

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM^{OF} SOUTHERN ARIZONA



We are a movement,
not just a Museum!

2022 - 2023 Annual Report

A YEAR IN REVIEW / INAUGURAL YEAR
SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

Submitted by:
Beverly Elliott

Designed by
Jenny Li

University of Arizona
Student Union Room 244
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AAMSAZ.ORG
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MISSION

We are devoted to gathering and sharing the 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

Our vision is 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 and globally.

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.

Land Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O’odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.

For the past 6 months, January 14, 2023 – June 30, 2023, the African American Museum of Southern Arizona has brought together businesses, non-profits, corporations, but most of all, individuals, family, and friends to support the museum.

THANK YOU!

Our Board, Advisory Board Members, and Founders

Board of Directors

Robert “Bob” Elliott -Chair
Beverly Elliott
Styne Hill
JP Rocznik
Taunya Villicana -Secretary
Richard Davis – Vice Chair
Lisa Lovallo
William “Bill” Ponder
Collier Hill
Daisy Jenkins
Greg Pivrotto - Treasurer
Jeffrey Sawyer

Advisory 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
Beverly Willis
Marlys Deen
Aalia Shaheed
Anthony Wingate
Scott Thompson
Kent Rollins
Tani Sanchez
Sadie Shaw

Founders

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

Message From the Executive Director



Reflecting on the past in my role as Executive Director, it is important to acknowledge that my background does not encompass the realms of being a **docent, historical curator, or museum specialist**. Nevertheless, I am filled with profound gratitude for the success and realization of the museum. It is with great pleasure that I present this comprehensive report detailing the growth, projects and achievements over the past year.

In extending my heartfelt appreciation, I must express gratitude to several key pillars of our institution: our dedicated **Board members**, highly regarded **Advisory Board**, the partnership with the **University of Arizona**, the invaluable contributions of our **University Interns**, and, of course, our esteemed **Legacy Founder Investors (LFI's)**, whose generosity, each committed \$100,000, includes prominent entities such as **TEP, COX, The Zuckerman Family Foundation, and Elliott Family Charities**. We have meticulously charted our course, drawing inspiration from a myriad of sources. To all of you, I extend my heartfelt thanks.

Our journey has been made possible by the unwavering financial support of our **Sponsors, Donors, Members**, and those who wholeheartedly embrace our mission. It is through your generosity that our endeavors have thrived, and your belief in our cause has fortified our resolve to continue.

The 2022-2023 Annual Report, now readily accessible online at <https://www.aamsaz.org/aamsaz-2022-2023-annual-report/>. While the COVID-19 pandemic presented us with a unique set of challenges, it paradoxically afforded us precious time to craft and curate compelling exhibits, enrich our collections, cultivate innovative ideas, and much more. As we move forward, we set our sights on the next chapter, centering our efforts on securing thought-provoking exhibits from the rich tapestry of the Southern Arizona Community and beyond.

Everything we have undertaken has been in service to our mission: to provide our community with a platform to preserve, celebrate, and document the stories, images, and artifacts that illuminate the tapestry of African American and Black life, culture, and history in Southern Arizona, all for the betterment of our community.

A special note of appreciation goes to the **University of Arizona**, the **University of Arizona Foundation**, and **Facilities Management** whose invaluable assistance has been instrumental in our journey.

Sincerely,
Beverly Elliott
Executive Director

Board Chair Statement

Robert A. (Bob) Elliott

PRESIDENT/OWNER, ELLIOTT ACCOUNTING

Bob is the founder and President of Elliott Accounting, an accounting, tax, management, and investment advisory services firm. Bob has served as the Chairman of the Board of UNS Energy-Fortis, AAA Mountain West Group, AAA Arizona, the NBA Retired Players Association, Tucson Airport Authority, the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, the University of Arizona Alumni Association, and the Tucson Urban League.

