

Melanie A. Adams

DIRECTOR



Melanie A. Adams is the Director of the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum as of August 5, 2019. She has joined the Museum from the Minnesota Historical Society, where as deputy director for learning initiatives, she oversaw 26 historic sites, development and press. In this role, Adams was responsible for developing and implementing strategies to create a statewide belief in the power of history to transform lives. Before joining MNHS, she served as the managing director for community education and events at the Missouri Historical Society for twelve years. Prior to working with museums, she spent twelve years in Student Affairs working at the University of California-Berkeley, California State University-Northridge, and Washington University in St. Louis.

In her role with the Missouri Historical Society, she created the community education and events department and strengthened the museum's ties to the community. To compliment her work at the museum, she was active in the community by serving on numerous boards including nine years on the St. Louis Public Schools Special Administrative Board.

Adams is past president of the Association of Midwest Museums and current council member of the American Association of State and Local Historical Societies. She was an adjunct instructor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis where she taught classes on Critical Race Theory and the history of African American education in Missouri. Her writing credits include articles in Museum Magazine, AASLH Magazine, and a recently published children's book on St. Louis Civil Right's history. She received her B.A from the University of Virginia, her M.Ed from the University of Vermont, and her Ph.D from the University of Missouri. [Appointment Announcement](#)