“The noose has long represented a deplorable act of cowardice and depravity—a symbol of extreme violence for African Americans. Today’s incident is a painful reminder of the challenges that African Americans continue to face.

Our museum is a place of learning and solace, a place to remember, to reflect and to engage in important discussions that help change America.

This was a horrible act, but it is a stark reminder of why our work is so important.”
-Lonnie Bunch, III. Founding Director

“The fact that Smithsonian officials found a hangman’s noose yesterday afternoon in the History Galleries of the newly opened Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) should remind us that some of the horrors of our nation’s tragic past still linger.

It should also remind us that our work as museum professionals is as vital and as relevant as ever. History is the language of civics. We cannot be the citizens our country demands without a shared history that binds us together.

This atrocious act was clearly intended to tear us apart by injecting fear and anxiety into a space purposefully created for cultural exploration and healing.

On behalf of the Board and members of the Association of African American Museums, we condemn this cowardly deed and offer our love and support to NMAAHC, as it continues to elevate critical stories of our most important shared American experience.”

-Brian J. Carter, AAAM President

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reserve Your Room at Capital Hilton

Hotel Reservations Deadline: July 1, 2017

Hotel Rate: $209/night
Reserve HERE

Hotel Phone #: 202.393.1000

2017 AAAM Pre-Conference Workshop

Application Deadline: Friday, June 9, 2017

National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Preservation
President's Message: The Case for Attending AAAM's Conference

AAAM Board President, Brian J. Carter, shares how to make the case for conference attendance to directors, supervisors, and boards, and has provided some helpful tips that AAAM members can articulate regarding the professional benefits and institutional capacity building for attending the 2017 AAAM Conference in Washington, DC.

Read more here

Emmett Till's Horrifying Death Still Resonating After Star Witness Recants

AAAM Board Member, Dr. Robert E. Luckett, writes about the public outrage that exploded by the news of Carolyn Bryant Donham's admission to lying in court during the 1955 murder trial of Emmett Till. Dr. Luckett also states that, "the condemnation from African Americans and from the world of black museums and cultural organizations is not born from some kind of surprise that Donham had perjured herself during her testimony."

Read more here

Seven Best Practices for Museums

AAAM Member, Jada Wright-Greene, provides her seven best practices for museums, that she has picked up in the past 17 years of doing nonprofit management, fundraising, community engagement, and outreach. She encourages all museums, cultural institutions, and nonprofits to review this list and make sure what AAAM institutional members are doing align with these critical practices.

Read more here

Leadership Training® (PLT) Intensive

Monday, July 31, 2017
9:00am - 4:30pm
Cost: $85/person

APPLY HERE

Museums Association of the Caribbean 2017 Conference Registration Coming Soon!

Register and Attend the 2017 Southeastern Museums Conference

Early Bird Registration Deadline:
July 12, 2017

REGISTER HERE

Apply For The Institute of Museum and Library Services Museum Assessment Program (MAP)
Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University Wins $300,000 Award

The Lighthouse project, to be housed at the Margaret Walker Center on the campus of Jackson State University, has been generously funded by a $300,000 grant from the NoVo Foundation. Natalie A. Collier, director of The Lighthouse project, will utilize this grant to incubate and leverage her experiences working with young women and girls in the South to focus more fully on creating a more balanced and equitable world.

Read more here

Advance registration rate available until July 1, 2017

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE 2017 AAAM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

An Experience You Do Not Want to Miss...

We can't wait to welcome you to Washington, D.C. for the 39th Annual Conference! After receiving such a tremendous response to the 2017 Call for Session Proposals, the National Program Committee has continued working to design a conference program complete with professional development and networking opportunities that are not to be missed.

We are pleased to share that our conference luncheons will feature

Applications Deadline:
July 1, 2017

APPLY HERE

The SCRIP Call for Story Ideas from AAAM Members

The SCRIP welcomes story ideas about you and your museum work, books you have published, and any coverage you and your museum may have received lately.

Submit your story ideas and feedback to AAAM Communications Chair Mark E. McCormick at: mark.mccormick@tkamuseum.org
two very dynamic keynote speakers, Dr. Carla Hayden (the first African American and first woman to serve as the Librarian of Congress) and Mrs. Zena Howard, Managing Director of Perkins+Will Architects and Project Manager for the construction of the National Museum of African American History & Culture.

We have also provided a list of the Concurrent Sessions with titles and descriptions, to provide greater insight on the diversity of topics that will be covered. This year’s conference will also feature Skill Building Seminars and a State of Black Museums Forum to share the results of AAAM’s national needs assessment and encourage your feedback and input on the path forward.