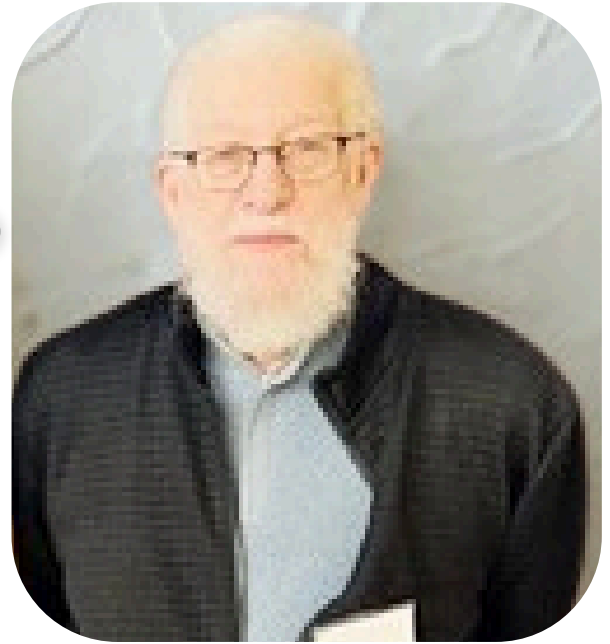


Vernon Courtney

AAAM Board President: 2008–2010



Mr. Vernon S. Courtney is a distinguished museum leader, cultural advocate, and administrator whose tenure as Executive Director of the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center (NAAMCC) from 1999 to 2007 marked a period of meaningful growth, renewed visibility, and strengthened community engagement. Known for his steady leadership and deep commitment to preserving African American history, Courtney guided the institution through a transformative era that expanded both its reach and its relevance.

During his eight years at the helm, Courtney championed initiatives that elevated the museum's profile on regional and national stages. He oversaw the development of exhibitions that highlighted the breadth of African American experiences, from local histories to national narratives, ensuring that the museum remained a vital educational resource. Under his direction, NAAMCC broadened its programming, deepened partnerships with schools and cultural organizations, and advanced its mission to collect, preserve, and interpret the stories of African Americans for future generations.

Courtney's leadership was marked by a thoughtful balance of stewardship and innovation. He worked to strengthen the museum's collections, support scholarly research, and enhance public access to historical materials. His tenure also emphasized community connection, encouraging dialogue, participation, and cultural celebration through events, lectures, and collaborative projects. Beyond his administrative accomplishments, Courtney is recognized for his dedication to cultural preservation and his belief in the power of museums to shape understanding and inspire change. His work at NAAMCC contributed to the institution's long-term stability and helped position it as a cornerstone of African American heritage in Ohio and beyond.

Courtney's legacy reflects a career devoted to honoring the past while empowering future generations to engage with history in meaningful ways. His leadership continues to resonate through the museum's ongoing work and enduring impact.