



2024 Incoming and Returning Council Officers and Directors

Council Officers (2024-2026)

President



Dr. Calinda N. Lee
Owner and Principal Consultant
Sources CRM, LLC
Atlanta, Georgia

Educated at Spelman College (BA), New York University (MA) and Emory University (MA and PhD), **Calinda N. Lee** founded Sources Cultural Resources Management, LLC to provide historically-resonant, inclusive interpretation and organizational development services. Calinda's historical expertise informs opportunities to connect stories and events from the past with current day circumstances. The value of community engagement in historical interpretation as well as civil and human rights work is of utmost importance to Calinda, and informs programs and initiatives under her leadership. Clients include the United States State Department, the City Museum of Washington, DC, DC Public Libraries, State of Maryland, State of Georgia, Chicago History Museum, Northwestern University and many more.

Prior to establishing Sources, Lee served as the Head of Interpretation at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. She joined the executive leadership team at The Center to oversee its mission-focused work. In this role, she oversaw Education and Exhibitions teams as well as substantive program work on community partnerships. Calinda previously served as Vice President of Historical Interpretation and Community Engagement for the Atlanta History Center. There, she served as chief historian, considering historical interpretation for all aspects of the region's past to develop the AHC's primary collections, historic houses, historic gardens, and public programs. She also developed Community Engagements and the AHC's Neighborhoods Initiative. As a scholar and administrator, Dr. Lee has held teaching and administrative positions at Emory University, Loyola University Chicago and Spelman College. A prolific practitioner, she is an award-winning curator, writer, and educator.

Vice President



Ahmad Ward
Executive Director
Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park
Hilton Head, South Carolina

Ahmad Ward is responsible for implementing the Mitchelville master plan that will recreate this historic town as an interpretative site. The mission of the Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park is to preserve, promote and honor Historic Mitchelville, the first self-governed town of formerly enslaved people in the United States. The Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park will convey this important story of freedom and citizenship to visitors from around the country. Prior to this position, Mr. Ward spent fifteen years leading the Education Department at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in Birmingham Alabama. It is there where he honed his expertise in telling the story of civil and human rights in America, with a focus on historical analysis and application to current social justice issues. With Masters-level training and years of experience in exhibition design, he brings a strong understanding of storytelling and the importance of technology in interpretation. Mr. Ward has been responsible for creating programming partnerships with local schools, universities and organizations; teacher and student resources; written articles, blogs and essays for local, national and international platforms as well as the development of public

programming for community-at-large in the areas of civil and human rights movements, multiculturalism and contemporary human rights issues.

He is a native of Elizabeth City, North Carolina and holds a BA in Art from Elizabeth City State University and a MA in Museum Studies from Hampton University. Mr. Ward is a Board member of the Association of African American Museums, a member of Rotary of Hilton Head Island Club and serves on the Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC) and Jekyll Island Management Institute (JIMI) Selection Board. He is a former member of the Smithsonian Affiliates Advisory Board and an incoming Council Member for SEMC. Mr. Ward enjoys drawing, watching sports, cooking, sleeping (when possible) and fantasy football. He and his wife, Dafina have two brilliant daughters, Masani Ashiya and Aminah Elon.

Treasurer



Scott Alvey
Executive Director
Kentucky Historical Society
Frankfort, Kentucky

Scott Alvey is the Executive Director of the Kentucky Historical Society. He directs the organization's mission, values and strategic priorities through programming, publications, exhibits and other public resources. Alvey began his career as an education volunteer for the Museum of History and Science in Louisville. As the museum grew into the Louisville Science Center, he led education programs, collections, facilities, and exhibition development. In 2008, he joined the Kentucky Historical Society as design studio director, leading efforts to create promotional and interpretative experiences. He became deputy director in 2012 and was named executive director in July 2018.

"Museums create pivotal experiences," he said. "At the Kentucky Historical Society, we help people connect to history through ancestry, art, subject matter and many other touchpoints. It's not about just putting things on display. It's about giving people experiences that will inspire them and that they'll remember."

