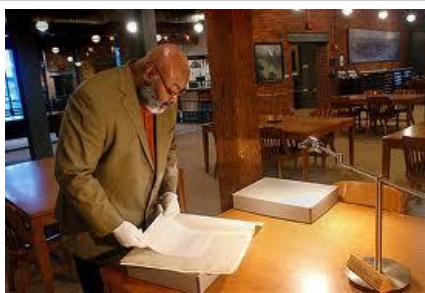


The Scrip—The Newsletter of the Association of African American Museums



Samuel Black assumes AAAM presidency and names new board positions

Due to the resignation of Kathe Hambrick-Jackson, Samuel W Black has assumed the presidency of the Association of African American Museums effective December 5, 2011. Black had served as vice president of AAAM under Lawrence Pijaux, Jr., and Vernon Courtney. He will serve out the remainder of Hambrick-Jackson’s term ending in August 2013. Black is the curator of African American Collections at the Senator John Heinz History Center and has served on the board since 2003.

As president Black has appointed Dr. Deborah L. Mack, AAAM board member to vice president (2012) and named Charles Bethea, COO of the DuSable Museum of African American History and Culture as a board member at-large (2013).

Black has praise for Kathe Hambrick-Jackson stating “she had laid the foundation for a new standard in board practice and procedure that will endure AAAM well into the future.”

AAAM Celebrates Culture, Commerce, & Community in Tallahassee

TALLAHASSEE, FL- August 3-6. More than 200 members, vendors, and community members joined AAAM for the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Association of African American Museums. The meeting was hosted by the John G. Riley House Center/ Museum of African American History & Culture and Florida A&M University in Tallahassee and featured the presentation of the Association’s annual awards to John Fleming Lifetime Achievement Award winner Howard Dodson. Special service awards were giving to long-time retiring Executive Director, William Billingsley, and former board secretary, Shirl Spicer.

Conference entertainment for the evenings was provided by convention host’s groups like Museum of Florida History and a slam-jam party at the John G. Riley House. Saturday’s Frenchtown Heritage Day Party was a special success with visitors coming from throughout North Florida and throughout the region. It was such a rousing time that local television, radio, and news got into the act and you can watch a clip of the action at www.wcto.tv at Tallahassee Matters. The organization thanks all who attended and we look forward to gathering in **August 22-25, 2012 in Baltimore** with the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture.



Althemese Barnes and Marion McGee: Creating a Model for Succession Planning in African American Heritage Institutions

by Joy Bailey

In its own quiet way, the John G. Riley House Museum is providing a revolutionary example for its peers. The museum was founded in 1996 by a committed group of individuals led by Mrs. Althemese Barnes and under her direction, the museum’s reach and programs have expanded throughout the state—it is the home of the Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network, an educational and technical assistance professional association to preserve African American History and Culture. Though the Museum is small by reporting standards—with an annual visitation of about 10,000 people each year and roughly 2,000 square feet of space—its leaders recognized early that the potential for growth was exponential.

In 2005, the Museum was celebrating its ninth year and Mrs. Barnes had been working with the project, through restoration of the historic Riley House, for well over 20-years. She was ready to “see” the future and began a concentrated effort to plan for her succession. The process took about two years, in which she sought the advice of board members, staff, and professionals and engaged a MAP assessment. The process included identifying the qualifications needed in a new director—educational background, work experience, and most importantly capacity for leadership.

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Building Frameworks for Collaborative Engagement: U.S./Africa Museums and Cultural Heritage in a Digital Age *by Deborah Mack, Ph.D.*

AAAM is a member organization of the steering committee of U.S. partners that have initiated discussions to establish African – U.S. cultural mutual interests and opportunities around museums. The program is sponsored by Michigan State University, with the Association of American Museums, the Smithsonian Institution, Association of African American Museums, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Ifa Lethu Foundation, University of Witwatersrand Anthropology Museum, the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation and the Nelson Mandela Museum.

