



NATIONAL
MUSEUM of
AFRICAN
AMERICAN
HISTORY &
CULTURE



Smithsonian

COMMUNITY CURATION

in DENVER, CO

NOVEMBER 1-11, 2018

The Robert Frederick Smith Fund

MEDIA KIT



ABOUT

About the National Museum of African American History and Culture

Since opening Sept. 24, 2016, the National Museum of African American History and Culture has welcomed over 4.5 million visitors. Occupying a prominent location next to the Washington Monument on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the nearly 400,000-square-foot museum is the nation's largest and most comprehensive cultural destination devoted exclusively to exploring, documenting and showcasing the African American story and its impact on American and world history. For more information about the museum, visit nmaahc.si.edu, follow @NMAAHC on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat—or call Smithsonian information at (202) 633-1000.

About the Robert Frederick Smith Explore Your Family History Center

The Robert Frederick Smith Explore Your Family History Center is located on the second floor of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture in the *Explore More!* Gallery. It teaches visitors how to research their family genealogy and preserve family films, videos, and photographs digitally through hands-on workshops and digitization sessions in a media lab. Supported by the Robert F. Smith Fund program, the Community Curation Project provides a unique opportunity for families and community members to share their stories, by providing the resources and technology to digitize and preserve their memories, using the museum's online community collection.

About The Center for the Study of African American Religious Life

The Center for the Study of African American Religious Life promotes scholarship, collects religious artifacts and produces public programming to expand the ways religion is acknowledged and explored by the nation's research and cultural institutions. The center provides resources and convening opportunities to study the central role religion has played in shaping African American history and culture with a global community of faith leaders, scholars and the public.

About the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library

Named for Omar Blair, the first black president of the Denver school board and Elvin Caldwell, the first black City Council member, the mission of the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library is to preserve and showcase the many contributions of African Americans to Colorado and the West. In addition to a full-service library branch of the Denver Public Library System, the library contains a collection archives and research library, the Western Legacies museum that documents the footsteps of African Americans who settled the American West, and the Charles R. Cousins Gallery that highlights local artists and exhibits.

About the Black American West Museum and Heritage Center

The Black American West Museum & Heritage Center was incorporated in 1971 as a nonprofit cultural arts institution. The collection is housed in the home of Dr. Justina Ford, [Colorado's](#) first black female doctor. The museum's mission is to collect, house, preserve, and disseminate the contributions of the African American men, women and children who helped settle and develop the Western United States.



STAFF BIOS

▲ **Eric Williams**, *curator of religion, Center for the Study of African American Religious Life*

Williams is responsible for assisting with collections, public programs, research, exhibitions, and publications. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in communications and sociology from the University of Illinois at Chicago, a Master of Arts in theological studies from the McCormick Theological Seminary, a Master of Divinity from Duke University and a doctorate in religious studies from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

▲ **Teddy R. Reeves**, *museum specialist in religion, Center for the Study of African American Religious Life*

Reeves is responsible for faith-based community outreach, conducting research, assisting in collecting artifacts and designing exhibitions and public programs. Reeves comes to the museum from Calvary Baptist Church, Jamaica, NY, where he was the executive pastor, and from Princeton Theological Seminary, where he was the program administrator for the Center for Black Church Studies.

▲ **Kim Moir**, *public programming specialist, Center for the Study of African American Religious Life*

Moir is involved in coordinating public programs and conducting outreach for the center. He has built a specialty in gathering information through technology and social media and making artifacts and histories available through web features and digital storytelling. Moir comes to the museum from the Fairfax County Government where he was a media technician.

▲ **Hannah Scruggs**, *genealogy reference assistant, Robert Frederick Smith Explore Your Family History Center*

Scruggs assists museum visitors and scholars with research projects. Before the Smithsonian, she was at James Madison's Montpelier where she researched slavery as part of the African American Descendants' Project. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in history from The College of William & Mary and a Master of Arts in public history with a focus in African American history from North Carolina State University.

▲ **Lisa Crawley**, *genealogist reference assistant, Robert Frederick Smith Explore Your Family History Center*

Crawley designs and manages educational programs and creates resource material for the museum's Family History Center and helps museum visitors conduct genealogy research. She comes to the museum from the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture in Baltimore where she served as the resource center manager, conducted genealogy outreach sessions, coordinated a lecture series, and assisted with exhibit research. She holds a master's degree in museum studies from Hampton University.

▲ **Kamilah Stinnett**, *genealogist research assistant, Robert Frederick Smith Explore Your Family History Center*

Stinnett develops digital and interactive components for the center. Formerly a research assistant at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit and a cataloger for the Freedmen's Bureau, she managed cataloging efforts for more than 500 artifacts in the Slavery and Freedom exhibition at the museum and helped develop the Syphax Family History interactive project. She earned a master's in museum studies from The George Washington University.



