

Black Archives Historic Lyric Theater Cultural Arts Complex



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Dear Northwest African American Museum and its Community:

The Black Archives History & Research Foundation of South FL, Inc. supports the work of the Northwest African American Museum, and understands its importance of preserving, documenting, and telling the story of the existence of Africans in America.

Being a sister institution anchored in the Southeast, just geographically opposite of the Northwest African American Museum, we understand the role of our institutions to ensure the education of people in America on the values and life of people of color in this country. Our ability to operate effectively, fiscally and physically, directly influences how our stories are perceived and received over time. Having the Northwest African American Museum in Seattle is a cherished jewel that many cities have yet to invest in and secure. Those that have invested in the preservation of the African experience in America in their cities have greatly increased the access to knowledge of the authentic stories of that experience for all of its citizens. Stories that at one time passed from griot to griot, are now anchored in an official and highly qualified institution.

Seattle has shown through NAAM that it treasures and respects the history of the black experience in America. NAAM and its administration over the years, and now under the leadership of LaNesha DeBardelaben, has shown through becoming the national finalist for the 2019 National Medal for Museum Service, hosting King Day, Malcolm X Day to Grandparents Day, and so much more that it is up to the challenge of being a national premiere cultural institution. It also shows that Seattle is a progressive and culturally diverse city, who respects and supports all Americans.

We strongly support all of the endeavors of NAAM and its Executive Director.

Sincerely,

Timothy A. Barber
Executive Director

The Black Archives History
and Research & Research Foundation of South FL, Inc.



Evansville African American Museum

579 S. Garvin Street

Evansville, IN 47713

(PHONE) 812-423-5188 (FAX) 812-426-1886

[www. evvafricanamericanmuseum.org](http://www.evvafricanamericanmuseum.org)

Ashley Jordan

Executive Director

September 3, 2020

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The Evansville African American Museum is pleased to write this letter of support for the Northwest African American Museum, (NAAM). For such a time as this, cultural sites like NAAM are necessary to preserve the stories of freedom and diversity. In the midst of this ever-changing society, NAAM has been a place of identity while creating experiences for community pride, inspiration and education.

The mission of the Evansville African American Museum is to continually develop a resource and cultural center to collect, preserve and educate the public on the history and traditions of African American families, organizations and communities. The museum's permanent exhibits include collections that tell the story of African American history in Evansville, Indiana. The site where the museum resides is the last remaining building of Lincoln Gardens, the second Federal Housing Project created under the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal in 1938.

Between our two institutions we differ in historical origins and geography. However, what unites us is our shared believe to be a repository for local history and its impact on the national narrative of American history. By exhibiting the stories of unsung, lesser known or famous African Americans we act as sites of heritage building. Most importantly our work to be convener sites speaks to our ability to unite the community. By promoting programs that connect, contribute and celebrate we are increasing the visibility of museum education.

Sites like the Northwest African American Museum has a history and future that needs to be preserved for future generations. I am pleased to write this letter of support for their continued works within the twenty-first century and beyond.

Sincerely,

Ashley Jordan

Ashley Jordan, Ph.D.
Executive Director



August 20, 2020

Dear Northwest African American Museum and its Community:

As Vice-President for Public Programs & Community Engagement at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, Michigan, I write in support of the **Northwest African American Museum (NAAM)** in Seattle, Washington whose Executive Director **LaNesha DeBardelaben** is nationally recognized as a well-respected and exemplary institutional leader. LaNesha and I have worked together in the field of African American museum leadership for many years.

I highly commend the Northwest African American Museum for the significant growth it has experienced across its key categories of operations. The NAAM team consists of top-notch professionals who work daily to make NAAM an inviting facility that hosts a vast array of educational, historical, cultural, and art-focused programs and exhibitions that is applauded for its high-impact and relevance throughout the entire greater Seattle community and beyond.

NAAM is engaged in local, regional, and national collaborations that center the Black experience in telling the story of American history and culture. The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American Museum recently partnered with NAAM and four leading black museums on a 2020 national virtual Juneteenth collaboration that drew over 90,000 viewers. NAAM is a nationally recognized museum as cited in a recent article that lists the top African American museums in the nation, as noted here: <https://www.tiqets.com/blog/black-history-museums/>. NAAM is *definitely on the rise* due to its visionary and strategic leadership and team of highly skilled professionals.

NAAM is the kind of museum that makes the entire Seattle community and the nation better particularly given its groundbreaking virtual programs in this COVID-19 environment. Support for Black-led organizations like NAAM means support of Black lives and a democratic society. With the forward-thinking leadership, integrity, and tenacity of its developed team, NAAM is on the path to reach greater heights and will soon become an accredited institution and a standard bearer for African American museums in the field. I am a great admirer of the work of NAAM and I strongly support all of its endeavors and its Executive Director.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles Ezra Ferrell', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Charles Ezra Ferrell
Vice-President of Public Programs & Community Engagement
Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History
315 East Warren Avenue | Detroit, MI 48201
Direct | (248) 946-9571



September 1, 2020

The Seattle Museum Community,

I am Dr. Robert (Bert) Davis and I serve as the President and CEO of America's Black Holocaust Museum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Please allow this brief letter to serve as a method of support of the Northwest African American Museum (NAAM) in Seattle, Washington and their Executive Director LaNesha DeBardelaben.

I respect and publicly recommend the Northwest African American Museum for the significant growth under her leadership. The museum is nationally recognized as a well-respected and exemplary institution. LaNesha and I have worked as colleagues and now fellow Association of African American Museums (AAAM) Board members for nearly 5 years.

NAAM is engaged in educational collaborations that make the Pacific Northwest a more culturally informed region. NAAM is a nationally recognized museum. NAAM has been strengthened under LaNesha's leadership and I am proud to work with her in this field.

NAAM is on the path to reach greater heights and will soon become an accredited institution and a consummate leader for African American museums in the field. I stand proud to support the museum and LaNesha. Please do not hesitate to call for further discussion.

Dr. Robert (Bert) Davis

President & CEO, America's Black Holocaust Museum