AAAM's board voted unanimously to participate in the development of this collaborative effort in that participation, in acknowledgement that it; Situates AAAM in the center of proactive, progressive and collaborative research and development activities with a strategic range of partners and strengthens and expands AAAM's ability to meet both national and global needs. It also provides opportunities for exchanges of professionals who have vested interest in cultural heritage work and ensures connectivity with best practices, current issues, and new directions of cultural heritage work. The Draft "Big Framework of Collaborative Projects" includes the following areas for potential collaboration:

1. **Digital Access/Collaborations:** Exhibitions, research, collections, education, evaluation/reflection, networking international collections.
2. **Digital Cultural Heritage Field School/Digital Humanities Field School:** documentation, preservation, skills development, career pathways.
3. **Exchanges & internships** - new models for shared positions, shared academic appointments, joint degrees, visiting professionals. (e.g. Fulbright, Mellon Scholars, Bellagio or Salzburg Seminar Series)
4. **Linking training to existing/planned professional meetings:** webcasting skills development to link to national, regional meetings.
5. **New models in the areas of youth engagement in museums/heritage organizations and expansion of entrepreneurship** (underserved communities, multi-disciplinary strategies, and, business approaches) that focus on art, culture, natural resources, science, and math linked to cultural heritage.
6. **New approaches to add value to collections:** interactive, protection, info on illicit/appropriate marketing - partnerships with communities, generating new skills, and building investigative capacity models.
7. **Focus on current issues,** post-conflict/trauma situations, emergency preparedness, SWAT team approaches to cultural preservations and stewardship.
8. Highlighting and honoring work by developing an **innovation awards** Consystem.



AAAM Museums Grow with Let's Move, Museums and Gardens

At the AAAM Annual Meeting, President Kathe Hambrick-Jackson announced, the organizations involvement in First Lady Michelle Obama's new national initiative to provide opportunities for museums and garden visitors to learn about healthy food choices and promote physical activity through interactive exhibits and programs. **AAAM** encourages all of our member institutions to take part. The program primarily targets children—adults are encouraged to participate— and has the following priorities:

1. Eat healthy, get active
2. Learn about healthy food choices and physical activity through afterschool, summer and other programs
3. Healthy food service
4. Learn about healthy food choices and physical activity using food service operation

The program is an excellent way to both serve your constituents and to be noticed by national agencies. To date over 800 institutions are taking part and an update of the program is presented to the White House every quarter.

If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress.

Barack Obama

Power in Reflection

by Beverly C. Robertson, President, National Civil Rights Museum

Originally published by the International Coalition of the Sites of Conscience, modified by the author.

As the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11th passed and we celebrate the unveiling of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial on the National Mall, we are constantly reminded of the importance of preserving sites that offer all of us the opportunity to grieve together, reflect together, and, most importantly, learn together. September 11th, 2001 became a moment of truth for many Americans. This moment, like so many traumatic occurrences over time, has led to much introspection and a quest to understand how such a tragic event could happen. Many people were jolted by the realization that not everyone views America with kindness. And as shocking and tragic as September 11th continues to be, it is important to remember this difficult history; there is knowledge and transformation in remembrance.

As I think about the trauma of September 11th and the impact of the memorial, I am reminded of how paralyzing the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was to many Americans. As a result of his death, many cities spiraled out of control, with citizens expressing rage through riots, looting and burnings. It took a great deal of reflection and years of introspective exploration to finally understand that tremendous lessons are often borne out of tragedy.

While many sought an answer to who killed Dr. King, Dr. Ralph Abernathy, one of his closest friends, made a profound statement following Dr. King's death. He simply said, "The question is not who killed Dr. King, but what killed Dr. King." Upon much reflection, I advance some possibilities. Hatred? Ignorance? Fear? Racism? Misunderstanding? Intolerance? Could the same question asked by Dr. Abernathy more than 40 years ago apply today, when thinking about 9-11? What would our answers be today?

As people perhaps pondered their own answers to Dr. Abernathy's question and the government launched its investigation into Dr. King's assassination, there was another effort underway, at least a decade after his death, to create a site that would memorialize the sacrifice of so many who struggled to make America live up to the promises in its founding documents. This memorial is now the National Civil Rights Museum, located at Memphis, Tennessee's Lorraine Motel, the site of Dr. King's assassination.

Like the work on the September 11th Memorial over the past decade, there were many battles, fits and starts, and much emotion while getting the museum off the ground. But today the September 11th Memorial is well on its way to being completed, and twenty years in, the National Civil Rights Museum has become an international space for learning, sharing and reflecting. Proper reflection often requires some distancing in time to explore and process a diverse range of questions and a wide range of emotions. And as we commemorate the tenth anniversary of September 11th, one milestone among many more to come, we remember the ultimate sacrifice made by so many that day. At the same time, we keep in mind that there is much healing, power, and transformation in reflection.

