

SPOTLIGHT



INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM Charleston, South Carolina

The International African American Museum (IAAM) is a museum of African American history being built in Charleston. The most defining feature of IAAM is its location on the historic site of Gadsden's Wharf, the point of entry for hundreds of thousands of enslaved Africans who were brought to America during the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. Nearly half of all enslaved Africans who were brought to the United States disembarked at the former Charleston wharf where the International African American Museum will stand. Today, millions of African Americans can trace their ancestry to those enslaved Africans from Charleston. Scheduled to open in early 2022, the museum's construction is over 20 years in the making, after it was first proposed in 2000 by Charleston's former mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. The groundbreaking institution aspires to honor the past, present and future of the African people who came here, highlighting their various cultures, traditions, and languages and their undeniable impact on American history and culture. The construction of the 40,000-square-foot facility will be an interactive place of education and discovery featuring dynamic exhibits, interactive galleries, and a host of multimedia elements.¹

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¹ <https://iaamuseum.org/>