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**Media only:**     Becky Haberacker     (202) 357-2627 ext. 113  
                  Linda St. Thomas       (202) 357-2627 ext. 108

### **Kinshasha Holman Conwill Named Deputy Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture**

Kinshasha Holman Conwill has been named deputy director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture.

“I am so pleased that Kinshasha Holman Conwill will lend her skills, creativity and experience to the creation of the National Museum of African American History and Culture,” said Lonnie Bunch, director of the museum.

Conwill was most recently an arts, museum and management consultant. Her projects included serving as a senior policy advisor for the Museums and Community Initiative of the American Association of Museums (May 2002—September 2003). She served as project director for “A Cultural Blueprint for New York City,” a citywide initiative for the New York Foundation for the Arts, which was aimed at sustaining New York City’s cultural life in the 21st century (July 2000—January 2002). She also did consulting work for the Museum Loan Network, the Times Square Alliance, the Center for Black Music Research, the New York City Arts Coalition, the New York Foundation for the Arts, the New York Times Company Foundation, the Pan Asian Repertory Theatre and the Riverside Church.

From 1988 to 1999, Conwill served as director of the Studio Museum in Harlem. While there, she launched a major expansion and renovation of the facility and started the museum’s sculpture garden. She also organized and co-organized more than 40 major exhibitions, including “Memory and Metaphor: The Art of Romare Bearden, 1940-1987”; “Contemporary African Artists: Changing Tradition”; “Explorations in the City of Light: African-American Artists in Paris, 1945-1965”; and an award-winning contemporary African art exhibition at the 1990 Venice Biennale. She joined the museum in 1980 as its deputy director.

Prior to joining the Studio Museum, Conwill served as assistant exhibit coordinator for the Museum of the American Indian in New York City (1979) and coordinator of activities for the Frank Lloyd Wright Hollyhock House in Los Angeles (1976-1978).

Conwill was chairman of the National Museum Services Board and served as a member of the boards of the Municipal Art Society of New York and the Urban Assembly. She was a member of the advisory boards of the Donor Research Project of the Center for the Study of Philanthropy of The Graduate School, The City University of New York and the Center for Architecture of the American Institute of Architects, New York chapter. She also served on the steering committee for the 21st Century Learner Initiative of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Conwill is also a member of the board of directors of the Provisions Library and board of overseers of the California Institute of the Arts.

A native of Atlanta, Conwill attended Mount Holyoke College as a national schievement scholar and graduated magna cum laude from Howard University, with a bachelor's degree in fine arts. She received her master's degree in business administration from the University of California, Los Angeles.

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