



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY®

301 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NW | SUITE 1508 | WASHINGTON, DC 20001
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Crystal Moten **Class of 2027**

Current Employer:

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library

Professional Background:

Dr. Crystal M. Moten is an award-winning public historian and leader in the Galleries, Archives, Libraries and Museum (GLAM) sector. Her academic and intellectual interests center on Black women's history, specifically the intersection of gender, class and work. Dr. Moten currently serves as Associate Director of Collections at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, New York.



Dr. Moten has vast experience in the field, having served as a college professor in the small liberal arts sector, as well as a museum curator at multiple cultural institutions, including the Obama Presidential Center Museum and the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Currently, as Associate Director of Collections at the Schomburg, she provides leadership and vision for its four research divisions, playing a critical role in shaping the future of the Schomburg's significant and historic collections, ensuring that it remains a leader in the field. Prior to joining the Schomburg's senior leadership team, she served as the Inaugural Curator of Collections and Exhibitions at the Obama Presidential Center Museum. There, she contributed to the collaborative effort to complete the design and implementation of the inaugural exhibition. She also served as the primary steward and subject matter expert of the Obama Foundation Museum Collection. At the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, DC, Dr. Moten served as Curator of African American History in the Division of Work and Industry.

ASALH MISSION

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



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There, she stewarded collections as they related to the history of African Americans in business and labor; collaborated with colleagues on several exhibitions; wrote for the Museum's blog; and helped start, produce, and co-host a Smithsonian Podcast on African American History.

Major Accomplishments:

The recipient of numerous awards and honors, her research has appeared in books, journals, documentaries, and other media. Her most recent monograph is *Continually Working: Black Women, Community Intellectualism and Economic Justice in Postwar Milwaukee* (Vanderbilt University Press, 2023). This work was recognized as one of the 2023 Best Books in Black History by *Black Perspectives*, the blog of the African American Intellectual History Society and received an Honorable Mention for the Sara Whaley Book Prize from the National Women's Studies Association. The Whaley Prize recognizes monographs that address women and labor from intersectional perspectives grounded in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality studies.

Previous Service to ASALH:

Her primary service to ASALH has been through membership and participation in annual conferences over the years. She looks forward to deepening her commitment and service to the organization through service on the executive council and its sub-committees.

What I Hope to Accomplish as an Executive Council Member of ASALH:

As a member of the Executive Council of ASALH, I hope to use my professional skills and networks in service of the organization. As a public historian, I would like to foster connections with and advocate for the work of historians who situate themselves within public spaces, such as museums, historic sites, monuments, libraries, archives, etc.

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