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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUMS WELCOMES  
2016-19 BOARD MEMBERS

*The 38 year old organization is the oldest and largest advocate of  
African American museums and museum professionals*

**Washington, DC (August 19, 2016)** 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 and museum professionals nationwide committed to the preservation of African-derived cultures.

AAAM announces the election of two new board officers, two board members at-large and two returning at-large members. Please join us in welcoming executive committee members: President, Brian J. Carter, 4Culture Heritage (Seattle, WA); and Secretary, Dina Bailey, Mountain Top Visions, LLC (Atlanta, GA). Newly elected to the board of directors are LaNesha DeBardelaben, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History (Detroit, MI), and Jacqueline K. Dace, National Blues Museum (St. Louis, MO). Board members at-large renewing terms are: Dion Brown, National Blues Museum (St. Louis, MO) and Marion McGee, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (Washington, DC). 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 past 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 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](http://www.blackmuseums.org).

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