An Evansville, IN. native, Alvey holds a bachelor's degree in history from Western Kentucky University and is a 2010 graduate of the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) Seminar for Historical Administration. He chaired the host committee for the AASLH 2015 Conference in Louisville, KY, was president of the Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance and state director for the Southeast Museums Conference. He is in the 2022 class of Leadership Kentucky and serves on a variety of boards and commissions, including the Kentucky Historical Society Foundation, Kentucky Historic Properties Advisory Committee, Kentucky Military Heritage Commission, Kentucky Oral History Commission, and the Kentucky Sestercentennial Commission.

Secretary



Deborah Rose Van Horn
Senior Curator
Walt Disney Imagineering
Lake Buena Vista, Florida

Deborah Rose Van Horn has been working in the museum field for over 20 years in various positions. She is currently Senior Curator with Walt Disney Imagineering where she cares for the galleries in the Walt Disney World Parks in Florida and helps develop new exhibitions. Deb has focused on collections management, registration and exhibition development. She has served in various museum leadership roles over the years, as a past-chair for the Southeastern Registrars Association, a former board member for the Registrars Committee-AAM (later CS-AAM), scholarship committee chair for the Southeastern Museums Conference and state representative for the awards committee of the American Association for State and Local History. Deb is also the editor or author of several books and articles including the latest editions of *Basic Condition Reporting: A Handbook* and *Registration Methods for the Small Museum*.

Past President



Matthew S. Davis
Director of Institutional History Museum
Washington and Lee University
Lexington, Virginia

Matt Davis is a native of Kinston, NC and received his education at Georgia College & State University. Graduating Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree in History in 2002 and a Master of Arts in History with a concentration in Public History in 2004, he is currently employed as the Director of Institutional History Museums at Washington and Lee University, where he manages their National Historic Landmark Chapel, the Washington Gallery, and will oversee construction of new Institutional History Museum. From 2013-2024, Davis served as Director of Historic Museums at Georgia College & State University, which includes Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion, Andalusia: The Home of Flannery O'Connor, and The Sallie Ellis Davis House.

Davis is a member of several professional museum groups and boards. He was the founder of the Milledgeville Museum Association and served as president of the Georgia Association of Museums from 2018-2021. In 2019, he was elected to the governing council of the Southeastern Museums Conference and was elected by the membership as President in 2022. He also served as chair of the organization's program and evaluation committee and was a founding co-chair of the Mid-Career professionals committee. Additionally, he is a member of the Historic House Museum Committee for the American Association of State and Local History, is a committeeman at large for

CurCom, and serves as an accreditation reviewer for the American Alliance of Museums. Davis is a 2016 graduate of the 21st Century Museum Leadership Institute, which was sponsored by the George Washington University and the Smithsonian Institution and a 2022 graduate of the Southeastern Museum Conference Leadership Institute. He is a frequent guest speaker and presenter at museum conferences nationwide.

Aside from his duties at the museums, Davis teaches at Georgia Military College in the History Department as an Adjunct Professor of History. In 2008, Davis was named to Milledgeville Scene Magazine's inaugural "20 under 40" list. In 2012, Davis was named as the Museum Professional of the Year by the Georgia Association of Museums. Davis has also served in a variety of capacities in various local organizations including service as chair of the Milledgeville Convention and Visitors Bureau, and as an advisor on the advisory board for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Georgia College. Recently, he was elected for his third term as a member of Georgia College's Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Matt resides in both Georgia and Virginia with his wife Lisa and his children Addison, Aiden, and Abigail.

Council Directors, 2nd Term (October 2024-October 2027)



Katie Ericson-Baskin
Ingram Director of Education
Michael C. Carlos Museum
Atlanta, Georgia

Katie Ericson-Baskin is the Ingram Director of Education at the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University, where she is responsible for the development and implementation of educational and interpretive programs, and strategic oversight of the department. She manages a department of two full-time and one part-time staff members, and a volunteer staff of 60 volunteer docents, who all work together to create programs for a variety of audiences, from Pre-K-12, to university students, to Emory Healthcare, and life-long learners. Prior to this role she was the Senior Manager, School and Volunteer Programs, where her work centered on creating interdisciplinary connections between visual art and STEM, language arts, history, and social emotional learning. She was a co-chair and founding member of the Carlos Museum's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, working across the institution and spearheading accessibility initiatives -- including making the Carlos the first Art Museum in Georgia to receive Sensory Inclusion Certification.

