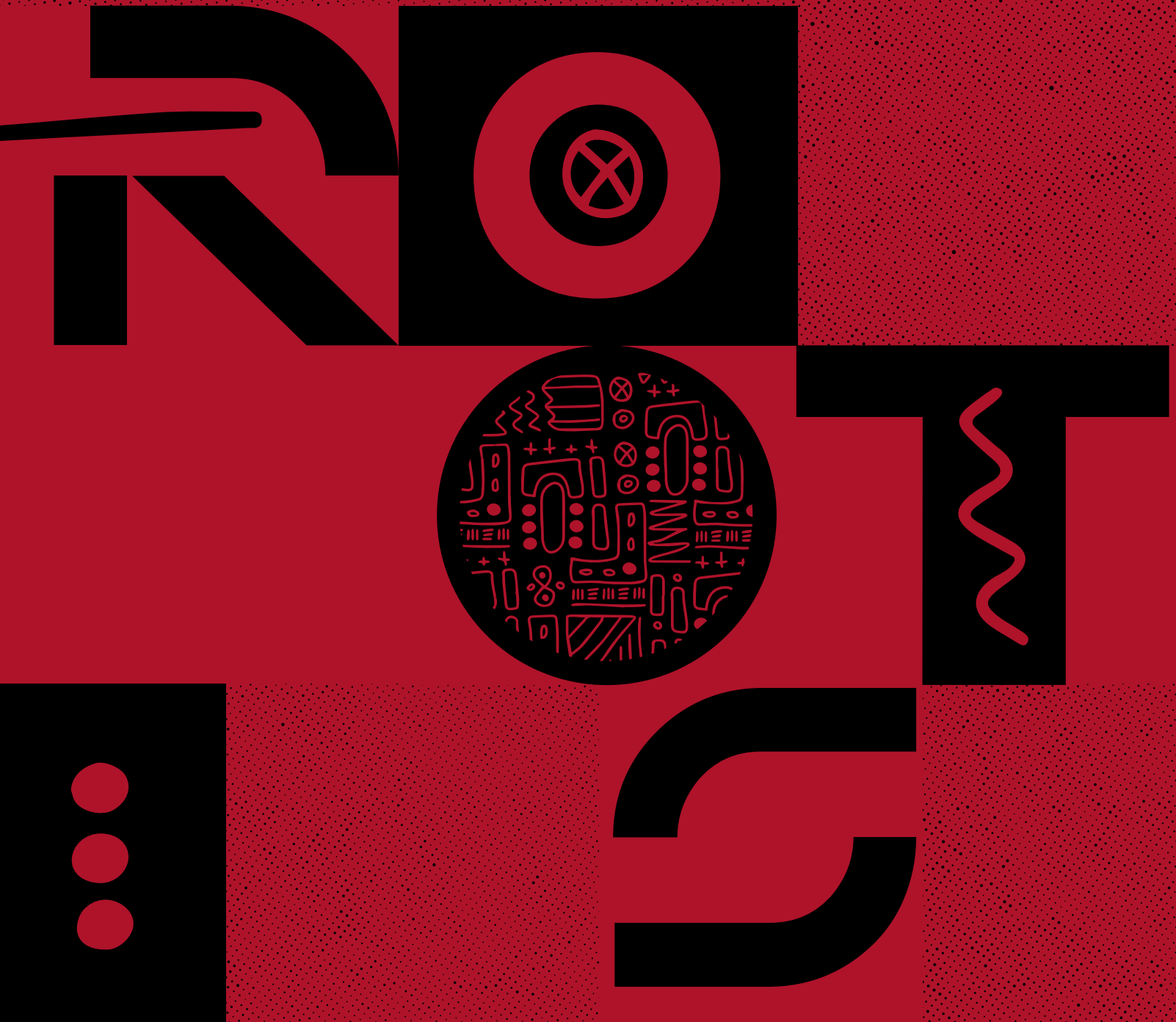
FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2019  
3:45–5:45 PM

The 2019 Activists & Authors Dialogue will feature four critically acclaimed authors: Sonia Sanchez, Charles Cobb, Jr., Robert “Bob” Moses, and Patrisse Cullors-Khan who will briefly share insights from their life’s work and latest publications. The Closing Plenary event will provide conference attendees an exclusive opportunity to engage directly with thought leaders through the wealth of resources their writing provides.

Immediately following the Activists & Authors Dialogue, conference attendees can enjoy the Book Signing event featuring published works from myriad AAAM member institutions.



THURSDAY, AUGUST 8



# CONFERENCE SESSIONS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019

All conference sessions occur at the Westin Hotel unless otherwise noted.

**7:00 AM-8:00AM**

Morning Networking Lounge  
(Coffee Provided)

**7:00 AM-4:00 PM**

Registration Desk OPEN

**8:00 AM-5:00 PM**

Exhibition Hall - OPEN

**8:15-9:45 AM**

## Fundraising Now! - An Introduction to the Art & Science of Development

LOCATION: JACKSON 3

### TRACK 3

Fundraising and development are crucial components of any successful nonprofit cultural institution. Whether an organization is just beginning or is looking to expand its fundraising efforts, this interactive session will help participants better understand development best practices that should be incorporated into an organization's daily operations. Fundraising strategists and former development professionals at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, who helped raise over \$300M for its capital campaign, will help participants discover how to attract additional philanthropic dollars to their organization. Participants will learn how to build a more robust fundraising foundation, inclusive of a dynamic case for support, strategies to engage individuals, corporations and foundations, donor recognition and benefit structures, and much more. Complete with an opportunity to practice pitching their own organization, this skill-building seminar will help demystify fundraising.

**PRESENTERS:** Carla Thomas McGinnis, Anna Barber | Anna Barber & Associates

## Museums as Instruments of Reconciliation








LOCATION: NATCHEZ 1

### TRACK 2

This panel will discuss how the Jefferson County Memorial Project took a multifaceted approach to reclaiming Jefferson County's Memorial from the EJI's National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, and how museums in Birmingham rose to participate in the community-wide reconciliation project. The JCMP includes three local museums, two represented by the panel, to participate in the project through art exhibition, promotion and community discussion, and audience engagement. Ongoing results of the project will be shared and steps moving forward. The panel will invite participants to discuss how their museums or counties could be involved in the work to assist in reclaiming their county's memorials, and how the power of institutions supporting the project can lend to increased participation, acknowledgement, and change in a community.

