AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR END REPORT 2025-2026

AAMSAZ

We are a movement,
not just a Museum!

Annual Report 2025-2026

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www.aamsaz.org

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Who We Are

We are a movement, not just a Museum!

Mission

We are devoted to gathering and sharing stories, images, and artifacts as we document, digitize, and preserve African American and Black life, culture, and history in Southern Arizona to benefit the community.

Vision

To serve as a resource and to provide the community with an applied and virtual venue and repository for stories, histories, and cultural contributions by African Americans and Blacks in Southern Arizona.

Values

- **Authentic:** We plan to become an accredited museum that will present a cultural and educational experience by providing items of significance with stories of struggles and triumphs presented by knowledgeable volunteers and staff.
- **Inclusive:** As Lonnie G Bunch II (Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution) stated, “We want everyone to participate, collaborate, and learn more about African American history and culture.”
- **Accountable:** With community roots and a solid community base, AAMSAZ will strive to be relevant, accurate, and professional in the work, exhibits, and programming while engaging members and the community in meaningful ways.

Thank you so much for your support!

Our Boards & Founders

Advisory Board of Directors

Robert “Bob” Elliott
Beverely Elliott
Styne Hill
JP Roczniak
Taunya Villicana
Richard Davis
William “Bill” Ponder
Collier Hill
Daisy Jenkins
Greg Pivirotto
Tony Finley
Tripp Twyman
Alfredo Prince

Founding Advisory Board members no longer on the board

Beah Williams
Lisa Lovallo
Jeffrey Sawyer

Supplemental Board

Doreen Davis
Felicia Jackson
Joe Jackson
Rosanne Neal
Kimberlee Avant
Amber Clark
Brenton Robinson
Jimmy Hart
Larry Hecker
Velvia Evans
Tony Penn
Joyce Green
Tina L. Johnson
Delano Price
Jacque Price
Anthony Wingate
Scott Thompson
Kent Rollins
Tani Sanchez
Sadie Shaw

Founding Supplemental Board members no longer on the board

Aalia Shaheed
Beverly Willis
Marlys Thompson Deen

Founders

Robert “Bob” Elliott
Beverely Elliott
Styne Hill
Richard Davis
Collier Hill
Felicia Jackson
Joe Jackson
Amber Clark
Kimberlee Avant
Brenton Robinson
“Jody”

Message from the Executive Director



Still moving forward with purpose and keeping our mission and vision in mind

As we continue to grow, adapt, and remain relevant, the response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive. Our base of supporters has been steady and they have stood with us every step of the way. We are especially thankful for our Legacy Founding Investors—TEP, COX, the Zuckerman Family Foundation, the Lohse Family /Tucson Foundation and the Elliott Family Charities— as well as individual donors like Betsy Bruce, and Alice and Paul Baker.

This report highlights the tremendous work accomplished by the African American Museum of Southern Arizona over the past year. None of it would have been possible without the dedication of our working board—now called our Advisory Board—and the ongoing support of our former Advisory Board, now the Supplemental Board. This name change was due to the UA Board of Regents being the only Executive Board associated with the University of Arizona.

Simply Stated from Our Board



Bob Elliott (MBA), is a founding member and Chair of the AAMSAZ Advisory Board. Bob has been the chair and served on numerous boards, including UNS Energy-Fortis, the National Basketball Retired Players Association (NBRPA), AAA Mountain West Group, AAA Arizona, Tucson Airport Authority, the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, and the Tucson Urban League.

Thank you to our staff and volunteers who have moved our mission forward. More than that Thank you Tucson, Southern Arizona, Arizona and the community who have supported us as we have shared and preserved the rich history of Southern Arizona.

A Statement from the Director



As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the growth, collaboration, and community support that continue to shape the African American Museum of Southern Arizona. It is an honor to serve as Director and to work alongside individuals and organizations who believe deeply in our mission and the importance of preserving and sharing African American history in Southern Arizona.

I am especially grateful for our community partners and our partners across the University of Arizona, whose collaboration continues to expand our reach and create opportunities for education, storytelling, innovation, and engagement.

As we look ahead, I am excited about the continued growth of AAMSAZ—strengthening our brand, raising awareness, expanding partnerships, and creating even more opportunities for our community to connect with the stories we are entrusted to preserve.
Thank you to everyone who has visited, partnered, volunteered, supported, and invested in AAMSAZ. I am grateful for how far we have come and excited for where we are going.