Katie earned her bachelor's degree in Art Management from Appalachian State University, and a master's degree in Art Education from the University of Florida. Prior to the Carlos Museum, she worked as the Education and Outreach Coordinator at the Bernard A. Zuckerman Museum of Art at Kennesaw State University, Youth and Family Programs Fellow at North Carolina Museum of Art, and Exhibitions Assistant at the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts at Appalachian State University. Katie has served as the Museum Representative on the Georgia Art Education Association (GAEA) Board, and won the GAEA Museum Educator of the Year award in 2021. She was the former chair for the SEMC Emerging Museum Professionals (2016- 2021), and an active member of the SEMC Program Committee. She also served as co-leader of the Atlanta Cultural Educators group, and in 2017 was the founder of the Atlanta Emerging Museum Professionals Network, serving as a co-leader for two years. In addition to SEMC Council, she serves as the chair of SEMC Educators Committee, chaired the 2025 JIMI Instructor Selection Committee, and sits on the Atlanta Photography Group Advisory Council.



Brigette Janea Jones
Assistant Executive Director
Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance
Stonecrest, GA

Brigette Janea Jones is the founder of Bridge Builders Historical Consulting LLC, a research and interpretive resource for museums and other nonprofit institutions that focuses on empathetic cultural remembrance, and the assistant executive director of the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area outside of Atlanta, Georgia. Before she took on these roles, Jones served as director of equitable partnerships for Belle Meade Historic Site and Winery and curator of social history for the Tennessee State Museum. Her work has concentrated on the social histories of the diverse cultures that inhabit Tennessee, including African American history, Latino history, Native American history, and Middle Eastern American history. She also studies the legacy and ongoing ramifications of enslavement in Tennessee and surrounding areas and the need for reparative action as it relates to American Descendants of Enslavement.

Jones was born and raised in Memphis and holds a bachelor of arts degree from the historically Black Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee. In 2019, she gained certification through the National Association of Interpretation and the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of African American History and Culture to be an official interpreter of the African American experience.



Deitrah J. Taylor
Public Historian/Dramaturg/Playwright
Perry, Georgia

Deitrah Taylor is an independent curator and historian with 15 years of experience serving active learners of all ages. She previously worked as Cultural Center Coordinator for Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville and has additional experience with both the Old Governor's Mansion and Sallie Ellis Davis House where she established new tours within the space covered by local and regional media. Deitrah Taylor served two terms as SEMC Secretary and will finish her second term term as a Council Director. She was also a founding member of the SEMC Equity and Inclusion Action Team.

Council Directors, 1st Term (October 2024-October 2027)



Eboni Belton

Lead Gallery Attendant

**Center for Civil Rights History and Research at the University of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina**

Eboni Belton is a dynamic historian with a deep passion for preserving and interpreting African American history, notably the American Civil Rights Movement. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in History with a minor in African American Studies and a concentration in Secondary Education from the University of South Carolina. Her academic foundation and enthusiasm for teaching have empowered her to engage diverse audiences with history's most pivotal narratives. Currently, Eboni is the Lead Gallery Attendant for the Our Story Matters gallery's "Intersection on Main Street" exhibit, housed at the Columbia Museum of Art. This impactful exhibit delves into the rich history of the

Washington Street Black Business District in Columbia, South Carolina, from the 1870s to the 1970s. It is a collaborative initiative with the Center for Civil Rights History and Research at the University of South Carolina and Columbia SC 63, the city's premier civil rights initiative. In this role, Eboni is instrumental in guiding visitors through the profound legacy of Black entrepreneurship and community resilience.

In addition to her work at the museum, Eboni is a dedicated tour guide for Columbia SC 63. She leads walking tours along Main Street, bringing to life Columbia's critical role in the Civil Rights Movement. Her expertise extends beyond the city as she helps organize pop-up exhibits across South Carolina, ensuring the stories of resistance and triumph are accessible to a broader audience. At Historic Columbia, Eboni enhances her storytelling by conducting historic house tours for significant sites such as the Museum of Reconstruction at the Woodrow Wilson Family Home, Hampton-Preston Mansion, the Mann-Simons Site, Modjeska Monteith Simkins Home, and the Robert Mills House. Through these tours, she skillfully connects the past to the present, making history resonate with all who experience it.