**PRESENTERS:** John Fields, Curator, AEIVA | Abigail Schneider, Project Director, Jefferson County Memorial Project | Charles Woods III, Education Programs Manager, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute | Brandon Wolfe, Assistant VP of Campus and Community Engagement, University of Alabama Birmingham

### TRACK KEY

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  <b>TRACK 1:</b><br>Audience<br>Diversity      |  <b>TRACK 4:</b><br>Leadership<br>Development     |
|  <b>TRACK 2:</b><br>Collections<br>Stewardship |  <b>TRACK 5:</b><br>Organizational<br>Development |
|  <b>TRACK 3:</b><br>Financial<br>Stewardship   |  <b>TRACK 6:</b><br>Visitor Experience            |
|   |  <b>TRACK 7:</b><br>Advocacy                      |



# THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

## Community and Collaboration at the National Museum of African American Music

LOCATION: NATCHEZ 2

### TRACK 1

Staff members at the National Museum of African American Music (NMAAM), will give presentations on various aspects of the complicated and sometimes tense relationships between NMAAM, Nashville's black community, and outside entities such as exhibit designers. Topics covered will include cultural competency and the portrayal of black music history; community and public engagement; and the implications of NMAAM's geographic location within the city of Nashville.

**PRESENTERS:** Dina Bennett, Curatorial Director, National Museum of African American Music | Steven Lewis, Curator, National Museum of African American Music | Tamar Smithers, Director of Education & Public Programs, National Museum of African American Music



JOIN THE CONVERSATION  
**#AAAM2019**



## Tragedy & Tourism: Reconciling & Renaissance

LOCATION: OXFORD

### TRACK 6

Struggles for liberation, civil rights, justice, and peace —can we use the memories of these events to improve our world today and create a better tomorrow?” These are the questions of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience. From the Heidelberg Project in Detroit, Michigan, to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, Canada and to the Lumpkin's Jail Site in Richmond Virginia; these sites and organizations ask us to remember, to engage, to learn and to move forward in a more thoughtful way. Not only can these organizations serve an activist or advocacy role, they are often tourist attractions benefiting the communities in which they operate and serve. They provide employment and volunteer opportunities, and contribute to the economies of their respective areas. This session will focus on how places of memory become places of action in our community that bring people together to talk about the past to make a more just future. By bringing people together, these places organically spur economic development; the conversations held there make our communities better.

**PRESENTERS:** Joy Bailey-Bryant, Vice President, Lord Cultural Resources | Dr. Karine Duhamel, Curator, Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Canadian Museum for Human Rights | Jenenne Whitfield, Chief Executive Officer, The Heidelberg Project | Del. Delores McQuinn, Delegate, Virginia House of Delegates, Slave Trail Commission



# CONFERENCE SESSIONS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019

10:00–11:30 AM

## Building Communities of Practice for Just Histories: Reflections from NMAAHC Interpretation Fellows

LOCATION: JACKSON 3

### TRACK 1

This session will explore some of the interpretive concepts and methodologies taught in the Smithsonian's Interpreting African American History and Culture workshop, a five-year pilot program of NMAAHC's Office of Strategic Partnerships. Project collaborators and workshop alum will provide insight into how the program has evolved over time as well as discuss the developing community of practice that has emerged as a direct result of this professional development opportunity. Working in small groups, AAAM members from the 2019 cohort will lead conference attendees through a handful of micro learning activities to model techniques utilized to interpret sensitive subjects in provocative and engaging ways. Topics addressed will range from commemorative museum pedagogy, the importance of language, engaging diverse audiences and building supportive alliances among peers.

**PRESENTERS:** Jennifer Zazo-Brown Museum Program Specialist, National Museum of African American History & Culture (NMAAHC) | Izetta Autumn Mobley, Museum Aide/Educator, Office of Historic Alexandria and Founder of the Site Unseen | Christopher Miller, Director of Community Engagement, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center | Ryan Jones, Museum Educator, National Civil Rights Museum | Shawn Halifax, Cultural History Interpretation Coordinator, Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission | Shelby D. Henderson, Museum Director, Bertha Lee Strickland Cultural Museum | Alex Unthank, Education Associate, Lewis Latimer House Museum

## CEO Roundtable 2.0

LOCATION: NATCHEZ 1

### TRACK 7

Calling all Chief Executive Officers. Join us at the 30,000-foot view as this group of Executive Museum Leaders dive into the complex issues facing CEOs and how this collective group can serve a meaningful purpose that strengthens the collective impact of the Black Museums field. Your participation is essential because we are stronger together. Hear from museum leaders that will start the conversation around perspectives on strategy, leveraging governing Board and Trustee members, the power of advocacy, collaboration, and joint funding opportunities. Let's hear about challenges you face in your daily work, and come together to identify solutions. Taking the reference from the evolution of the web, CEO Roundtable 2.0 moves away from mere passive observers and jump into action, operating on the premise of interaction, collaboration, participatory and usability.

**PRESENTERS:** Terri Freeman, President/CEO, National Civil Rights Museum | Jon Parrish Peede, Chairman, National Endowment for Humanities | William Harris, President/CEO, Space Center Houston

### TRACK KEY



#### TRACK 1:

Audience  
Diversity



#### TRACK 2:

Collections  
Stewardship



#### TRACK 3:

Financial  
Stewardship



#### TRACK 4:

Leadership  
Development



#### TRACK 5:

Organizational  
Development



#### TRACK 6:

Visitor Experience



#### TRACK 7:

Advocacy

# THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

## Inconceivable! Conquering Inventory in Three Phases

LOCATION: NATCHEZ 2

### TRACK 2

To preserve and protect our shared past, we must promote the care of our artifacts. If faced with planning and executing a complete inventory of collections, where is the best place to start? In this session, learn about the process behind the 2018 inventory at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, which houses and maintains the artifacts for the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. Over 20,000 objects were inventoried in just four months, with minimal mishap. Three participants (at three stages in their careers) discuss their roles in executing a successful project including planning, implementation, and aftermath. Hear the hiccups, talk about takeaways, and solidify survival during a full inventory.

