

## Statement of Interest to Serve on the ASWAD Board

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Shani Roper  
Director (Acting), Liberty Hall: the Legacy of Marcus Garvey  
Kingston, Jamaica

The Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora provides a unique opportunity for scholars of or from the diaspora to volunteer their time in service of their community. I am a historian of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Anglophone Caribbean with broad interests in the history of Afro - Diasporic childhood and social policy, public history, and museum education. I have published in Caribbean Studies, Journal of Caribbean history, the Journal of History of Childhood and Youth and I have over ten years of professional experience working in Museums. My work in museums has profoundly shaped my approach to studying history because it allows me to center the subjects and the narratives on the periphery of mainstream narratives and to make them accessible to publics who typically do not feel welcome in museum spaces.

Caribbean museums are ideal spaces to intervene in public discourse, engage in activism, and facilitate community development through programming. In my substantive post as Research Officer of Liberty Hall: the Legacy of Marcus Garvey in Jamaica, I work on public history projects that facilitate discussions on race, class and self-identity and encourages an engagement with Garveyism, Black Nationalism and Pan Africanism in Jamaica. Liberty Hall, is a department of the Institute of Jamaica, that seeks to expose the public to the philosophy and opinions of the Rt. Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey through the Marcus Mosiah Garvey Multimedia Museum (MMGMM) and to provide access to affordable programming to its surrounding community. As Research Officer, I edit Liberty Hall's academic journal, and maintain the multi-media museum. As acting Director, I oversee all of Liberty Hall's operations including our community-based programs

Currently, I volunteer on the outreach committee of ASWAD, Museums Association of the Caribbean and I am a board member of the Jamaica Historical Association. Under my leadership as Chairperson of the Institute of Jamaica's Researchers and Curators Committee, we hosted three IOJ Research Symposiums on the topics of Conservation, Education Outreach, and Exhibition Design respectively as a way of targeting professional and specialised adult audiences about the work of the Institute.

I believe my professional experience and academic career would strengthen the place of the English-speaking Afro-Caribbean in ASWAD. If elected, I am willing and committed to support of the work of the organisation over the next six years.