Bob is a former NBA basketball player who enjoyed a 27-year broadcasting career and has voice credits with 4 games from EA Sports. In 2014 he was named the Tucson Man of the Year. Mr. Elliott was a College Basketball Athletic and Academic All-American.



All I can think of is two words regarding our second year of operations. Thank you!

Thank you to the community that has embraced this mission in the first year! We had **70** contributors, and at the end of the second year, we had **233** contributors.

Thank you to the **1,268** people who have visited the museum since our ribbon-cutting grand opening from **January 14, 2023, to June 30, 2023**. Thank You to all our collaborators, including our main partner, UArizona, and the University of Arizona Foundation.

The biggest thank you goes to our **Executive Director, Beverly Elliott**, who has put in more hours and days than you can imagine. Literally every day, double-digit hours per day. Thank you to those who helped us for the time we started with a blank sheet of paper. We have a wonderful Board of Directors, an amazing Advisory Board, and Interns who have come in and assisted and helped execute our mission. We will continue as a team to grow and serve the mission and vision of AAMSAZ. I am excited, and I express sincere gratitude on behalf of the Board of Directors to all those who have contributed to the organization's growth and mission.

**Sincerely,
Bob Elliott**

Impact By The Numbers

June 30, 2022

June 30, 2023

70

MEMBERS

233

289

NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS

907

Visitors

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

1,268

Guided
Tours

January 14, 2023 - June 30, 2023

75

Statement Revenue and Expenses

Fiscal Year July 1, 2022
Ending June 30, 2023

African American Museum of Southern Arizona

Revenues			\$ 399,179
	Individual Contributions	\$ 100,775	
	Corporate Contributions	\$ 170,225	
	Grants	\$ 30,804	
	Events	\$ 97,375	
Expenses			\$ 86,717
	Administration/Operating	\$ 35,521	
	Personnel	\$ 5,000	
	Marketing & Promotion	\$ 1,756	
	Grants	\$ 36,835	
	Events	\$ 7,605	
Excess Revenues over Expenses			\$ 312,462

Programs & Progress

Below is an overview and highlights of the programs held throughout the year.

November 2022

1. Walk to school with Ruby Bridges Day
2. Chat with Ruby Bridges

January 2023

1. Interns from the U of A, Emma Marquez-Peterson and Jie Li, are hired for the spring semester.
2. Grand Opening
3. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – No School - Let's Celebrate with the City.
4. Crowns given to attendees to support the passing of the CROWN Act.

February 2023 - Black History Month

1. Chat with Stacey Snowden
2. Share books with students
3. Museum open to many schools and organizations
4. Our display cases arrive.

March 2023 The C.R.O.W.N. Act - Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair

1. We provided Arizona voters with a QR Code that connected them with our US Senators and **Governor Katie Hobbs'** office in Phoenix. Executive Director Beverly Elliott and Board Chair Bob Elliott were invited to attend the signing of the Executive Order as Governor Hobbs moved the legislation forward, making it illegal to discriminate against a person based on their hair texture or style.
2. **Annie Sykes** and the **Black Women's Task Force** here in Tucson had been instrumental in moving this initiative forward here in the City of Tucson.

April 2023 – QR Codes and Labels

1. Editing of 9 oral histories that were recorded in March by Cox Communications at Living Waters Church.
2. Designs to make the museum more digitally accessible and how we will record a virtual tour.

May 2023 - School is Out

1. Bob Elliott and Beverly Elliott are honored with the UArizona's Outstanding Alumni Award.
2. Bob and Beverly speak at the U of A's Commencement at the U of A's football stadium.
3. Albert Randall donation to support exhibit.

June 2023 - Juneteenth

Collaborate with Larry Starks, President of the Tucson Juneteenth Festival Committee, Incorporated. and Bank of America to present Making Black America: Through the Grapevine.

Exhibitions



Buffalo Soldiers / Military

- The Buffalo Soldiers Display. We have an exhibition of items, a mannequin, and information on the Buffalo Soldiers.
- Medal of Honor winners – the Wham Paymaster Robbery.

