

ChicagoHistoryMuseum

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SHARON GIST GILLIAM APPOINTED CHAIR OF CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM

Gilliam, the first woman and African-American to hold the office begins on January 1, 2009

CHICAGO (December 29, 2008) – Sharon Gist Gilliam, former Chief Executive Officer for the Chicago Housing Authority, will take the seat of Chair of the Board of the Chicago Historical Society on January 1, 2009. Gilliam, the first woman and African American to chair the oldest cultural institution in the city, has worked in the past with Chicago's Harold Washington Mayoral Administration, and organizations such as the Chicago Housing Authority and Unison Consulting Group, Inc.

Gilliam was with the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) since 1999, managing the organization during a period of revitalization until December of 2007. Prior to her years at the CHA, Gilliam, a Chicagoan from the start, began her career as a high school history teacher in the Chicago Public School system. She then moved into government working for the City of Chicago where she held several positions including chief of staff for the Mayor's Office and first deputy budget director under Harold Washington. Gilliam then became the founding partner and chief operating officer for Unison Maximus, Inc. where she assisted with strategic planning and financial consulting services to public sector agencies. "We are fortunate to have Sharon at the helm of our institution. Her leadership along with her commitment to the Museum will allow for us to make great strides over the next two years," said Gary T. Johnson, Museum president.

Gilliam, along with her role as board chair of the Chicago Historical Society, is also currently involved on the boards of Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Editorial Board of Illinois Issues, Chicago Consulting Alliance, and is a trustee of the Northern and Northern Institutional Mutual Funds.

"I am honored for the opportunity to give back to a Museum that I so strongly believe in and I look forward to contributing to this quintessential Chicago institution," said Gilliam.

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The Chicago History Museum, a major museum and research center for Chicago and American history, is located at 1601 N. Clark Street. The Museum can be reached by CTA buses 11, 22, 36, 72, 151, and 156. Parking is conveniently located one block north of the Museum at Clark and LaSalle Streets (enter on Stockton Drive). Admission to the Museum is \$14 adults with audio tour, \$12 seniors/students with audio tour, free for children 12 years and younger. General Admission is free on Mondays. Please call 312.642.4600 or visit us at www.chicagohistory.org.