

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 | Dr. Larry Robinson, President, Florida A & M University | William Harris, President/CEO, Space Center Houston

TRACK KEY

- | | |
|---|--|
|  TRACK 1:
Audience
Diversity |  TRACK 4:
Leadership
Development |
|  TRACK 2:
Collections
Stewardship |  TRACK 5:
Organizational
Development |
|  TRACK 3:
Financial
Stewardship |  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



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

#AAAM2019

