

Christy S. Coleman

Christy S. Coleman began her career as living history interpreter at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and rose through the ranks to become the Director of the African American Interpretations and Presentations (1994-1996). It was during this time that she and her team gained international acclaim for their bold and evocative programming. During a reorganization in 1996 Colonial Williamsburg gave Ms. Coleman even greater responsibility by naming her Director of Midtown Operations, (1996-1998) which included Women's History, Religious Studies, African American History and several historic trades, houses and other interpretive programs. In the fall of 1998, Ms. Coleman named Director of Programs, making her responsible for all daily and special public programming.

From 1999 to 2005, Ms. Coleman served as President and CEO of the nation's largest African American museum, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, MI. During her tenure, the museum's membership grew from 3500 to over 15,000. She also envisioned and launched a successful \$43 million Legacy Campaign created to grow audiences, build an endowment, address capital and programming needs, and build a new \$12 million, 22,000 square foot permanent exhibition entitled "And Still We Rise."

Ms. Coleman accepted the position of President and CEO of the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar in 2008. The Center is the first museum to explore the causes, course and legacies of the Civil War from Union, Confederate and African American perspectives. Under her leadership, admissions have grown by 35%, retail operations by 67% and overall revenues up by over 30%. The museum recently successfully launched its Forging Our Future Capital Campaign and has raised \$6.3 million of the \$8 million campaign.

She has lectured extensively and consulted with some of the country's leading museums, written a number of articles for scholarly and public history publications as well as being an award winning screenwriter for educational television. Her most recent work *Freedom Bound* won an Emmy in 2009 for Outstanding Educational Programming for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Ms. Coleman was raised in Williamsburg, VA. She received her Bachelor and Master degrees from Hampton University. She is married to Art Espey and they have three children.