



New African American Music Museum to Open in Nashville

National Museum of African American Music, set to open in 2018, will tell the rich story of the development of American music from the beginning of our country's formation up through the birth of hip-hop and beyond.

Sen. Steve Dickerson announced that the Tennessee state legislature's approval of the 2016-17 budget included a \$2 million gift to NMAAM. Museum officials noted that with this gift, the organization has received more than \$4 million in commitments.

Citing Nashville's own \$10 million commitment, Mayor Megan Barry added, "It will be great to have NMAAM on 5th Avenue, facing the Ryman Auditorium," which will be the start of Nashville's Avenues of the Arts. NMAAM is slated to open in 2018.

Museum organizers recently announced that artists Darius Rucker, India Arie, CeCe Winans and Keb'Mo' will serve as national chairs.

Also announced were new members of NMAAM's board of directors and national advisory board. The former includes Nashville's former mayor Karl Dean, BMI VP of Writer Relations Catherine Brewton, and eOne Entertainment VP/GM Phil Thornton. Gospel artist Richard Smallwood is among the new advisory board members.

NMAAM is headed by president/CEO H. Beecher Hicks III.

(Credit: Wire Services)