

MEDIA RELEASE:

April 10, 2021

MEDIA CONTACT:

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Association Of African American Museums Receives \$30,000 Chairman’s Award from the National Endowment for the Humanities

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Association of African American Museums (“AAAM”) is pleased to announce that a new grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to substantially aid in the Association’s in nationwide service to Black museums during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chairman’s Award will enable AAAM to maintain operations and strengthen our COVID-19 emergency response activities as well as support the development and expansion of digital engagement with practitioners from African and African American-focused museums. “Over the past few weeks, I have been in contact with AAAM members throughout the country about the massive disruption to the flow of life and operations due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Despite the challenge of the most unsettling time, our Association remains committed to strengthening the capacity of Black museums and the National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman’s Award will allow us to continue our mission,” says, Executive Director, Vedet Coleman-Robinson.

The current landscape of social, economic, political, and environmental challenges has resulted in a high demand for AAAM’s mission-driven services across its diverse constituency. AAAM will use the funds from the NEH to focus on: The continuation of operations in the face of a pandemic to ensure continued implementation of AAAM’s Strategic Plan goals, obtaining a better understanding of the urgent needs of the African and African American museum field, support ongoing engagement with museums outside of AAAM’s annual conference and increasing accessibility and resources to our members and other museum professionals in the field.

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As the world continues to face the challenges with the pandemic, AAAM is poised to serve the members of the African American museum community with the generous support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

About 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.

About the National Endowment for the Humanities

National Endowment for the Humanities: Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at neh.gov.