



DR. CALINDA LEE

Museums professional and content expert

Education

Emory University
MA & PhD, American Studies

New York University
Master of Arts, US History

Spelman College
Bachelor's degree, History &
Philosophy

University of Zimbabwe
History and Philosophy

Calinda Lee, founder of Sources Cultural Resources Management and collaborator of DaVinci Development Collaborative, is a distinguished museum leader. Sources Cultural Resources Management is a consulting firm dedicated to enhancing cultural institutions through innovative interpretation and organizational excellence. With over 20 years of experience in museums, higher education, libraries, and other cultural institutions, Lee specializes in developing rich and inclusive experiences that celebrate the impact that cultural programming can make on urgent contemporary issues. Guided by a philosophy of “courageous curiosity,” Dr. Lee fearlessly explores the past to create institutions committed to historical truth and forward-looking innovation. Her work emphasizes culturally resonant interpretation across exhibitions, programs, and media, making interpretation accessible and relevant to diverse audiences.

At the Atlanta History Center, where she served as Vice President of Interpretation and Community Engagement, Dr. Lee acted as the chief historian, overseeing all aspects of historical interpretation across two campuses covering 133 acres. In this role, she directed the development of primary collections, historic houses, and public programs, significantly shaping the institution’s mission. She curated the award-winning exhibition *Gatheround: Stories of Atlanta*, spearheaded the AHC’s Community Engagement initiatives, and led the institution through its first Interpretive Plan in 20 years. From the AHC, she was recruited to serve as the Head of Interpretation for the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. There, she led Education, Exhibitions, and mission-focused Programs teams.

Dr. Lee holds a deep expertise in 20th-century United States history, particularly in post-WWII African American social history. A prolific practitioner of oral history, she is an award-winning curator known for her ability to develop revelatory interviews, listening closely to capture the nuances of her narrators' stories and perspectives. Her academic background includes faculty and administrative positions at Emory University, Loyola University Chicago, and Spelman College. She is a recognized curator and educator, known for her meticulous research and transformative storytelling that reframe historical and cultural understanding.

As a firm believer in the power of collaboration, Calinda emphasizes the importance of leveraging the talents and skills of each employee to foster a culture of transparency and accountability. Her approach involves not only creating systems for organizational success but also helping individuals understand how they fit into the work and culture of their teams. She advocates for openness to criticism and innovation, which she believes are essential for collective growth and institutional success.

In addition to her curatorial and academic work, Dr. Lee is an accomplished

public speaker, delivering clear and impactful messages across various platforms. Her straightforward communication style enhances her effectiveness as an advisor, helping clients articulate their missions and connect with their audiences.

Dr. Lee's extensive experience extends to collaborations with esteemed institutions worldwide, including the District of Columbia Public Library, Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African American History and Culture, the State of Georgia, the United States Department of State, Northwestern University, the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History, the Reginald Lewis Maryland Museum for African American Life and History, the Chicago History Museum and many more. Her dedication to effective communication, organizational excellence, and community engagement continues to shape the cultural landscape, inspiring individuals and institutions to appreciate and understand the rich narratives of history and culture. Passionate about the future of the field, she continues to publish and speak about innovations in museology and community outreach and she is president-elect of the Southeastern Museums Conference.