



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY®

301 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NW | SUITE 1508 | WASHINGTON, DC 20001
202.238.5910 | ASALH.ORG

John E. Adams, CPA **Class Of 2026**

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

John is the 98th African American CPA in Illinois. He has over 45 years of proven success as a financial and administrative manager highlighting a diverse background in problem solving and team building skills. His career demonstrates proven ability to apply organizing, planning, and coordinating skills toward reaching corporate objectives. He has strong interpersonal and communication abilities with a background in public accounting, financial management, long range planning, information systems, direct sales, and human resource management.



EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Executive Director: Bronzeville Trail Task Force, Inc. July 2023 to Present

John is the founder of the Bronzeville Trail Task Force, Inc. in September 2020, a public works initiative to transform the old Kenwood Line elevated-train embankment, in the historic Bronzeville neighborhood of Chicago, into a walking, biking, and running trail. The 1.75-mile trail will connect to and become a spoke to the city's lakefront bike trail and has a planned completion date of 2030. Estimated construction cost is \$100 million dollars. Furthermore, the project is expected to attract over \$1 billion dollars of investments in the Bronzeville Community. As Executive Director, John leads all aspects of this initiative. In recognition of his success in launching the Bronzeville Trail Project, John was appointed "District Administrator" of the State of Illinois, "Bronzeville State-Designated Cultural District".

ASALH MISSION

To promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community.



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EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (Continued)

Controller: Infrastructure Engineering, Inc. September 2022 to August 2024

John supervised finance department (3 people) of a \$35 million Civil Engineering firm with multiple offices and assignments consisting of accounts receivable, accounts payable and general accounting staff. He reported directly to the Chief Financial Officer and closed the ledger for the annual comprehensive review and the annual overhead rate audit. He prepared or reviewed all compliance filings and workers compensation audits.

Chief Financial Officer: Rainbow PUSH Coalition and Affiliates. September 2006 to September 2022

John was Chief Financial Officer for a multi-affiliate and multi-state, not-for-profit corporation, founded by the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson. The combined budget of the four affiliated-organizations exceeds \$8 million and operated over 10 programs, and employed over 40 people in seven different states. He supervised finance department personnel, event planners, and other consultants. He prepared budgets, cash flow projections, and closes the ledger for the annual audit. John implemented cash management techniques and improved internal controls. He negotiated contracts, leases and manages banking relationships. John prepared or reviewed all compliance filings and improved compliance with governmental rules and regulations. Lastly, John reported directly to the Audit Committee and Reverend Jackson.

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

- Audit Manager: Velma Butler & Company, Ltd. March 2004 to September 2006
- Chief Financial Officer: J & L Associates Management, Inc. March 2003 to December 2004
- Director of Finance: Abraham Lincoln Centre September 2002 to February 2003
- Audit Manager: Odell Hicks & Company, September 1999 to September 2002
- Consultant: January 1995 to August 1999

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OTHER EMPLOYMENT (Continued)

- Controller: Hales Franciscan High School, September 1991 - January, 1995
- Owner: TaxAmerica, January 1986 - December 1994
- Managing Deputy Director: Department of Revenue, City of Chicago, May 1984 - December 1985
- Managing Partner: Adams & Co., May 1980 - April 1984
- Manager: Hill, Taylor & Co., October 1979 - April 1980
- Senior Auditor: Arthur Young & Co., June 1976 - September 1979

EDUCATION

- University of Chicago - Chicago, Illinois - MBA Courses
- St. John's University - Collegeville, Minnesota - B.S., Accounting, Minor in Business Administration

CURRENT AND PRIOR PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

- Illinois CPA Society - Member, Not-for Profit Committee
- Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) - National Treasurer and Member, Leadership Council
- National Public Housing Museum - Member Audit Committee
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity - Member (Former Exchequer of the Chicago Alumni Chapter)
- National Association of Black Accountants - Founder, Chicago Chapter and Member, National Board of Directors

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

- Knights of Peter Claver-Ladies Auxiliary - 2024 Archbishop James P. Lyke O.F.M. African American Male Image Award
- Crain's Chicago Business 2022 – Notable Black Leaders and Executives Award
- Chicago Defender 2018 – Men of Excellence Award
- National Association of Black Accountants 1982 - Outstanding Member Award
- State of Illinois 1978 - Certified Public Accountant

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