STAFF BIOS

▲ **Kelly Elaine Navies**, *oral history museum specialist*

Navies holds a Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies from the University of California at Berkeley, a master's in library and information science from Catholic University and has studied at the Southern Oral History Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research and oral history work focuses on community histories, narratives of segregation, and women's history. Before the Smithsonian, she served as librarian and oral historian at the Reginald F. Lewis Maryland Museum of African American History and Culture in Baltimore.

▲ **Dwandalyn R. Reece**, *curator of music and performing arts*

Reece curated the museum's permanent exhibition "Musical Crossroads," for which she received the Secretary's Research Prize in 2017. She has collaborated with a number of Smithsonian museums to create numerous music programs and publications including the forthcoming "Smithsonian Anthology of Hip-Hop and Rap" and the 2011 Folklife Festival program, "Rhythm & Blues: Tell it Like It Is." She is co-chair of the committee for the Smithsonian Institution's Year of Music initiative. Reece is currently working on a book, *Music and the Meaning of Things: The Material Culture of African American Music*.

▲ **Doretha Williams**, *program manager, The Robert F. Smith Fund*

Before her appointment at the museum, Williams was project director for the D.C. Africana Archives Project, a grant-funded appointment with the Africana Studies Program and the University Libraries at the George Washington University. She also was executive director of the Black Archives of Mid-America in Kansas City. A graduate of Fisk University, she earned her Ph.D. in American studies from the University of Kansas.

▲ **Polly McLean**, *associate professor at the University of Colorado*

A 2014 recipient of a Best Should Teach Gold Award, McLean teaches courses in media, culture and globalization; media theory; communication and international development; and gender, race, class and sexualities in popular culture and contemporary media. She has served as faculty associate to the chancellor and as director of Women & Gender Studies at University of Colorado. A senior Fulbright Scholar to the University of Namibia, she is writing a book on the performance of black men in drag in U.S. film and television.



MEDIA ADVISORY

November 1, 2018

Media only: Jermaine House (202) 633-9495; housej@si.edu
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WHAT: National Museum of African American History and Culture Community Curation Program to make second stop in Denver, CO

WHEN: Nov 2. - Nov. 11

WHERE: Blair- Caldwell African American Research Library
2401 Welton St. Denver, CO 80205

WHO: Kim Moir, *program specialist, National Museum of African American History and Culture*

Dwandalyn Reece, *curator of music and performing arts, National Museum of African American History and Culture*

Teddy R. Reeves, *museum specialist of religion, National Museum of African American History and Culture*

Doretha Williams, *program manager, The Robert Frederick Smith Fund for the Digitization and Curation of African American History*

Eric Williams, *curator of religion, National Museum of African American History and Culture*

The Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture **Community Curation Program** will make its second stop in Denver, CO tomorrow Friday, Nov 2. Launched in [Baltimore in 2017](#), the museum's Community Curation Program provides free digitization services to individuals seeking to preserve their video, motion picture films, photographs and paper documents. Supported by the museum's Robert Frederick Smith Explore Your Family History Center, the curation program empowers communities to share their family stories by providing the resources and technology to digitize and preserve. The Denver program is presented in partnership with the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library and the Black American West Museum.

There will also be workshops, presentations and panel discussions lead by curators, historians, genealogists, and archivists from the museum and the local Denver community. Attendees can learn how to use online resources to research their family's genealogy, conduct oral-history interviews, and learn about the local African American history and culture.

Participants can register for digitization sessions and see the full schedule of events by visiting <https://nmaahc.si.edu/community-curation-denver>.

Media can sign up by emailing housej@si.edu and will need to coordinate interviews with a representative of the museum.

COMMUNITY CURATION PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Friday, Nov. 2	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Photograph and document digitization session
Saturday, Nov. 3	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Photograph and document digitization session
	1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Public Program: Objects of Devotion: African American Religion and the Preservation of Sacred Things
	3 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.	Public Program: Finding Family in the Records: Genealogy research at the federal, state, and local level
	5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.	Public Program: Soultalk: Oral History, Family, and Community
Sunday, Nov. 4	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Photograph and document digitization session
	4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Public Program- Local Places of Worship
Monday, Nov. 5	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Photograph and document digitization session
	6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Public Program: Music and the Meaning of Things: The Material Culture of African American Music
Tuesday, Nov. 6	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Photograph and document digitization session Motion picture film digitization session
Wednesday, Nov. 7	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Photograph and document digitization session Motion picture film digitization session Videotape digitization session
Thursday, Nov. 8	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Photograph and document digitization session Motion Picture Film Digitization Session
Friday, Nov. 9	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Photograph and document digitization session Motion picture film digitization session Videotape digitization session
Saturday, Nov.10	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Photograph and document digitization session Motion picture film digitization session
	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Public program: We Know Because We Looked: Archiving the Black Past and Preserving the Future
Sunday, Nov. 11	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Photograph and document digitization session Motion picture film digitization session Videotape digitization session



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nmaahc.si.edu/community-curation-program