**PRESENTERS:** Meg Cook, Director of Archaeology Collections, Mississippi Department of Archives and History | Devin Cady, Independent Consultant/Contractor | Kathleen Barnett, Director of Collections Management and Registration, Mississippi Museum of Art

## Casop: A Requiem for Rice

LOCATION: OXFORD

### TRACK 3

An original classical music score and production that premiered in February 2018 that has tremendous applications for museum programs, fundraisers, etc. The Casop: A Requiem for Rice is a collaboration of an award winning scholar, composer, and the Colour of Music Festival Orchestra. The production, called, "Unburied, Unmourned, and Unmarked" is a tribute to those Africans who were enslaved, exploited, and brutalized on Low Country South Carolina and Georgia rice plantations. Panelists will talk about how to use the production in a programmatic manner for cultural programming, fundraising, collecting, and education.

**PRESENTERS:** Samuel Black, Director, African American Programs, Senator John Heinz History Center | Dr. Edda L. Fields-Black, Associate Professor, Carnegie Mellon University | Lee Pringle, Founder and Artistic Director, Colour of Music Festival

2:00–3:15 PM

## gOD-Talk: A Black Millennial and Faith Conversation Series

LOCATION: JACKSON 3

### TRACK 1

Black millennials are finding and creating new spaces to have different kinds of conversations that are not offered in traditional religious contexts. To better understand the decline of millennial participation in organize religion, the National Museum of African American History and Culture's Center for the Study of African American Religious Life in association with the Pew Research Center launched an innovative, digitally responsive program entitled, "gOD-Talk: A Black Millennials and Faith Conversation Series." This multi-city (Los Angeles, CA, Atlanta, GA, Virginia Beach, VA, Chicago, IL, Dallas, TX, Baltimore, MD, and New York, NY) conversation series seeks to amplify Black millennial voices by creating a space for their experiences to be shared and documented. Through this session, attendees will get an exclusive first look at the documentary being produced in conjunction with this program, learn from the creators on how museums and museum professionals can develop multi-city public programs and partnerships, and learn how this program is leading to more creative ways of engaging Millennials and Generation Z audiences for the work of museums and cultural institutions.

**PRESENTERS:** Rev. Teddy Reeves, Museum Specialist of Religion, National Museum of African American History and Culture | Kim Moir, Public Program Producer, National Museum of African American History and Culture





# CONFERENCE SESSIONS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019

## The Presence of the Past; the Power of Collaborative Archaeology

LOCATION: NATCHEZ 1

### TRACK 2

This session highlights projects that tackle future-facing issues in open access African diaspora scholarship and collaborative practice in Barbados, in Senegal and in South Carolina. The three case studies employ public archaeology and community heritage work to make “deep” histories more visible and accessible to descendant communities. All three cases also explore how technologies can extend institutions’ capacities to make preservation, collections and programs more accessible to immediate and digital communities.

**PRESENTERS:** Deborah L. Mack, Associate Director Strategic Partnerships, National Museum of African American History and Culture | Kevin Farmer, Deputy Director, Barbados Museum and Historical Society | Katherine Seeber, PhD Candidate, Anthropology Dept., Binghamton University | Aicha Kamite, PhD Candidate, Archaeology Dept., Cheikh Ante Diop University

## Challenging the Mississippi Narrative: The re-education of Mississippi’s History

LOCATION: NATCHEZ 2

### TRACK 1

Who are we? Why are we here? How did we get here? These are various questions that history and museums help to answer. However, half-truths and falsehoods have often evolved into historical fact. This has been very evident in Mississippi’s narrative of itself, especially in the topics of slavery, Reconstruction, and the Civil Rights Movement. Yet, since the opening of the Mississippi Civil Rights museum in 2017, the museum and its staff have been challenging the conventional narrative of Mississippi with the use of various artifacts and educational material. In this session, Mississippi Civil Rights Museum staff will show and discuss how

we work to re-educate and enlighten the museum visitor from afar and native to the state on the topics of slavery, reconstruction, and the modern Civil Rights Movement.

**PRESENTERS:** John Spann, Curator of Education, Mississippi Civil Rights Museum | Tony Schandelbach, Outreach Coordinator, Museum of Mississippi History

## Seeking Oasis: Documenting Jim Crow Era Travel in North Carolina

LOCATION: OXFORD

### TRACK 6

‘Green Books’ ‘Oasis Spaces’: African American Travel in North Carolina, 1936-1966 is a 2.5 year project of the NC African American Heritage Commission funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This project seeks to understand how African Americans from NC navigated travel during the Jim Crow era through the lens of the Negro Motorist Guide (colloquially known as the Green Book). Ultimately, the project will result in three deliverables: two-identical traveling exhibitions; an interactive web portal; and public programs that will occur across the state. However... how do you get to this point? This panel will seek to connect audiences to gritty, on-the-groundwork of executing a major grant project. What does it look like for a small government organization with a big name to manage a major federal grant project? What creative strategies does a small team use to gather relevant content? How does this team engage African American community to gather information, stories and objects? How does this all-African American team build relationships with—and respect the memories and boundaries of—black communities that they are not a part of? How do we stay true to the project mission... especially when pop culture, flashy, traditional narratives and other factors tell us to head another direction? Three members of the NC Green Book Project team will share their diverse experiences and perspectives to respond to these questions.

**PRESENTERS:** Angela Thorpe, Acting Director, NC African American Heritage Commission | Lisa Withers, Green Book Project Research Historian, NC African American Heritage Commission | Natalie Rodriguez, Green Book Project Field Intern

3:45–5:00 PM

## Uncle Remus to Gucci: The Continuing Legacy of Jim Crow

LOCATION: JACKSON 3

TRACK 6

This session will show museum professionals how to connect the past to the present for youth that are disengaged while touring museums. The session leader will break attendees into groups to brainstorm ideas on facilitating engagement of young disengaged visitors. Specifically, it will address bringing legacy of the Jim Crow era into perspective using modern day social justice occurrences such as lynching's, media portrayal of brown bodies in advertisements and reporting, and mass incarceration.

