



HISTORICAL SOCIETY *of* WASHINGTON, D.C.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY NAMES LAURA BROWER HAGOOD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Board of Trustees of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. is pleased to announce the selection of Laura Brower Hagood as its new Executive Director. Hagood, most recently Vice President for Development at the National Building Museum, brings 25 years of experience as a nonprofit executive and cultural entrepreneur in addition to a well-established track record in development, marketing, and community building.

"The Historical Society has reached a moment of great opportunity in its 125-year trajectory," said Historical Society Chair of Trustees Julie B. Koczela. "With the opening of its new DC History Center, it is perfectly poised for growth under Laura's leadership. She arrives ready to go, with a deep understanding of the diverse communities we serve through our educational programs, library, publications, and collections."

"Our city is undergoing rapid change," Koczela continued, "and the need to preserve our communities' stories for future generations is only growing by the day. While Laura has great nonprofit management skills, she also understands this urgency."

In May 2019 the Historical Society returned to its home in the newly restored Carnegie Library, where it now shares the building with an Apple flagship store. The Historical Society's DC History Center there includes the Kiplinger Research Library, exhibit galleries, and a DC-centric retail store. Since the reopening, nearly 60,000 visitors and patrons have been welcomed, more than five times the number who visited in 2016 (before the building closed for restoration).

"I am excited to see the DC History Center take its place as a welcoming space for learning about our city's heritage and better understanding our present moment," said Hagood. "Here Washingtonians can share their stories, engage with the past, and open themselves to new perspectives. It is truly an honor to lead this important work."

This is not Hagood's first appointment to the Historical Society. Arriving from Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC, in summer 2001, she served as the Historical Society's public relations and marketing director. She then moved to Cultural Tourism DC, where she helped launch, in close partnership with community leaders, the African American Heritage Trail and nine DC Neighborhood Heritage Trails spanning the District. "This was some of the most rewarding work of my entire career," said Hagood.

She joined the National Building Museum as Director of Corporate, Foundation, and Association Relations in 2012. She then left for a competitive Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship, which supported her work and research at the Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation in Berlin, Germany. Upon returning to Washington, she supported Artistic Director Ari Roth in launching the Mosaic Theater Company of DC, at the Atlas Performing Arts Center on H Street NE. From its opening in 2015, this company has been noted for its focus on social justice and a deep commitment to access and inclusion.

In 2016 Hagood returned to the National Building Museum as Vice President of Development, where she oversaw an 80% growth in fundraising over 2017-2019, bringing in more than \$5 million the last year. Her work focused on several high-profile exhibitions, including *Evicted*, which addressed the current nationwide affordable housing crisis and is now traveling to venues across the country.

Hagood also serves as adjunct faculty in the Department of Performing Arts at American University. A Certified Fund Raising Executive, she holds a dual M.A. from American University in arts management and art history, and a B.A. in English from Bryn Mawr College. She is a proud resident of Shaw.

ABOUT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), community-supported educational and research organization that collects, interprets, and shares the history of our nation's capital in order to promote a sense of identity, place and pride in our city and preserve its heritage for future generations. Founded in 1894, the Historical Society serves a diverse audience through its collections, public programs, exhibitions, and publications. It welcomes visitors to its new home, the DC History Center is, on the second floor of the historic Carnegie Library.

ABOUT THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY at Mount Vernon Square

The Carnegie Library building remains the property of the D.C. government, and is managed by Events DC, the city's convention and sports authority. The Historical Society of Washington, D.C. holds a 99-year lease on its space and shares the beautifully restored building with its co-tenant, Apple, which generously provided for the restoration. For more information, see dchistory.org

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