



## AAAM Responds to President's Executive Order Restricting Entry to U.S.

The Association of African American Museums strongly believes in the values of diversity, inclusion, and empathy. Historically, AAAM has encouraged grassroots activism and has sought out and embraced the power that diverse cultures bring to strengthening and connecting our world. We believe that borders are fundamentally complex, yet the current federal response, fails to provide a means for a more meaningful national discourse that applies the level of nuance necessary to bring about collective resolution. We recognize the great creativity, innovation, and productivity that often comes with immigration. Therefore, we are strongly concerned that this executive order divides us more than it unifies us.

For these reasons, the Association of African American Museums stands with other museum, library, archive, and history associations who condemn the executive order issued by President Donald J. Trump on January 27, 2017. It has become clear that the executive order will have a significant and detrimental impact on an immeasurable number of innocent people both in the United States and around the world. Additionally, we know that the past provides numerous warnings that can help us understand the possible and far-reaching implications of this executive order. By restricting the entry of refugees from specific countries, who have undergone significant scrutiny, we fear the direct and indirect impacts this will have on the communities with whom we work and serve.

AAAM exists to support the institutions and the people undertaking needed action. AAAM's members doggedly pursue accurate historical information, nurture creative expression, and foster difficult conversations that our community, and our nation, must have. Our museums and cultural centers provide safe spaces for mindful, civil, and vital exploration of our shared past and present. Unsettled moments like this are when our country needs us the most. The Association of African American Museums opposes actions that discriminate against individuals or threaten individual rights. We stand for open-hearted compassion and open-minded opportunity; and, we remember and encourage all U.S. citizens to remember the vibrancy that varied cultures, races, religions, and ethnicities bring to the United States of America.

### About the Association of African American Museums

The Association of African American Museums (AAAM) is a non-profit member organization created to foster and promote the celebration of African American heritage through supporting the needs of museums, cultural institutions, and museum professionals who share an interest in the preservation of African, African American and African Diasporic cultures. For more information, visit <http://www.blackmuseums.org> or email us at: [blackmuseums@gmail.com](mailto:blackmuseums@gmail.com)

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