**PRESENTERS:** Lance Edward James Wheeler, Curator of Exhibitions, Mississippi Civil Rights Museum

## Rapid-fire Genealogy: A Deeply Personal Visitor Experience in 35 Minutes

LOCATION: NATCHEZ 1

TRACK 1

This session will discuss how the Robert F. Smith Explore Your Family History Center engages with visitors on a personal level, how their experiences in the center augment their overall museum experience, and how genealogy serves as a great entry point into the study and preservation of African American history and culture. The recent commercialization of genealogy has generated a new interest in discovering your roots, but this process presents unique challenges for African Americans. The Transatlantic and Domestic slave trades and Jim Crow have separated families and disrupted lineages, making it difficult for many African Americans to trace their family history. The Family History Center (FHC) is a space where visitors can confront this history while learning to research their roots. Visitors take part in genealogy research sessions, attend

genealogy-specific public programs, and receive tips on how to preserve family heirlooms and photographs. FHC staff conducts six to seven daily research sessions, seven days a week. Sessions are tailored to those who are new to the research process and those who have started their search but are having difficulty getting past a certain point. These sessions cover the basic principles of genealogy research and focus on getting attendees back to the 1870 census by using the three primary genealogy databases: Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, and Fold3.com. A significant percentage of our visitors also conduct research in the Caribbean, South America, Africa, Europe and Asia. The FHC has helped 22,000 visitors begin and continue their family history journey. In just 35 minutes, staff is able to instruct visitors on how to conduct genealogy research; foster a desire to explore family history; and connect with visitors on a truly personal level. Staff has cultivated a space where visitors feel safe to respond emotionally to certain discoveries and to share their family's triumphs and trials. There are few places where visitors can learn about the Great Migration and later discover records that show their ancestors participating in that migration. Simply put, conducting genealogy research at NMAAHC puts family histories in context and establishes a perennial, personal connection to the Museum itself.

**PRESENTERS:** Kamilah Stinnett, Genealogy Reference Assistant, National Museum of African American History and Culture | Hannah Scruggs, Genealogy Reference Assistant, National Museum of African American History and Culture | Lisa Crawley, Genealogy Reference Assistant, National Museum of African American History and Culture

# CONFERENCE SESSIONS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019

## Creating Rapid Response Exhibits: Connecting National Current Issues to your Community's Context

LOCATION: NATCHEZ 1

### TRACK 6

In June of 2018, Paola Mendoza and Kisha Bari collaborated to produce a photo shoot in response to the family separation crisis at the U.S.-Mexican border. The images center on protesting children, ages 3-10, holding signs declaring, "I AM A CHILD." Mendoza and Bari were paying homage to the Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike of 1968, when strikers marched carrying "I AM A MAN" signs. Both phrases demand recognition of the human rights of all people, no matter their age, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or immigration status. When the images went viral on social media, the National Civil Rights Museum reached out to Mendoza via Twitter to collaborate on a rapid response exhibit. We planned, produced, and installed this exhibit within one month of the original project launch. With this presentation, we hope to inspire other museum professionals and/or educators to bring issues of social justice into their institutions in an interactive and accessible way.

**PRESENTERS:** Danielle Smith, Program Assistant, National Civil Rights Museum | Dory Lerner, Museum Educator, National Civil Rights Museum | Daniel Quinn Argall, Exhibits Preparer, National Civil Rights Museum"



## River Road African Burial Grounds Saved

LOCATION: NATCHEZ 2

### TRACK 2

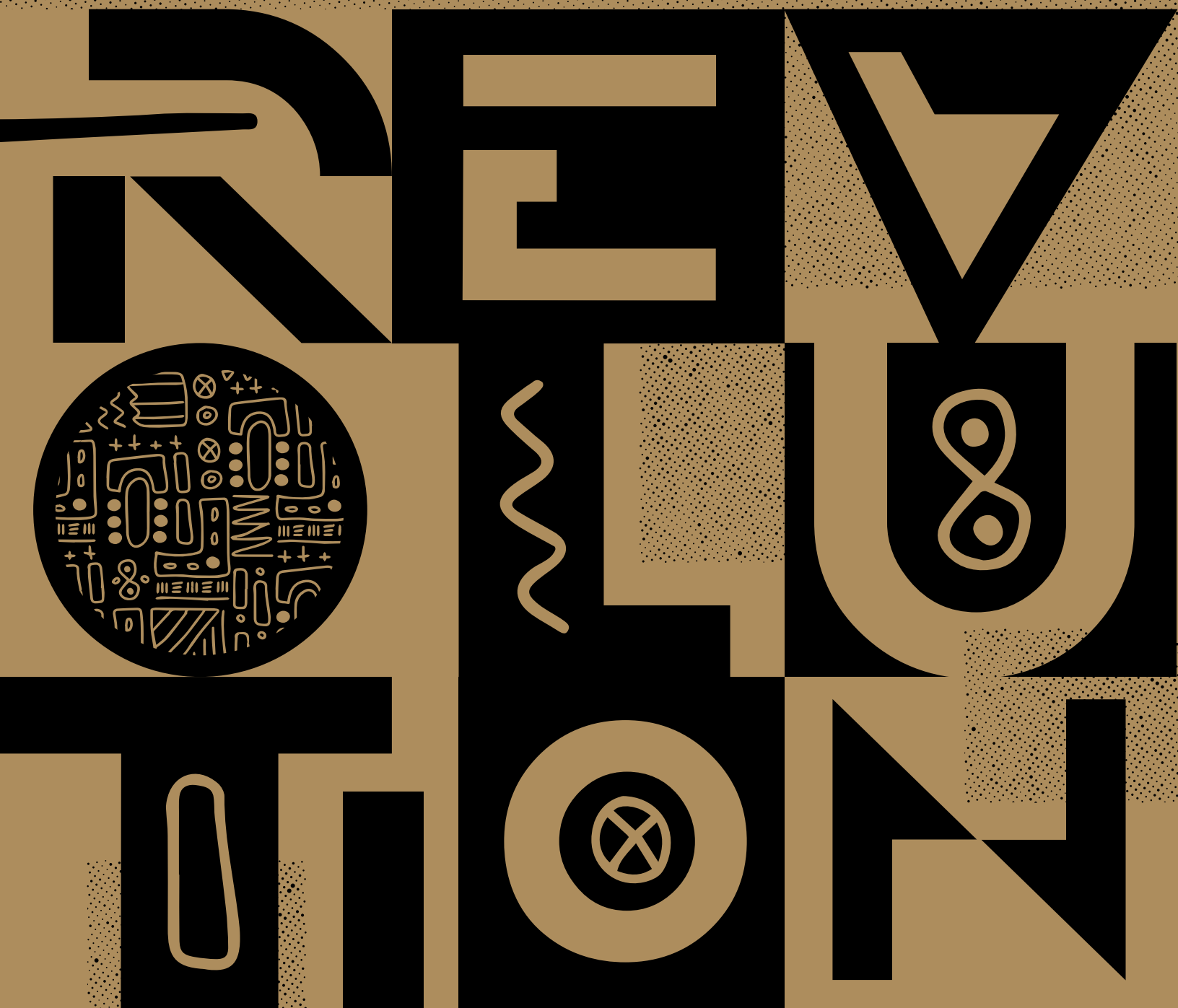
Many of our museum colleagues know about the African Burial Grounds in Manhattan and Freedmen's Cemetery in Dallas. However, there are only a few who know about the involvement of the River Road African American Museum (The RRAAM) and its efforts to preserve two plantation cemeteries on property owned by Shell Oil. This session is proposed as a panel discussion following the screening of a video, documenting the museum's success in saving the cemeteries. Shell commissioned an archeological and genealogical study, which determined that over one thousand enslaved people were interred in the Brusle and Monroe Cemeteries. After five years, the Museum and the River Road African Burial Grounds Coalition were able to get Shell to protect the cemeteries. A 28-minute film was created, featuring interviews with the founder/former director of The RRAAM, museum board members, corporate executives and members of the descendant community. Museum professionals at AAAM may be involved in cemetery preservation, commemoration and interpretation. Residential and industrial development is encroaching on these sacred spaces and they are literally popping up everywhere. It is our responsibility, where possible, to help preserve, document, interpret and create programs related to these cemeteries in our communities. Q & A will follow the screening.

