**From:** Althemese Barnes [mailto:abarnes37@comcast.net]

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**To:** Preservation

**Subject:** NATIONAL MUSEUM COMMENTS

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The National African American Museum of History & Culture will and is having a significant impact on local historical projects and initiatives. In Florida, we are already benefiting enormously as a result of the central voice that is coming out of Washington, through the national museum, advocating for increased documenting of Black history as a tool to advance education, promote heritage tourism, and build appreciation for the interconnection of communities, cities, states across the globe.

Having a central point to turn to for professional assistance and technical support as it relates to exhibitions, collections, facilities and a voice to speak to their importance in political arenas is helping local preservationists and museum operators gain more support within their communities. The expertise of the director and staff is highly respected and the promotionals that are being received and viewed by the public is very positive. Hopefully, the donations will equate and adequate resources will be forthcoming to make this very important national facility a reality.

It is very important to have representation of the contributions, accomplishments, struggles and triumphs that Blacks have made on the road to building America; no better place for a central source than in the nation's capital.

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