Arizona History Screen

- Mountain View Motel
- Sgt. Benjamin Brown - A Legacy Story

Ruby Bridges

- Clips, books, photos, and a narrated story of her visit to Tucson.

Quilt - African American Museum of Southern Arizona

- Designed for the museum as a gift from Ms. Ilynn Adler

Thomas Blackshear Collection

- Several pieces are on display by Artist Thomas Blackshear.

Quincie Douglas / Margaret Campbell Exhibit

- Information on the inspiring lives of these 2 Women.

Slave Code Quilt – Underground Railroad Quilt

- This quilt was designed by Ms. Cora Farris in 2000.

Family History Exhibition

- This is more of an interactive exhibit.
- We discuss family history, culture, and traditions.

Marian Anderson Quilt and Cat in The Hat Quilt

- Ms. Yolanda Wenninger made quilts in honor of her mother.

Oral History Screen

- We have recorded over 20 oral histories from local residents of Tucson and Southern Arizona.

Coin Exhibition

Legacy Stories Screen

- We provide a voice to those who have passed away by recording stories told by their loved ones, family, and or friends.

C.R.O.W.N. Act Display

Wall of Social Justice

- We have provided a space for the many injustices that have been historically a challenge for African Americans.
- Educational Gaps, Housing Discrimination, Health Care Disparities, the Anti-Lynching Act, Voting Rights, and more.

Virtual Tour

Experience our 360-degree Virtual Panoramic Tour!





Community Outreach and Impact

We have been asked by schools, churches, and organizations to present information about the museum, whether in person or virtually.
We have presented impactful information and shared educational items with the following:

MAPPING RACIST COVENANTS

KOL AMI SYNAGOGUE - 40

GEICO - 100

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA CLASSES

GRAND OPENING

LIVING WATERS MINISTRIES

FIRESIDE CHAT WITH RUBY BRIDGES

**WALK WITH RUBY – VARIOUS
SCHOOLS IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA**

PALO VERDE MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL

CHAT WITH STACEY SNOWDEN

VARIOUS CLASSROOMS - 93

BROOKDALE SENIOR COMMUNITY

CROWN ACT – CROWNS FOR ALL!

ARIZONA ATHLETICS

JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL

**TUCSON CHAPTER OF
JACK AND JILL OF AMERICA**

**BOEING
BLACK EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

GRANTS

- African American Legacy Foundation
- /Community Foundation of Southern Arizona
- PNC Foundation
- Pima County
- Southwestern Foundation
- UA Confluence Center
- University of Arizona Confluence Center
- Bytes 4 Bytes
- Marshall Foundation Grant
- One AZ Foundation
- Tucson Electric Power



Newsletter >

Program >

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Thank you to our Interns and Volunteers
Emma, Jenny, Hassan, Kimberlee, Rose, Larry,
(Ernestina – we miss you).

STRATEGIC PLAN

2023 - 2025 NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Partner and collaborate with other organizations to establish an impact in the community.
2. Fundraising and Raising money for Financial Sustainability.
3. Technology and Digital Updates.
4. Marketing and Branding - Telling our story.
5. Building our Membership.

2021 - 2023 PAST STRATEGIC PLAN

- A. Development of Board and Advisory Board ✓
- B. Executive Committee ✓
- C. Technology and Website Development On-Going ⌚
- D. Oral Histories 25 Completed ⌚
- E. Exhibit and Collections 14 Completed ⌚
- F. Constitution and By-Laws Committee ✓
- G. Strategic Ethics and Filters ✓
- H. Standing Committees ✓
- I. Financial Sustainability and Budget On-Going ⌚
- J. Marketing and Branding Committee On-Going ⌚
- K. Fundraising and Capital Campaign On-Going ⌚
- L. Membership Building On-Going ⌚

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