



**September 19, 2018**

**The Evansville African American Museum has been selected for National African American Museums Cohort**

**The Evansville African American Museum** is one of seven museums selected to participate in the inaugural initiative connecting African American museums across the country, offering guidance around increased institutional capacity in the areas of management, mission and governance. This program is a joint initiative of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) and the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). The **Evansville African American Museum** participated in a competitive process and was recently notified it has been chosen to take part in the group.

As part of the NMAAHC StEPs Cohort, staff and volunteers of **the Evansville African American Museum** will take part in an orientation meeting in Kansas City on September 26 and then have access to a mentor, online webinars, and other resources for one year. Each organization will also be enrolled in the Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations, or StEPs, a program managed by AASLH. StEPs is a national assessment program that offers small and medium-sized museums, historic sites, and related organizations the opportunity to assess their policies and practices, benchmark themselves against national museum standards, and earn Bronze, Silver and Gold progress certificates. More than 950 organizations across the US have enrolled in the program.

In addition to **the Evansville African American Museum**, the museums chosen for the NMAAHC StEPs Cohort are:

African American Cultural & Historical Museum of Washtenaw County, Ann Arbor, MI  
Black Heritage Society of Washington State, Seattle, WA  
Mary & Eliza Freeman Center for History and Community, Bridgeport, CT  
Northwest African American Museum, Seattle, WA  
National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center, Wilberforce, OH  
Robert Russa Moton Museum, Farmville, VA

About the program sponsors:



Since opening September 24, 2016, the National Museum of African American History and Culture has welcomed nearly 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. The Office of Strategic Partnerships leverages the Museum's research and programmatic initiatives to empower and advance the work of museums and related cultural heritage organizations dedicated to African American and Diaspora history by collaborating with regional, national, and global networks to connect needs to resources, promoting organizational sustainability, and cultivating and supporting museum professionals.

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) is the only national association dedicated to the people and organizations that practice state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all people. These history organizations are American leaders in preserving, researching, and interpreting traces of the past to connect the people, thoughts, and events of yesterday with the creative memories and abiding concerns of people, communities, and our nation today. More information is available at [www.aaslh.org](http://www.aaslh.org).

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