

# African American Museum of Iowa

## 2011 Annual Report



  
African American  
Museum of Iowa



During 2011, the AAMI  
reached **52,126** people  
through **307** programs.

The African American Museum of Iowa (AAMI) is guided by our:

**Mission:** To preserve, publicize, and educate the public on the African American heritage and culture of Iowa.

**Vision:** The Museum Vision, and the promise that its creation holds, embodies the idea of shaping the complexities of the role of "cultural crucible" - that is, to be recognized as Iowa's leading statewide resource of education on African American history and the appreciation of the variety of contributions of the African American legacy to the cultural life of Iowa. Thus the Museum has accepted the duty and responsibility to be an environment, a place, and a situation in which the different elements interact to produce something new - the reconciliation of conceptual clarity and positive thinking.

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African American  
Museum of Iowa

55 12th Ave. SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401  
Phone: 319-862-2101  
Fax: 319-862-2105  
[www.blackiowa.org](http://www.blackiowa.org)





## 2011 - A Year of Growth

The best way to describe 2011 is with the word “growth.” The only thing about the AAMI that did not grow was the size of our building. Our relationships with schools and libraries greatly expanded as more institutions became aware of our programming and resources. Our education department added more content and relevance to our traveling trunks, workshops, public programs, and tours. The statewide demand for our programs far exceeded the 2010 level, which was also a record year. Thanks to Michelle Poe, Director of Education, we reevaluated our offerings and restructured their delivery, producing a larger volume of more focused programs.

In 2011 our annually changing exhibit, “Unconditional Loyalty: The Military Service of African Americans”, was the highlight of the year. African Americans proudly served in the US military and fought a double battle for both freedom and civil rights. This exhibit gave us the opportunity to tell an important story which most Americans were not familiar with.

As demand for the AAMI’s programs continues to grow, so has the need for a larger staff to serve our many constituents. Grant Stevens, Development Assistant, was hired to assist Benjamin Hoover, Development Director, with fundraising, publicity, community involvement, and programming. Although 2011 revenue reflected recessionary conditions, the AAMI closed the year in good financial shape. We value all of our donors and recognize that without their continuous support, the AAMI would cease to operate.

In 2008 the AAMI’s entire collection of books was lost to the flood. Thanks to Professor James Randall’s (Cedar Rapids) large donation of books, along with several other donations, the Museum’s library now exceeds the pre-flood collection. We have become one of the largest public repositories of African and African American literature in Iowa.

Thanks to Harriette Cooper (Cedar Rapids) and several of our Board Members, the AAMI’s membership increased significantly in 2011. Our challenge for 2012 is to grow the membership even more. Membership in the museum is a great way to support us financially and is also a vote of confidence in the AAMI’s operations and mission.

The Board of Directors established secession and emergency plans; organizational by-laws and core values were reviewed and revised with an eye to the future. Overall the AAMI experienced a strong year in 2011 and is well positioned to go forward into the future. A special thanks goes to all of our volunteers, members, and supporters for making 2011 a memorable year!

*Thomas Moore*

*Oather Taylor, III*



Oather Taylor, III  
2011 Board President



Thomas Moore  
Executive Director



## 2011 AAMI Volunteers

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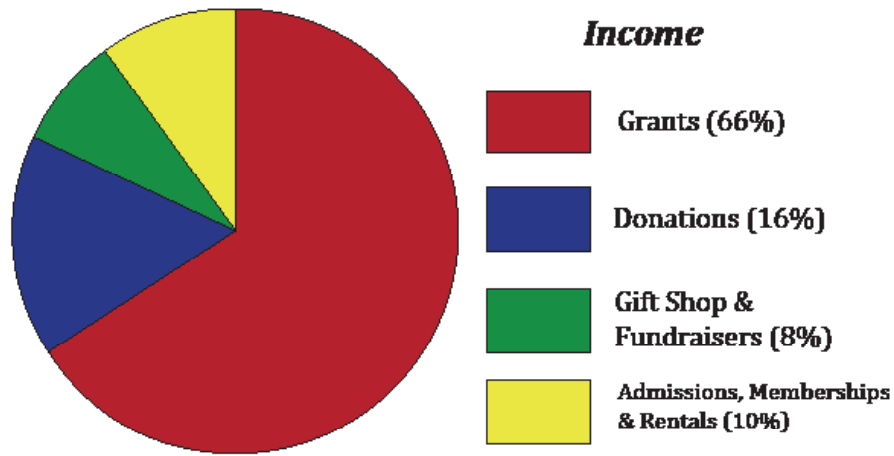
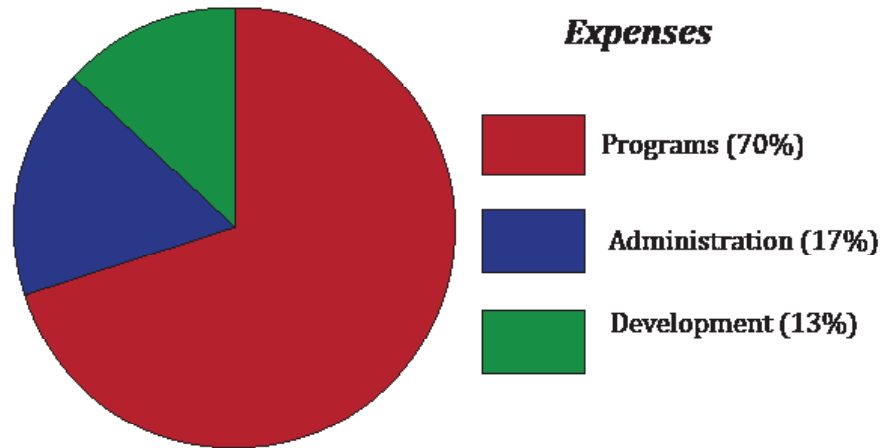
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***Our mission would  
not be possible without  
the amazing support  
we have from our  
volunteers each year.  
Thank you and our  
apologies to anyone we  
may have missed!***



