



To Be Released: February 19, 2015

INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM TO HOLD PUBLIC FORUM

Charleston, S.C.—The International African American Museum (IAAM), the \$75 million museum planned to be built on Charleston’s harbor, is holding a public forum to seek input on the museum’s future programming. The forum will take place on Tuesday, February 24 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. The location of the meeting, at Charleston’s Maritime Center, 10 Wharfside St. near the South Carolina Aquarium is adjacent to the museum’s future site. Gadsden’s Wharf is where thousands of enslaved Africans who survived the Middle Passage stepped off slave ships onto the North American continent. In its own unique way, Gadsden’s Wharf is the African American’s Ellis Island. It is estimated that millions of African Americans have ancestors who arrived and were sold at Gadsden Wharf.

The forum is designed to solicit public input as IAAM develops its program. Dr. Bernard Powers of the College of Charleston History Department, who serves as chair of IAAM Program Committee, will oversee the forum. Other members of the IAAM Program Committee will be in attendance.

Joining Dr. Powers and the committee will be Ralph Appelbaum, the world-renowned museum exhibition and program designer. Appelbaum will be joined by his team from Ralph Appelbaum Associates who, in addition to acting as consultants to IAAM, are the exhibition designers of the Natation Museum of African American History and Culture which will open on the Mall in Washington next year. Appelbaum’s other credits include the Holocaust Museum , Capitol Hill Visitor Center, the Newseum in Washington, the Clinton Library, Philadelphia’s Constitution Center, and most recently, the Museum of Human Rights in Winnipeg, Canada.

“The IAAM Program Committee is seeking public input at this critical stage of the museum’s development and we invite all who have ideas for the museum and its mission to attend and share their thoughts. Participants in the forum will also have an opportunity to hear some of the ideas and approaches being considered for IAAM programming,” said Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr.

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