AAAM Board meets to Kick off Strategic Positioning

In preparation for Strategic Planning with its new board in 2012 and to understand the intricacies of the organizations operations since the departure of the Executive Director, AAAM Board members met at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in September. The two-day workshop was a concentrated "on-boarding" and set the stage for the refinement of processes, and the development. The following objectives were accomplished at the meeting;

- *Plan of action for moving AAAM offices to Mayme Clayton Museum in Culver City, Ca;*

- *Revision of Bylaws concerning number of board members, position descriptions;*

- *Evaluation and status check of 2008 Strategic Plan (the current governing plan for the organization);*

- *Refinement and streamlining of Conference Site Application*

Building Frameworks for Collaborative Engagement: U.S./Africa Museums and Cultural Heritage in a Digital Age
by Deborah Mack, Ph.D.
(continued)

9. Domesticating cultural policy – work with NEPAD, European Union, African Union, etc. including workshops and establishing regulatory frameworks.

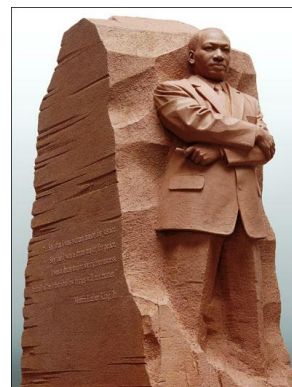
10. Traveling exhibitions – new digital/physical new models.

Althemese Barnes and Marion McGee: Creating a Model for Succession Planning in African American Heritage Institutions

Continued from Page 1

Because of the Riley House Museums' heavy involvement with governmental entities it would be important that the next leader of the Museum understand and be able to navigate Florida's tricky political waters. The Museum found gold incarnate in Marion "Missy" McGee, a partnership specialist with the U.S. Census Bureau. Missy started in Florida politics early, receiving national attention during the 2000 election for leading protests in her role as President of the FAMU Chapter of NAACP. Since that time, Missy had been appointed to various political positions and formed close relationships with the legislative workers locally, nationally and internationally. She had all of the criteria the succession documents had identified—and more than that—Missy was willing to learn.

The Riley House struck a three-year deal with Missy. In that time, she would join the small staff as the Assistant to the Director becoming Assistant Director the next year and Executive Director at the end of the third-year. As a part of her training, Missy began by shadowing Mrs. Barnes, taking on more responsibilities as the roles and needs of the museum became clear to her. She has been able to work with the board of the museum, Mrs. Barnes, and the staff to establish a vision for the future of the museum, in a careful considered way—where all are learning from each other.



Development and Grant Resources

There are numerous development resources available for institutions that serve people of color. The AAAM website, www.blackmuseums.org provides access and insight on many. The largest and most resource-laden are listed below;

Foundation Center is a non-profit service dedicated to building public understanding of the foundation field by maintaining a database on foundations and corporate giving programs and the grants offered. Visit them at <http://fdncenter.org/>

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is an independent federal agency that fosters leadership, innovation, and a lifetime of learning by supporting the nation's museums and libraries. Visit them at <http://www.imls.gov>

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. Visit them at <http://www.nea.gov/>

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is an independent agency of the United States government for grants in history, languages, philosophy and other areas of the humanities. Visit them at <http://www.neh.gov/>

For more information visit www.blackmuseums.org

Are you a Member?

As the oldest organization that advocates on behalf of African American museums and museum professionals a membership in the AAAM is vital for those who are engaged in this work. The benefits of an AAAM have changed over the years but the greatest benefit is the opportunity to network with professionals and advance the work that we do in our institutions, galleries, and centers. New membership fee structures are designed to broaden the world of AAAM while new benefits will bring us closer as a community of museum professionals.

New membership fees are to recognize retirees who want to maintain their relationship with AAAM as well as corporate sponsors who want to engage the mission of the organization. In addition a two-year membership option is now offered for individuals and institutions. The institutional rate is based on the annual budget. Members will now have an option to secure a lifetime membership in AAAM that can be paid in five \$100.00 installments.

At the annual conference going forward non-member registrations will come with a one year membership to AAAM. Most of the new benefits are available now but some will fold out in 2012.

Retiree	\$ 25.00
International Affiliate	\$ 125.00
Corporate Sponsor	\$1,000.00