



## **CBCF EXECUTIVE ORDER TRACKER**

# **Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History**

## **Executive Order #14253**

**Date Issued:** March 27, 2025

**Topic:** Civil Rights, LGBTQ Issues

### **WHAT DOES THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER DO?**

- This executive order directs members of the Presidential Cabinet to work with Congress to defund Smithsonian Museum budgets, exhibits, and programs that “divide Americans based on race” or acknowledge transgender identity.
- The order specifically cites the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum (SAWHM), which does not currently have a physical structure, as perpetuating “divisive, race-centered ideology” and “narratives that portray American and Western values as inherently harmful and oppressive.”
- The order also directs the Secretary of the Interior to reinstate and restore the names of monuments on federal property that have been taken down since 2020 and to ensure that all descriptions and depictions of public monuments do not “inappropriately disparage Americans past or living.”



## HOW WILL THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER BE ENFORCED?

- This executive order will be enforced by the Vice President, acting in his capacity as a member of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director.
- The order directs the Vice President and the OMB Director to work with Congress to remove “improper ideology” from all Smithsonian Institution properties, including the museums, research centers, and the National Zoo.
- The order instructs the Secretary of the Interior to identify and reinstate any properties within its department’s jurisdiction that have been removed or had their names changed since 2020 due to “improper partisan ideology.”
- The order also tasks the Secretary of the Interior with improving the infrastructure of Independence National Historical Park by the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026.





## HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?

- The NMAAHC is the [world's largest museum](#) dedicated to African American history and culture. The creation of the museum was over 100 years in the making, with preliminary conversations commencing in [1915](#) to honor Black Civil War veterans, to more concerted legislative advocacy in the 1980s by late CBC members [Mickey Leland](#) and [John Lewis](#), to the museum's grand opening in 2016. The museum collection includes over [40,000 artifacts](#) and covers a span of over 400 years of Black history, from the transatlantic slave trade to the presidency of Barack Obama.
- While the NMAAHC is partially funded through private donations, the museum received about [\\$250 million](#) of its initial funding from Congress. The museum still uses public funds for personnel and upkeep, funding that this executive order puts in jeopardy, which could signal catastrophe for the longevity of the museum and the preservation of Black history.
- The NMAAHC averages over [1 million patrons](#) per year and provides educational opportunities for people of all demographics. In the wake of the dismantling of diversity, equity, and inclusion programs and the removal of Black history from school curriculums, this executive order will have a chilling effect on all Americans and their understanding of this country's history.
- This order also encourages the veneration of historical figures who committed racist acts. After the Black Lives Matter movement in 2020, leaders across the country took down over 100 [Confederate monuments](#) and statues, including a statue of Robert E. Lee that was featured in the [U.S. Capitol](#). President Trump calls this "revisionist history" and has demanded that the Secretary of the Interior reinstate all statues that have been removed from federal property over the last five years. Confederate monuments do not just uplift public figures that waged war against the United States and attempted to secede from the country; they also serve as symbolic reminders of anti-Black discrimination.
- The SAWHM does not have a physical structure yet but has loaned artifacts to other museums that highlight the achievements of several prominent Black women, from [Ida B. Wells](#) to [Mary McCleod Bethune](#). In this order, President Trump states that the museum conducted "ideological indoctrination" due to an exhibit that featured a transgender athlete and threatened to withhold federal funds. The SAWHM is still in development, having received [\\$10 million](#) of Congressionally appropriated funds in fiscal year 2024. This order could significantly halt its timeline, which will limit the museum's ability to highlight the contributions of Black women in shaping the United States.



## HOW ARE CBC MEMBERS RESPONDING?

- The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) has worked to preserve Black history and uplift the stories of African Americans since its inception. The CBC, led by **Chair Yvette D. Clarke**, issued the following statement in response to this executive order:
  - “President Trump signed an executive order that aims to restrict funding for programs within the Smithsonian Institution that the administration is falsely accusing of promoting ‘divisive narratives’ and ‘improper ideology.’ There is nothing divisive or improper about telling the truth. We detest this administration’s dedication to whitewashing our nation’s history. Donald Trump’s idea that the National Museum of African American History and Culture is guilty of distorting our nation’s history or painting our ‘founding principles’ in a ‘negative light’ is patently ridiculous. [...] Let’s be clear, Black history is American history. Any rhetoric that opposes this notion is not only factually incorrect but blatantly racist. We will not stand for anything aside from the truth.” [Full Statement](#)