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## *MEMORANDUM*

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**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR &  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Sabrina B. Landreth  
City Administrator

**SUBJECT:** AAMLO Chief Curator Recruitment  
Update

**DATE:** April 17, 2018

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### **INFORMATION**

The national search for a permanent Chief Curator of the African American Museum & Library at Oakland (AAMLO) will follow the selection of a permanent Director of the Oakland Public Library (OPL).

### **BACKGROUND**

In October 2017, the former OPL Director appointed an Interim Chief Curator (Susan D. Anderson) of AAMLO while an executive search firm, The Hawkins Company, initiated a process for selecting a permanent Chief Curator. Recognizing that stakeholder engagement is a critical component of the recruitment process for the AAMLO Chief Curator, The Hawkins Company was asked to conduct a stakeholder engagement process that included gathering feedback about the desirable attributes and experience sought by the community.

The Hawkins Company developed an online survey and facilitated two public community meetings that were held on March 21 and March 22, 2018. Twenty-one people completed the online survey and thirty participants attended the community meetings. The community identified notable qualities for an AAMLO Chief Curator through this process including:

- A demonstrated passion, commitment and understanding of African-American culture, history, identity and community. Many people requested that the Chief Curator be African-American.
- Belief in constant outreach and ongoing dialogue with the community.
- Values and engages youth, adults and seniors; and provides exciting programming to these groups.
- Effective communicator and listener; friendly, charismatic and approachable.
- Experience with historical artifacts and exhibition development techniques.
- Experience with community engagement; someone who is accessible and has worked with the African-American community.

The community feedback was insightful, informative and clear. It emphasized the crucial role that AAMLO fills within the City of Oakland, and even more importantly, for the Oakland community and African-American patrons.

