

Lori D. Yarrish is the Director of the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum. In June 2016, she was tapped by Acting Provost Richard Kurin to lead the museum's renewal and revitalization efforts. Today, Lori is well on her way to redefining how we talk about the role of the museum in catalyzing change, creating new knowledge, and convening conversations of social importance through museum exhibits, programs, and scholarship. Under Yarrish's leadership, the museum is focused on transitioning to a community-driven model and establishing innovative delivery systems for reaching audiences, forming collaborative impact partnerships, and expanding connectivity. This means increasing the museum's digital offerings, and bringing museum activities out of the building and into the community, to truly become an institution of, for, and by the people.

Previously, Yarrish was the deputy director of Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), a position she had held from 1991 to 2016. Yarrish was the first African American woman and youngest person to hold a deputy director position at the Smithsonian. At SITES, Yarrish oversaw administration and operations, with responsibility for budget, financial and human resources management, facilities management and safety, and information technology. In this capacity, Yarrish also established strategic goals and objectives for traveling exhibitions nationwide. She also worked as an educator for SITES, planning and coordinating educational workshops for two major traveling exhibitions and creating partnerships with 40 museum communities nationwide.

Before coming to the Smithsonian, Yarrish was State Administrator of Collections and Exhibitions for the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture and the Banneker-Douglass Museum where she conceived and created exhibitions and managed them from planning through installation. Yarrish also conducted statewide collections care and preservation workshops on a quarterly basis each year.

During her career, Yarrish has worked for and interned with several museums, including the National Building Museum, Capital Children's Museum and the B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum. She currently serves on the board of directors at the New School of Dance & Arts in Washington, D.C., and is a former board member of the Prince George's County Arts and Humanities Council, the Congressional Awards Committee, D.C.'s Center for Youth Services, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

Yarrish was cited in the October 2017 issue of *Washingtonian Magazine*, among The Most Powerful Women in Washington, featuring more than 100 of the area's most influential women in Government, business, law, education, media, non-profits and the arts.

Lori holds a bachelor's degree in interior design from Howard University and a master's degree in decorative arts from Parsons School of Design in New York. This master's program is offered by Parsons in conjunction with Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum.