



Media Contact:
Dr. Deborah Lynn Mack
mackdlynn@si.edu

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**ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUMS WELCOMES
2015-18 BOARD MEMBERS**

The 37 year old organization is the oldest and largest advocate of African American museums and museum professionals

Washington, DC (June 2, 2015) The Association of African American Museums (AAAM) supports the historic, innovative, and contemporary programs, exhibitions, research, and development of African American museums and museum professionals nationwide. Since 1978, AAAM has supported the professional advancement of African American museums and museum professionals. Its membership base consists of over 300 Black museums nationwide and hundreds of museum professionals committed to the preservation of African-derived cultures. .

AAAM announces the election of five new board members and one new officer. Newly elected to the board of directors are Dina Bailey, Director of Educational Strategies, National Center for Civil and Human Rights (Atlanta, GA); Dr. Rico Devara Chapman, Associate Professor, Jackson State University (Jackson, MS); Mark McCormick, Executive Director, The Kansas African American Museum (Wichita, KS); Dr. Robert E. Lockett Jr., Assistant Professor and Director of the Margaret Walker Center for the Study of the African-American Experience, Jackson State University (Jackson, MS); Eveline Pierre, Executive Director, Haitian Heritage Museum (Miami, FL); and Auntaneshia Staveloz, Supervisory Program Manager, Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African American History and Culture (Washington, DC), appointed board Vice President. Each new member will serve a three-year term.

“AAAM seeks to strengthen and advocate for the interests of institutions and individuals committed to the preservation of African and African American derived cultures, says AAAM president, Samuel W. Black. “African American museums are longstanding institutions. Since 1868 the work of preserving the African American experience has been maintained in cultural institutions. These institutions are relevant today and tomorrow. Museums through their exhibits, programs, education and outreach preserve, maintain and define the



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African American experience in ways that no other institution can. African American museums are born from revolution and maintain a revolutionary spirit that impacts the wider museum field.”

Each year since 1978, AAAM has hosted a national conference designed to bring museum professionals of all levels together for networking, professional development and reflection upon the role that African American museums have in today’s increasingly diverse society. The AAAM also sponsors the Burroughs-Wright fellowship program, named after AAAM founders Margaret T. Burroughs and Charles H. Wright, which provides full financial support for two graduate students or first year museum professionals to attend the annual conference.

For more information about the Association of African American Museums, Visit: www.blackmuseums.org.

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