A native of Columbia, South Carolina, Eboni is deeply committed to preserving the rich heritage of her home state. She is a proud member of both the Association of African American Museums and the Southeastern Museums Conference, continually expanding her professional network and expertise in museum studies and public history. Eboni's work honors the legacies of African American history and inspires future generations to understand, reflect on, and learn from the past.



Matt Farah
Exhibition Coordinator
Historic New Orleans Collection
New Orleans, Louisiana

Matt Farah is Exhibitions Coordinator at The Historic New Orleans Collection (THNOC). After working in the Texas oilfields, he earned his master's degree in American History from Tulane University and began working at HNOC in 2010. Matt began at THNOC in Visitor Services, and has worked as a reference assistant, archivist, preparator and associate curator. He started in the exhibitions department managing traveling exhibitions prior to becoming exhibitions coordinator in 2019. Matt has presented many professional sessions and workshops at SEMC annual meetings over the years and has been a speaker for SEMC virtual programs including the 2021 Digital Empowerment Project which provided capacity-building programs and resources in the areas of digital media and technology for small museums. Matt has served on the SEMC Program Committee since 2017 and was a juror for the 2023 SEMC Exhibition Competition.



Tamara Herring
Executive Director
Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage
Ridgeland, South Carolina

Tamara Herring is an accomplished executive with more than 20 years' experience in the advertising, finance and non-profit industry. She is a detail-oriented leader with the proven ability to develop and implement strategies to achieve organizational goals. Since 2018, Tamara has served as the Executive Director at Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage, a non-profit museum and cultural arts center located in Ridgeland, SC. Morris Center's mission is to collect, preserve and interpret the history and culture

of the South Carolina Lowcountry by providing learning opportunities to its citizens and visitors. Tamara along with staff and the advisory board ensure the mission is carried out by cultivating community understanding through education, preservation and celebration of the region's rich cultural heritage and by ensuring the Center welcomes a wide diversity of people who can gather to explore and learn about the area's distinctive sense of place. Tamara's primary responsibilities include visioning, planning and developing institutional priorities, systems and activities. No stranger to non-profit work, her role as grant researcher, partnership developer and project coordinator helped to create several community-based programs for Interstate Urban Consortium, Inc. and Empowering Youth to Excel and Succeed, Inc. both headquartered in Northern NJ. Prior to relocating to South Carolina, Tamara managed the onsite financials at the Mall at Short Hills, a Taubman property, in Short Hills, NJ. In this role she managed all accounting functions including accounts payable and receivable, payroll and budget development. Tamara began her career at Dentino Marketing, as an Account Executive. It was here that she honed her project management and client service skills delivering assignments timely and within allocated budgets. Tamara was awarded the South Carolina Governor's Award for Fresh Voices in Humanities in 2021 and currently serves as the Secretary of both the United Way of the Lowcountry and the Bee Creek Pines Homeowners Association Board of Directors. Tamara is a graduate of the SEMC 2024 Leadership Institute.



Felicia Knise
Head of Interpretation
North Carolina Museum of Art

Raleigh, North Carolina

Felicia Knise Ingram is a dedicated arts professional with a master's degree in Arts Administration and Museum Leadership from Drexel University. As the Manager of Interpretation at the North Carolina Museum of Art, she leads initiatives to make the museum a welcoming space for all visitors. Felicia collaborates closely with local advocacy groups to ensure accessibility is at the forefront of the museum's exhibitions and programs. Known for her commitment to inclusivity, she is a strong advocate for creating meaningful and accessible museum experiences for everyone. She is looking forward to teaching about audio description in museums for the second time at the 2025 Jekyll Island Management Institute.



Katy Malone
Manager of Education and Community Engagement
McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture
Knoxville, Tennessee

Katy Malone is the Manager of Education and Community Engagement at the McClung Museum, which is a part of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She has 18 years of experience in arts administration and cultural non-profit work. For the last 11 years she has worked in museum education in higher-learning institutions. She is the instructor of Introductory Museum Studies for UT's minor in Museum Studies and provides a master's level version of the course for UT's School of Information Sciences. Malone has a BS in Biological Sciences and Chemistry, and an MFA in Studio Arts both from Georgia State University.