

**Statement from A. Shuanise Washington  
February 1, 2021**

This Black History Month is possibly the most significant ever, against the backdrop of a global pandemic and an intensified focus on racial justice.

Now more than ever, communities and workplaces around the nation are embracing the achievements of our predecessors and making a measurable commitment to improve diversity, equity and inclusion.

This month NAMIC pays homage to the legends we lost over the past year, from Rep. John Lewis to Katherine Johnson to Hank Aaron to Chadwick Boseman. We will continue to do our part in creating leadership development opportunities, as well as advocating for and empowering people of color to pave the way for our future legends.