**PRESENTERS:** Darryl Hambrick, Interim Director, River Road African American Museum | Todd Sterling, Kathe Hambrick, Founder, River Road African American Museum





FRIDAY, AUGUST 9



# CONFERENCE SESSIONS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2019

All conference sessions occur at the Westin Hotel unless otherwise noted.

**7:00 AM-8:00AM**

Morning Networking Lounge  
(Coffee Provided)

**7:00 AM-4:00 PM**

Registration Desk OPEN

**8:00 AM-5:00 PM**

Exhibition Hall - OPEN

**8:15-9:45 AM**

## Tapping into #BlackTwitter: Creative Cultural Communications Tips and Strategies

LOCATION: JACKSON 3

TRACK 1

With the rapid proliferation of digital media tools at our fingertips, it is easier than ever before to reach, engage and develop new museum audiences in communities and all over the world. Thanks to #BlackTwitter and other forms of social media, topics related to African-American culture consistently trend online, spreading worldwide and diminishing the role of mainstream media gatekeepers controlling critical media coverage that was once difficult to secure. Join this AAAM pop-up workshop to learn about current cultural media trends and best practices from institutions across the cultural sector. We'll discuss communications challenges facing African-American cultural institutions and walk away with tips that help you and your team communicate more effectively utilizing creative strategies and free digital tools.

**PRESENTER:** Ayofemi Kirby, Account Director, Sutton-Cultural Communications Company

## Heritage Education Arts Legacy: Exhibiting & Teaching HEAL365© in Our Virgin Islands Caribbean

LOCATION: NATCHEZ 1

TRACK 6

Heritage Education Arts Legacy: Exhibiting & Teaching HEAL365© in Our Virgin Islands Caribbean examines strategic techniques used for exhibitions, public education programs and community engagement focused on culture, heritage and identity via creative cultural technologies on revolutionary historic narratives of the Virgin Islands Caribbean. Resources to design, plan, implement and maintain cultural heritage education programs, collections and interpretive exhibitions enhancing visitors' experiences by the Virgin Islands Caribbean Cultural Center at the University of the Virgin Islands to be explicated. Innovative HEAL365© best practices used with the U.S. National Park Service partnering with the Slave Wrecks Project© led by Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture and George Washington University and others are explored. Successes and challenges with VI-Denmark In Search of Identity© Project and transcultural thematic exchanges on reconciliation, reparatory justice, restorative ancestral sovereignty, decolonization and humanitarian solutions to heal trauma via HEAL365© will be shared.

**PRESENTERS:** Dr. Chenzira Davis Kahina, Director, Virgin Islands Caribbean Cultural Center, University of the Virgin Islands

## Lift, Red Clay and Eyes Watching

LOCATION: NATCHEZ 2

### TRACK 6

The Harlem Renaissance or “New Negro Movement” represented an artistic cultural revolution that had significant global impact. The African American Research Library and Cultural Center (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and the Center for Digital Humanities of the College of Humanities, University of Arizona (Tucson) have collaborated and created the Virtual Reality Harlem Renaissance travelling exhibit. The joint digital humanities project offers virtual reality medium, which allows viewers to reach back and encounter a significant American historical era within specific Harlem experiential vignettes. Emphasis is placed on Floridian artists such as Zora Neale Hurston (literature), Augusta Savage (art), and James Weldon Johnson (music).

**PRESENTERS:** Ramona La Roche, Ph.D., Librarian, African American Research Library and Cultural Center

## Reaching Back and Pushing Forward: Learned Practices from Howard University’s Public History Program








LOCATION: OXFORD

### TRACK 4

Through Dr. Elizabeth Clark-Lewis’s tutelage, Howard University’s Public History Program is known for preparing students for careers in the museum field, archives and government. During this panel discussion, several of the program’s former and current students will discuss their road to success from their time at Howard to their present-day roles in positions throughout the country. Panelists will also discuss how they mentor the next generation through internships, volunteerism and activism in their respective demographic areas. Panelists will also discuss why mentorship was important in their careers.

