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## **NMAAM INCREASES PROFILE WITH FULL DOCTORAL TEAM**

*Third Curator at National Museum of African American Music Earns Doctoral Degree*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (Jan. XX, 2019)** – The National Museum of African American Music (NMAAM) is one of the few museums in the U.S. with a full curatorial team each of whom has earned a doctoral degree.

Dr. Marquita Reed, who was named NMAAM collections manager in 2017, is the latest of the museum’s curators to earn a Ph.D. She received her doctorate from Middle Tennessee State University in December 2018.

Reed joins fellow curator Dr. Steven Lewis in earning a doctoral degree in 2018. Dr. Dina Bennett, a seasoned museum professional, joined the staff as senior curatorial director in 2018. They are responsible for locating, acquiring and preserving the artifacts that will be displayed in the museum, slated to open in late 2019. The museum has already acquired over 1,200 artifacts, including a dress worn by Whitney Houston and a costume worn by George Clinton.

The curatorial team is led by Museum Director-In-Residence Dr. John Fleming, a well-known historian and the first African American president of the Nashville-based American Association for State and Local History. His experience includes serving as director of the National Afro American Museum and the International African American Museum. He was the senior consultant for the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and the National Constitution Center. He has been with NMAAM since 2014.

“I’m extremely proud of the top-notch curatorial team that we’ve put together at NMAAM,” Fleming said. “We now have the unique talent and outstanding collection in place to open later this year.”

Each curator has received a Ph.D. in either ethnomusicology or public history, and they have more than 30 years of combined curatorial experience. Members of NMAAM’s curatorial team have worked closely with the Smithsonian, Thomas Jefferson Foundation, American Jazz Museum, B.B. King Museum, Delta Interpretive Center, and various art and music institutions.

### **ABOUT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC**

The National Museum of African American Music, set to open in late 2019, will be the only museum dedicated solely to preserving African American music traditions and celebrating the influence African Americans have had on music. Based in Nashville, Tenn., the museum will

share the story of the American soundtrack by integrating history and interactive technology to bring musical heroes of the past into the present. For more information, please visit [www.nmaam.org](http://www.nmaam.org).

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