

Lamont Collins
Founder and Curator, Roots 101 African American Museum



Lamont is a lifelong Louisvillian who has always had a passion for justice. As a child he took a deep interest in collecting and ultimately amassed a large number of African and African American artifacts which he used to create a makeshift museum in his basement. Upon hearing of another such museum in California, he was inspired to start his own. Roots 101 opened in 2019. He has since collected many other items including all the Breonna Taylor memorabilia from protests at Injustice Square.

Lamont named the museum Roots 101 because in higher education, the first course in a subject is always 101. This is a foundational place to begin learning about the African American experience. And most importantly to Lamont, it is a space for healing.

The museum has been named on *Architectural Digest's* 2020 list of the top 20 museums worldwide, one of *USA Today's* Top 10 Best New attractions of 2021, and was a recipient of 2021 Ford Foundation Grant. Located at 124 N. 1st St., the museum continues to **make patrons better ancestors** through exhibits that raise awareness of the African-American experience from slavery to freedom.

Touring the museum is a powerful experience as Lamont allows you to interact with the past in a visceral, unforgettable way. We encourage all to visit and ask for the tour!

Recently Lamont sat down with listenlearnact.org's Di Kerrigan to tell his story. It is profoundly moving and inspiring. Please click the link below to watch.

https://youtu.be/HTu4Qz8Y_Ug

*We encourage you to share this interview with friends and to support Roots 101 African American museum by becoming a member, donating, or simply visiting and spreading the word.