



History of NAAM

1981

The idea of an African American museum housed in the Colman School building is proposed to Mayor Charles Royer by the Community Exchange, a multi-racial coalition.

1984

A Task Force is formed to establish an African American museum.

1985

The previous Colman School was selected to be the home of the museum. African American community activists Earl Debnam, Michael Greenwood, Charlie James, and Omari Tahir Garrett occupy the recently closed Colman School to establish and claim the site as the desired museum location.