2025 – 2026 Metrics

Impact 4 years	June 2023	June 2024	June 2025	June 2026
Members / Total	233	539	711	847
Newsletter Subscribers	907	1,375	1,684	1,943
Visitors Total	1,268	6,223	9,086	11,319
Guided Tours	75	188	284	476
Outside Presentations	22	30	61	100









July 2025 – June 2026 Financial Revenue and Expenses

Revenues		$327,846
Individual Contributions	49,416	
Corporate Contributions	59,210	
Financial Contributions	104,052	
Events	111,684	
Interest Income	$3,484	

Expenses		$254,151
Administration/Operating	$41,631	
Personnel	$193,293	
Marketing & Promotion	$3,855	
Events	$15,372	
Excess Revenues over Expenses		**$73,695**

Accomplishments

- Camp Naco Fellowship - A Taste of African American History - In Tucson and Bisbee
- Holiday Gala and Silent Auction - Sheraton
- The Wiz - Cast Tour and local Students - Broadway of Tucson
- MLK -BBall Game at McKale Center - Coaches for Cancer
- Black History Month - Fireside Chat with Tony Dungy
- DNA - Educational Programming for schools
- Family History Day
- Graduation at the U of A
- Freedom In Ink
- From Fear to Freedom - Swim Program
- Juneteenth Festival Celebration

Community Engagement



Honors and Certifications

- We were in compliance and were once again awarded the Tier II Certification – Arizona Historical Society

Grants and Gifts

- U of A Office of Research and Partnerships
- Community Foundation of Southern Arizona
- AZ Historical Society
- Las Donas de Tucson
- Pima County
- CORE Grant

Social Justice

- Tucson Chapter of The Links, Incorporated – Black Family Wellness Expo
- Still working on HB 1432 regarding Housing / CC&R's and how to show it existed without wiping out language.
- Get Out the Vote - League of Women Voters
- History 102 - In Your Parents Eyes
- Freedom In Ink Program

New Exhibitions

- Cathay Williams
- Hattie McDaniels in Tucson



Community Outreach

We receive requests from various organization to present information about the museum and share highlights of some of our exhibitions. We have fulfilled many of these requests in person and virtually. Our vision is to serve our community as a valuable resource and deliver impactful information as we foster and share educational experiences.

- Walk with Ruby Day
- ABC – A Better Community
- Tucson Parks and Recreation
- Palo Verde High School
- Tucson Unified School District
- Welcome Back – Black Community Council
- Broadway in Tucson
- UA MLK Dream Center
- ASU
- Broadway of Tucson
- Juneteenth Festival Committee
- Pima County Supervisors
- Black Alumni of Arizona
- Black Genealogy Family
- Tucson Chapter of the Links, Incorporated
- City of Tucson - Mayor and Ward 5
- GSAAC

Collaborators

- ABC (A Better Community)
- UA Center for Digital Humanities – Dr. Bryan Carter
- UA Recreation Center - Swim Program
- UA Black Community Council – Daisy Jenkins, Esq.
- Tucson Chapter of the Links, Incorporated
- Joe Jackson Photography – J3 Photography /Owner
- Juneteenth Festival, Inc. – Larry Starks, President
- COX Communication – Alfredo Prince, Trevor Davis
- Tucson Electric Power



Oral Histories

Our Oral History collection was initially sponsored by the Elliott Family Charities in conjunction with the African American Museum of Southern Arizona.

The collection includes some of the most colorful and fascinating stories of African American experiences in Southern Arizona about various topics including community centers, education, housing, employment, faith, and more. From slavery to Juneteenth and the 26th Amendment to the Civil Rights Act, African Americans have a rich history steeped in diverse experiences.

Legacy Stories

We often lose history and the stories of those who have passed away. When a person is able to tell the story of one of their ancestors, a friend, or foe, the legacy of someone who has died allows their life story to be told. These are great life histories and stories that represent the richness, contributions, accomplishments, and the impact a person had on a community, our lives, and the lives of others. Our griots give a voice to the past for those who can no longer tell their stories about their journeys and experiences. The griots share the oral histories with a sense of family, heritage, culture, space, place, and time. Many journeys one can only experience today through one's imagination and hearing the voices of the past.

All About The Arts

We honor the idea of Sankofa (an African word from the Akan tribe in Ghana) – that there is wisdom in your past and in your roots.

The Arts and Culture are truly a clear way of understanding struggles, heritage, celebrations and love. Painting, Dancing, Singing, Performing Music, Writing, the Spoken Word, Religion, Acting, Film and Food all are art forms that express the social, personal and life journeys of people.

As they say, Art imitates life and legacy. Join us as we present authors, dancers, sculptures, painters, poets and more.

Celebrations

We honor and celebrate the following holidays!

- Juneteenth
- 4th of July
- Black History Month
- Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- The Crown Act – Crown Day
- Women's History Month
- Black Business Month

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