

# LaNesha DeBardelaben

RESPECTED &  
RESULTS-  
ORIENTED  
LEADER

Media Kit



# BIO

## Listed among the top 50 women leaders of Washington State

LaNesha DeBardelaben is a visionary public historian and skilled administrator dedicated to transforming society through museums and libraries. With two decades of leadership experience, she has excelled as President & CEO of the Northwest African American Museum, where she spearheaded innovative programming and received notable recognition, including an Emmy nomination. She is only the six woman in U.S. history to have served as National President of the Association of African American Museums Board of Directors.

In addition to her professional achievements, LaNesha is deeply involved in her community, serving as an Assistant Pastor at the historic New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Seattle and participating actively in organizations like The Links, Incorporated and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She also leads the board of the New Hope Community Development Institute, a nonprofit focused on affordable housing and empowerment opportunities for people of color in Seattle's Central District.

LaNesha holds three master's degrees, is pursuing a PhD, and serves as an Adjunct Professor of Museum Studies. With global museum experience in various countries, she continues to make a significant impact in her field and beyond.



## Degree-holding Scholar

- B.A. in History, English, & Secondary Education, Kalamazoo College
- M.A. in History and Museum Studies, University of Missouri-St. Louis
- M.L.I.S. in Archives & Records Management, Indiana University-Bloomington
- M.A. in Comparative Black History, Michigan State University
- Ph.D. in History of American Education, University of Washington (pursuing)

# AWARD-WINNING

## Administrator

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- 2023 Top 50 Women Leaders of Washington Award
- 2021 Edwin T. Pratt Community Service Award
- 2019 WNBA Seattle Storm Inspiring Women Award
- 2018 American Express Executive Leadership Academy Fellow
- 2017 Michigan Chronicle's 40 Under 40 Award
- 2016 Southeast Museums Conference (SEMC) Jekyll Island Management Institute (JIMI) Fellow
- 2009 Friends of the Flint Public Library "Community Champion" Award



## Extraordinary Innovator

LaNesha DeBardelaben is the visionary behind a range of transformative initiatives. These encompass the pioneering African American Cultural Ensemble, the nation's first museum choir, as well as the Knowledge is Power program, which has provided over 20,000 African American children's books to the community.

Her impact as a founder extends to the Descendants Series, showcased on national C-SPAN TV, and the creation of the Elders Circle and James Baldwin Circle. Moreover, she holds the role of co-founder within the influential Black Freedom Collective, a prominent national network.

# THOUGHTFUL & DISTINGUISHED

Advocate for:

- Equity, justice, and collective well-being
- Educational empowerment
- Historical interpretation and preservation
- Cultural literacy

## Skilled Communicator



Discussing Juneteenth programming



Discussing the importance of Juneteenth



Discussing the museum choir she created



Discussing the educational role of Black museums



Discussing civil rights history



Discussing the influence of African architecture on Black museums



Discussing African Americans in the STEM fields



Discussing Black Resistance




# Others See It Too

"Talented, dynamic, innovative, thoughtful, compassionate, dedicated, successful! These are just a few words to describe the inspirational leadership of LaNesha DeBardelaben. She has helped to raise Seattle's international profile as a must-visit destination city where multiple cultures thrive. This is priceless! LaNesha is our precious gift! This is manifested in her unwavering commitment to give back and lift others as she climbs. - W. Herndon

"LaNesha has a tender and nurturing demeanor that she extends to everyone she conversed with. With a dedicated focus on bridging gaps and collaborating with the community, LaNesha has executed an exceptional task. She has successfully restored the museum's prominence in people's thoughts and introduced it to a younger generation previously unaware of its existence. Those of us in the Pacific Northwest should consider ourselves fortunate to have her presence in our lives." - V. Keele

Get In Touch

## CONTACT INFO

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