## AAMI Financial Position (as of Dec. 2011)

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Assets:      | \$2,354,615 |
| Liabilities: | \$28,863    |
| Net Assets:  | \$2,325,752 |



During 2011, the AAMI developed several partnerships with school systems across the state. In the Davenport School District, the AAMI now does three annual Learning Safaris for all preschool students (225+). When the Cedar Rapids School District adopted new Social Studies curriculum, the AAMI attended teacher training and now most 3rd grade students visit the AAMI.



### School System Partnerships



### Journey to Freedom

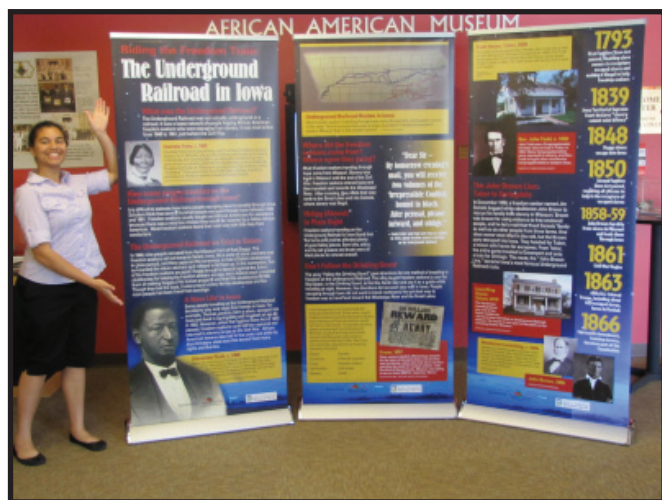


"Journey to Freedom" is the AAMI's award-winning annual collaboration with Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center, part of the Linn County Parks System. "Journey to Freedom" is an immersive,

interactive event where students and the general public experience what it was like to travel Iowa's Underground Railroad.



## Traveling Exhibits



During 2012, the AAMI developed two new traveling exhibits. "The Underground Railroad in Iowa," is 3 panels and is shown with summer intern Claire Solak of Cornell College (Mt. Vernon, IA) who helped write the text and select content.

**"Unconditional Loyalty: The Military Service of African Americans"** was the AAMI's 2011 temporary exhibit. In addition to the exhibit displayed at the AAMI, a 5-panel traveling exhibit was created to add to the traveling exhibit collection, and the AAMI coordinated a statewide summer adult lecture series and programs for children and families in venues across the state.

## 2011 AAMI Donors

### Directors Circle: \$5,000+

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### Museum Partners: \$1,000-\$4,999

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## ***AAMI Special Events***

**History Makers Gala**  
An annual event honoring  
African American  
Female Leaders  
*September 27, 2012*

**The Annual Iowa African  
American Women's  
Leadership Conference**  
*September 28, 2012*

**Journey to Freedom**  
An interactive living-history event  
held at Wickiup Hill Outdoor  
Learning Center  
*September 22, 2012*



**African American  
Museum of Iowa**

55 12th Ave. SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401  
[www.blackiowa.org](http://www.blackiowa.org)



### **The AAMI Staff**

Front Row: Lynn Koos - Curator, Grant  
Stevens - Development Assistant and  
Katherine G.F. Smith -  
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