

Kathe Hambrick

AAAM Board President: 2010–2011



Kathe Hambrick is the Executive Director of the Amistad Research Center, where she brings her extensive expertise in public history, curation, and interpretive planning to preserve and share the stories of America’s ethnic and racial history, the African Diaspora, and the civil rights movement. In her role, Hambrick is dedicated to mentoring the next generation of curators, archivists, and digitization specialists, ensuring that these critical narratives reach a broad and diverse audience.

With over three decades in the field, Hambrick has established herself as a pioneering force in the preservation of African American history. She is the founder and former director of the River Road African American Museum in rural Louisiana, a transformative institution dedicated to the history of African Americans in the Mississippi River parishes. Driven by her commitment to inclusivity and truth, Hambrick has consistently chosen to tell stories that have too often been marginalized or forgotten, and she was instrumental in advancing this mission at the national level during her tenure as President of the Association of African American Museums. In 2021, Hambrick founded 2PRESERVE LLC, where she consults on exhibit design, program development, and museum governance. Her recent projects include a permanent exhibit on the enslaved people sold by the Jesuits of Georgetown in Louisiana, a powerful testament to her dedication to historical integrity and accessibility.

Hambrick has served as Chief Curator and Director of Interpretation at the West Baton Rouge Museum, where she curated more than 100 exhibitions, including *The Rural Roots of Jazz* and *Rural Black Doctors*. A dedicated scholar and museum professional, she earned a Master’s degree in Museum Studies from Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO), further strengthening her foundation in museology. In addition to her curatorial work, Hambrick has served as an adjunct professor at SUNO, teaching *Introduction to Museology* and mentoring the next generation of museum professionals. As a published author, with works including *Juke Joint Men* and *Our Roots Run Deep*, Hambrick’s legacy extends across multiple platforms, fostering a deeper, more inclusive understanding of American history that honors resilience, heritage, and truth.