



AAAM Gearing Up For Important Year

By Samuel W. Black
President

2016 will have a great deal of significance for AAAM.

The board is realizing and working toward goals designed to help expand the membership, programming, and services to organization members.

Please participate in museum survey

Central to reaching these goals is the Museum Assessment Survey conducted by AAAM consultant, People, Places & Design Research. The survey will allow AAAM to assess the status of African American museums, libraries, galleries, and professionals. The goal is to get 90% of museums to participate. The 2008 assessment served as a valuable source for Black museum data. This assessment will go even further and provide data on museum professionals and museums that have African American programs and divisions. If you or your museum have not been contacted by AAAM or People, Places & Design Research, please contact project director, Dr. Rico Chapman. (rico.d.chapman@jsums.edu or: (601) 979-2490)

Management program ends with scholarship recipients

The Jekyll Island Management Institute (JIMI) a SEMC museum educational and enrichment program completed its 2016 session, January 19-26. This year's class included the John Kinard Scholarship recipients: Timothy Barber, Executive Director of The Black Archives History & Research Foundation in Miami, and Kendall Chew, Education Department Assistant at Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in Birmingham. The Smithsonian Institution's National Museum for African American History and Culture sponsors the John Kinard Scholarship that is awarded to two members of AAAM to attend the JIMI. Congratulations to Tim and Kendall!



AAAM looking for new board candidates

The call for nominations for the AAAM board elections will provide for candidates for four at-large Directors, President and Secretary. Interested candidates or nominations would have an opportunity to run. All candidates for the board must be members of AAAM in good standing. Service to AAAM is an awarding experience. As a 13-year member of the board, five years of which as president, I have found my AAAM service to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my 24-year career. I am sure the 2016 board will feel the same.

The board will be completing the first year of the two year National Leadership grant from the IMLS and look toward strategic planning, the assessment and survey as it focuses on hiring an executive director. In addition, the board will welcome members and constituents to Riverside, California for the 38th annual conference.

Brainstorming on the upcoming 40th anniversary of AAAM in 2018 has already begun. I had an opportunity to meet with some of AAAM's founders in November 2015 at the NMAAHC. Dr. John Fleming, Aurelia Brooks, Juanita Moore, Dr. Harry Robinson, Joy Ford Austin, E. Barry Gaither, Perri Irmer, Marjorie Kinard, and myself joined Lonnie Bunch, Kinshasa Conwell, Dr. Deborah Mack, Auntaneshia Staveloz, and NMAAHC staff to congratulate the NMAAHC on its pending opening and its commitment to AAAM.

Attendance scholarships available for Riverside, CA conference

The Dora Nelson Museum of African American History in Perris, California will host "Looking West" the 38th annual conference of AAAM, August 3-6, 2016 in Riverside, California. The Riverside host committee has been working to make arrangements for an exciting West Coast AAAM reception. The Program Committee, chaired by Brian Carter, has developed an



innovative program that will offer support to presenters and first-time attendees. Five registration scholarships will be available to first time conference attendees who live in the West (west of the Mississippi). Ten registrations & \$500 travel scholarships will be given to individuals from Western institutions that submit session proposals selected by the Program Committee. Ten \$200 travel hardship scholarships are made available to existing members of AAAM who plan to attend the Riverside Conference. The Riverside conference will mark the first visit to the West Coast by AAAM since the Los Angeles conference in 1984. Aurelia Brooks was director of the California African American Museum in 1984, and she and her staff, including a young Lonnie Bunch, welcomed AAAM during the Los Angeles Summer Olympic Games. In more ways than one, Riverside will be a reunion for AAAM, and a launch to greater horizons.

Onward!

Samuel W. Black
President, AAAM