**PRESENTERS:** Vedet Coleman-Robinson, Executive Director, Association of African American Museums | Ashley Jordan, Ph.D., Executive Director, Evansville African American Museum | Dennis A. Doster, Ph.D., Program Manager, Maryland National Capital Parks & Planning Commission | Eola Dance, Program Specialist, Regional Cultural Anthropology Program, NPS | Dr. Joy Kinard, Superintendent, Colonel Charles Young Home, NPS | Dr. Noelle Trent, Director of Interpretation, Collections, and Education, National Civil Rights Museum | Dr. Kenvi Phillips, Curator for Race and Ethnicity, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Harvard University | Dr. Lopez Matthews, Digital Production Librarian Howard University Libraries and the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (Attending Virtually)

### TRACK KEY

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  <b>TRACK 1:</b><br>Audience<br>Diversity      |  <b>TRACK 4:</b><br>Leadership<br>Development     |
|  <b>TRACK 2:</b><br>Collections<br>Stewardship |  <b>TRACK 5:</b><br>Organizational<br>Development |
|  <b>TRACK 3:</b><br>Financial<br>Stewardship   |  <b>TRACK 6:</b><br>Visitor Experience            |
|   |  <b>TRACK 7:</b><br>Advocacy                      |



# CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Friday, August 9, 2019

10:00–11:30 AM

## Training the Next Generation of Professionals: Robert Frederick Smith Internships

LOCATION: JACKSON 3

### TRACK 5

Current Robert Frederick Smith (RFS) Interns supported by the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture will present on their professional experiences working to preserve African American history and culture at seven different institutions in Washington DC, Maine, Illinois, New York, Florida, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. The session will open with a brief overview of the program structure and purpose delivered by the program administrator, followed by the intern panel. The RFS Internship Program seeks to build pathways for historically underrepresented individuals to grow successful careers in the cultural sector by providing well-paid, guided learning experiences. Attendees can expect to leave the session inspired and encouraged about the future leaders of the cultural sector.

**PRESENTERS:** Anjali Lalani, Smith Fund Interns and Fellows Program Administrator, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture | JoCara Moore, Robert F. Smith Intern, Oral History and Digitization; Stagville State Historic Site | Samantha Scott, Robert F. Smith Intern, Archive, Apollo Theater | Maurice Hendricks, Robert F. Smith Intern, Oral History Transcription, Bethune-Cookman University | Tanya Calvin/ Robert F. Smith Intern, Oral History and Digitization; Chicago History Museum | Iris Afantchao position: Robert F. Smith Intern, Digital Processing, Company: Senator John Heinz History Center | Clarissa West - White, Robert F. Smith Intern, Oral History Transcription Bethune -Cookman University | Martina Tsibu - Gayan, Robert F. Smith Intern, Transcription and Metadata, Company: Maine Historical Society | Adia Cullors, Robert F. Smith Intern, Digitization, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture

## Things I Didn't Learn at Hillman College: Lessons Learned from First-Time Executive Directors

LOCATION: NATCHEZ 1

### TRACK 4

This panel discussion will feature first-time executive directors of museums from across the country sharing what they have learned, what they would do different, and how they are shaping their tenure as executive director of their institutions. Particular focus will be on applying good leadership across the institution, motivating staff, and finding balance as the face of their institution.

**PRESENTERS:** Christina Shutt, Executive Director, Mosaic Templars Cultural Center | LaNesha DeBardelaben, Executive Director, Northwest African American Museum | Ahmad Ward, Executive Director, Historic Mitchellville Freedom Park | Timothy Barber, Executive Director, Black Archives History & Research Foundation of South Florida



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## Partnering for Greater Impact: Tools, Skills, and Resources

LOCATION: NATCHEZ 2

### TRACK 7

How do museums leverage their stories, collections, and people—in concert with partners—to make a greater community impact? When and why should a museum join forces with a prospective partner? When should the museum back away from partnership offers? How can partnerships contribute to the financial sustainability of a museum? What are the skills needed to craft and maintain successful partnerships? The session will explore the role of partnerships and collaborations, especially those oriented towards building greater community engagement, relevance to current community issues, and enhanced historical awareness, in situating museums effectively within the larger community learning and social service ecosystem. Inspired by case studies and ‘partnership perspectives’ in the recent book, *Partnership Power: Essential Museum Strategies for Today’s Networked World* by Marsha Semmel—as well as the extensive experience of the panelists—this skill-building session will feature brief remarks from Semmel (author, consultant and former director of IMLS). The goal is to provide tools and resources that will enable session participants to move forward successfully in their potential or current museum-community partnerships. After brief introductory remarks, the majority of the session will be devoted to inviting all session participants to explore, with each other and with presenters, specific partnership opportunities and challenges that they are encountering or contemplating.

**PRESENTERS:** Marsha L. Semmel, Principal, Marsha Semmel Consulting | Brian J. Carter, Board President, Association of African American Museums, Exec. Director, 4Culture | Audrey P. Davis, Director, Alexandria Black History Museum | Auntaneshia Staveloz, Supervisory Program Manager, Office of Strategic Partnerships, National Museum of African American History and Culture

## Bridge Between Star Shine & Clay: Self-Care Praxis for Radical Interpretation

LOCATION: OXFORD

### TRACK 5

In her 1993 poem, “won’t you celebrate with me,” poet Lucille Clifton reveled in the power of survival and of building one’s way while serving as a bridge, “between star shine and clay.” Clifton’s observations in her poem serve as a powerful metaphor for the work of museum professionals who create to interpret submerged and marginalized narratives, histories, and curatorial approaches. Yet, what is the toll of bridge building? What skills does one need to foster in order to successfully do cultural work or radical interpretation in the twenty-first century? What does it mean to have an ethic of care, particularly for the self, when forging forward toward new approaches? Using the poetry of Lucille Clifton, this skill building workshop-style session explores how to develop effective self-care strategies, offers ways to support front-line staff, and considers how to effectively sustain networks of affirmation and care. This interactive and dialogue driven session utilizes experiential learning techniques to equip participants with tools to enable their effective work in the field. Note: This workshop-style session melds two formats, the skill-building format and structured conversation format.

**PRESENTERS:** Izetta Autumn Mobley, Museum Educator and Cultural Historian, Office of Historic Alexandria

# CONFERENCE SESSIONS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2019

2:00–3:15 PM

## Family Learning in Black Museums and Cultural Attractions: Exploring Visitor Experience via Research & Practice

LOCATION: OXFORD

### TRACK 6

Black museums can inform families' cultural identity and their knowledge of historical contributions. Little is known, however, about how Black museums provide a space for families to engage their children around Black history and culture. The aims of this session are to 1) introduce strategies for research and practice regarding family programming and 2) learn from existing family engagement programs that have been implemented in Black museums. This session will include three panel discussants with experience in family learning in the context of museums. Shana Rochester, an educational psychologist with expertise in Black family engagement, will discuss what we know (and do not know) about how families learn in Black museums, summarizing the benefits and challenges museums face when implementing family programming. Ahmad Ward will discuss the family programs implemented at two Museums: the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park. Jeff Hayward, an audience researcher for museums, will discuss research methods that are used to study and gain insights about family learning in museums.

