

Museum of African American History Welcomes Leon Wilson as New President and CEO

Leon E. Wilson has been named as the new President & CEO at the Museum of African American History. Under Mr. Wilson's leadership, the organization will continue to build on its strengths, develop new relationships, and deepen existing relationships with partners and supporters. For more than twenty (20) years, he has been involved with the Museum in different capacities, including as co-chair of the Living Legends Gala, as a funder, and as a consultant. In 2017, Mr. Wilson served the Museum as an Empower Success Corps Fellow, and later as Chief Operating Officer.

“We are very excited to have Leon taking on the role of President and CEO of the Museum,” says Sylvia Stevens-Edouard, Board Chair. “Leon brings to the job decades of experience leading large teams and organizations, and we feel he is exactly the right person to lead us through transitioning to the Museum's next chapter. Both the Board and Staff are impressed with his strong management skills. We expect Leon to not only continue the in strengthening the Museum's business operations and local and national visibility but also to work with partners and funders to help expand the Museum's excellent programs.”

Mr. Wilson comes to the organization with over 40 years' experience in business finance, and more than 20 years overseeing non-profit finance. Wilson brings a wealth of knowledge to the Museum having served as Executive Vice President and Managing Director of Bank of America's Philanthropic Asset Management Group, Chief Executive Officer and General Partner of Capital City Ventures in Washington D.C., Executive Vice President of Nonprofit Finance Fund in New York and Boston, and Corporate Senior Vice President and Managing Director at General Motors Acceptance Corporation Residential, where he headed Emerging Markets.

While at Bank of America, he oversaw the day-to-day management of \$30B in assets, and 15,000 endowments, foundations, and charitable trusts. Additionally, the mid-market asset management distributed over \$20M in grants annually and earned over \$30M in yearly revenues.

"The talented staff, volunteers, and many collaborative partners' effort make the Museum a creative, innovative, and exciting place to work. I am deeply honored and excited to be leading this historic institution," said Wilson.

Mr. Wilson has served on numerous local and national non-profit boards in the areas of education, arts, and community impact. He is a former trustee for Boston Conservatory, Boston University Presidential Archives and Research Center, Dimock Community Health Center, and Cambridge College. He has also served on the advisory board for Bell Foundation, Boston University, and as a board member of the Boston University Alumni Association.

A recipient of Boston University Distinguished Alumni Award, Mr. Wilson has received numerous national, professional, and community service recognitions, including Henry Buckner School Award for Outstanding Commitment to Education, and the City of Cambridge Mayor's "Son of Cambridge" Achievement Award for Business Leadership.

Mr. Wilson holds an undergraduate degree from Boston University and completed his graduate degree at Harvard Business School, and the Graduate School of Consumer Banking at the University of Virginia.

With historic structures in Boston and Nantucket, as well as two Black Heritage Trails and thousands of significant artifacts, the Museum of African American History presents the compelling stories of the African American community in Massachusetts. Based on its central role in shaping America's past, including its leadership in the final triumphant drive for the abolition of slavery, the Museum's African Meeting House in Boston is a designated National Historic Landmark.