**PRESENTERS:** Shana E. Rochester, Postdoctoral Associate, Boston University | Ahmad T. Ward, Executive Director, Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park | Jeff Hayward, Director: People, Places & Design Research

## Ellen Garrison, Mary Anderson & Edmonia Highgate: African Womanists/Black Feminists: Rootedness of Revolution

LOCATION: NATCHEZ 1

### TRACK 6

This session not only presents historical examples of women's voices, but we engage the audience in sharing their narratives as we ask critical questions about our social contract in America. In the tradition of history museums being a critical purveyor of facts, this structured conversation focuses on audience participation in answering three questions about truth telling, through the example of three lesser known historical figures. Have black women's voices been censored historically? Why, why not? What might these earliest lesser known voices tell us about our struggle to define ourselves as African Womanists or Black Feminists? Would there be a contemporary revolution without the rootedness of their voices demonstrating relentless courage for us today? On January 19, 2019, women marched again across the nation, but the march reveals centuries of animosity and mistrust across constituent groups. Can the "Ellens, Edmonias and Marys" of the world help us define our inner strength independent of a national dominant cultural identity? What roles do identity, humility, and obscurity tell us about our inner strength? What do these stories tell us about the power of historical African American sites and museums ability to inspire millions of people by telling these truths? How are/can we achieve our greatest voice through these venues.

**PRESENTERS:** Maria Madison, Founder & Co-President The Robbins House, Dr. Iris Barnes, Curator, Lillie Carroll Jackson Civil Rights Museum, Morgan State University | Nikki Turpin, Teacher/ Board member, The Robbin House Inc.



## The Preacher-The Poet-The Vision

LOCATION: NATCHEZ 2

### TRACK 2

A specially designed exhibit to celebrate and commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through the literary voice of poet, Paul Laurence Dunbar. A group of local artists lifted their visual voices to create works of art inspired by the writings of Dayton poet laureate, Paul Laurence Dunbar, which speaks to some of the same concerns of injustice, inequality, civil liberty, poverty, and peace, that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. lived and died. This project is the result of collaboration between Shango: Center for the Study of African American Art and Culture, EbonNia Gallery and the Victoria Theatre Association of Dayton, Ohio. The project highlights the work of emerging African American visual artists in the Dayton Miami Valley region. The goal is to use creative and artistic expression to stimulate new ways to examine the life and work of two historic icons in African American history.

**PRESENTERS:** Willis Bing Davis, founder & Director, Shango: Center for the Study of African American Art and Culture

## Cuttin' Cane Ain't All We Do








LOCATION: OXFORD

### TRACK 1

The West Baton Rouge Museum (WBR Museum) is located in the small river town of Port Allen, the smallest geographic parish in Louisiana. The museum is an educational resource committed to researching, collecting, preserving and presenting artifacts, documents, art objects, and the like that reflect the history and cultural heritage of West Baton Rouge Parish and the surrounding areas for the benefit of the general public and future generations. The fifty-year old museum holds a vast collection that represents the people whose stories are rich in sugar plantation culture. One of the challenges in interpreting the history of sugar production in a rural community is that the pain of slavery and segregation is still close in the memory of the descendants. Another challenge is finding ways to incorporate technology into the historic buildings: a 1850s era enslaved person's cabin, two-tenant worker's houses and a repurposed building used a juke joint. The staff meets these challenges by using technology to extend the institutions ability to make collections and programs more accessible. A grant from the National Park Service to add video to the interpretation helps to bring the exhibits and programs into the digital age. The museum uses its website and social media to provide resources for further research on themes presented at the museum. The staff engages the services of scholars from local universities and members of the community to participate and inform the process.

**PRESENTERS:** Kathe Hambrick, Director of Interpretation, WBR Museum | Angelique Bergeron, Executive Director, WBR Museum | Jeannie Luckett, Director of Programming, WBR Museum

### TRACK KEY

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  <b>TRACK 1:</b><br>Audience<br>Diversity      |  <b>TRACK 4:</b><br>Leadership<br>Development     |
|  <b>TRACK 2:</b><br>Collections<br>Stewardship |  <b>TRACK 5:</b><br>Organizational<br>Development |
|  <b>TRACK 3:</b><br>Financial<br>Stewardship   |  <b>TRACK 6:</b><br>Visitor Experience            |
|   |  <b>TRACK 7:</b><br>Advocacy                      |

# CONFERENCE SESSIONS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2019

3:45–5:00 PM

## Pushing Your Museum Forward on the Continuum of Excellence

LOCATION: NATCHEZ 1

### TRACK 5

This session is an introduction to assessment programs available to small museums and will provide examples of how they are being used to stimulate positive change. By providing a structure for identifying, discussing, and prioritizing opportunities for improvement, assessment programs help small museums move board, staff, and volunteers in the same direction toward a set of common goals, track progress, and articulate success that builds community support and increases credibility. We will begin with an overview of the Continuum of Excellence, a pathway of standards-based assessment and recognition programs—MAP, CAP, and StEPs—administered by AAM, AIC, and AASLH. Panelists, each of whose institutions are participating in StEPs (Standards and Excellence for History Organizations) groups with AASLH, will discuss how this self-paced assessment program is helping them to work incrementally toward meeting national museum standards. Panelists also will discuss how their museum's involvement in a group of similar institutions working through an assessment together has focused institutional advancement, professional networking, and shared learning.

**PRESENTERS:** John Dichtl, PhD, President & CEO, American Association for State and Local History, Ashley Jordan, PhD, Executive Director, Evansville African American Museum | Maisa L. Tisdale, President/CEO, Mary & Eliza Freeman Center for History and Community | Lois Conley, Founder & Executive Director, Griot Museum of Black History

## Reconstruction to Revolution: The Roots and Fruits of the Civil Rights Movement

LOCATION: JACKSON 3

### TRACK 5

The Alabama African American Civil Rights Heritage Sites Consortium is a collaboration of 20 historic civil rights sites in Montgomery, Birmingham, Selma and the Black Belt. Managed by the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI), the Consortium ([www.bcricri.org/consortium](http://www.bcricri.org/consortium)) was launched in 2017 when BCRI's nomination resulted in the sites being included in the 2018 World Monuments Fund Watch ([www.wmf.org/watch](http://www.wmf.org/watch)). This session will challenge the prevailing narrative of popular culture that focuses on the narrow time frame of the 1950s and 1960s and elevates few "heroic" individuals. This limited narrative has created a "myth" of the movement that ignores or discounts the remarkable self-reliance that created these institutions in the face of overwhelming racial oppression and violence during reconstruction and the early 20th century. These sites were centers for education, business development and social welfare for African Americans. These individuals and institutions laid the foundation for the major civil rights campaign that resulted in passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This session will examine the Consortium's work to increase the capacity of these historic sites to preserve the physical structures and document the stories of the people and communities who created them. By expanding the popular narrative, the Consortium seeks to utilize the legacy of these sites to instruct, inspire and empower a new generation of citizens to order to renew and redevelop African-American communities through self-reliance and collaboration.

**PRESENTERS:** Priscilla Hancock Cooper, Project Director, Alabama African American Civil Rights Heritage Sites Consortium | Georgette Norman, Project Historian, Alabama African American Civil Rights Heritage Sites Consortium | Joyce O'Neal, Selma and Black Belt Coordinator, Alabama African American Civil Rights Heritage Sites Consortium | Theodore R. Debro, Jr., Chairman of Trustee Board, Sixteenth Street Baptist Church

## Backlogged: Strategies for Small Museums to Rescue Your Collections

LOCATION: NATCHEZ 2

### TRACK 2

In 2015, the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center (NAAMCC) in Wilberforce, Ohio began rebounding from a mold remediation disaster that closed its doors in late 2011 for nearly 18-months. The museum was experiencing a revival with new exhibits and a new focus on how to share our collections with the public. Poised and ready for a challenge, our staff delved into the archives and realized that over the course of the then 24-year history of the museum, the collections had not been processed or organized in any logical way. This session will provide a detailed exchange about how the NAAMCC determined what collections to prioritize among 800 linear feet of backlog to successfully: (a) secured financial assistance to address a serious backlog of unprocessed material; (b) utilized a 2016 IMLS grant to hire staff and interns; and (c) established intellectual control over the archives, improved public access, and implemented an archival management plan. Nearly three years later, 93 collections have been preserved, cataloged, and made available to the public, with select items fully digitized and accessible online.

**PRESENTERS:** Jerolyn Barbee, Assistant Director, National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center | Linda Collins, Collections Manager, National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center | Jim McKinnon, Archivist, National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center | Mackenzie Snare, Collections Intern, National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center

## Using Living Events to Engage Your Community with Your Museum

LOCATION: OXFORD

### TRACK 6

In a cultural age that is increasingly becoming more engaged in online media for information, the assumption may be made that brick and mortar museums' role in informing, educating, and preserving history is diminishing. Profiling one state-supported museum, The Delta Cultural Center, this panel discussion will be a how-to session on how museums can incorporate live music as a method to support the museum's mission, engage wider audiences, and increase foot traffic. Despite technological advancements, museums still play a significant role in preserving the history and culture of communities. More specifically, through the incorporation of live music performances, museums fulfill a critical role in preserving the culture of museums in a way that is very difficult to do only through digital mediums. Furthermore, the utilization of live performances to "break the fourth wall" allows museum participants to make connections between exhibits and real-life experiences. Music may be an effective tool used by a museum to support its mission to collect, conserve, exhibit, and interpret collections.

**PRESENTERS:** Dr. Kyle T. Miller, Executive Director, Delta Cultural Center | Richard Spilman, Education Director, Delta Cultural Center | Thomas Jacques, Assistant Director, Delta Cultural Center | Drew Ulrich, Museum Curator, Delta Cultural Center

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9



Join the Conversation: #AAAM2019

AAAM 65



# SPEED NETWORKING



**Arthur G. Affleck, III**  
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Museum



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National Park Service



**LaNesha DeBardelaben**  
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National Trust for Historic  
Preservation



**Dr. Robert Luckett**  
Margaret Walker Center,  
Jackson State University



**Maria T. Madison ScD**  
The Robbins House



**Sheila McDaniel**  
The Studio Museum in  
Harlem



**Jim McKinnon**  
National Afro-American  
Museum & Cultural Center

# MENTOR SESSION



**Juanita Moore**  
Senior Museum Consultant



**Susan Perry**  
Southeastern Museums  
Conference



**Malika Polk Lee**  
BB King Museum



**Christopher Miller**  
National Underground  
Railroad Freedom Center



**Teddy Reeves**  
National Museum of African  
American History & Culture



**Tamar Smithers**  
The National Museum of  
African American Music



**John Spann**  
Mississippi Civil Rights  
Museum



**Damion Thomas**  
National Museum of African  
American History & Culture



**Brenda Tindal**  
International African  
American Museum



**Ahmad Ward**  
Historic Mitchelville  
Freedom Park



**Eric Williams, PhD**  
National Museum of African  
American History & Culture

## The Speed Networking Mentorship Session

is loosely inspired by the Speed Dating Model and provides attendees with the unique opportunity to interface with a select group of established professionals from across the country. Session mentors agreed to serve and offer their advice and experience with aspiring, emerging, mid-career and transitioning museum professionals. Sessions are limited to one mentee per round so that mentors and participants can meet on a one-to-one basis for a more productive conversation. Participants come with questions for a chance to discuss career options, professional development, and many other aspects of the museum world as well as build connections with leaders in the field.

**\*This event is sponsored by the  
Office of Strategic Partnerships  
at the National Museum  
of African American  
History and Culture,  
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Smithsonian

Friday, August 9  
4:00–5:30 PM



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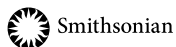
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“  
Going through the museum of my history,  
I wept because  
I felt the blows, I felt the bullets,  
I felt the tears, I felt the cries.  
But I also sensed the hope.”

— **Myrlie Evers**

Mississippi Civil Rights Museum Opening Ceremony

It was an honor for all of us at Monadnock Media to create the  
multimedia experiences for the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

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