Jennifer Scott, Executive Director and Chief Curator.

As the founding Executive Director, and Chief Curator, Jennifer led the ideation, design and build-out of the Urban Civil Rights Museum in Harlem's curatorial vision dedicated to creating a compelling and immersive museum that tells the story of the struggle for civil and human rights in Northern urban environments across America. An anthropologist, public historian, and curator, Jennifer has worked with museums, arts and cultural sites for nearly 30 years. She served in leadership roles at a number of social justice museums, including the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, one of the earliest and most significant Black history museums in the country, and Jane Addams Hull-House Museum in Chicago, a historic site and museum that dedicated to women's history, immigrants' rights, and racial and economic justice.

Jennifer worked for a decade in the inaugural role as the public historian for one of New York's local treasures, Weeksville Heritage Center, a Black museum and nationally significant historic site in Brooklyn that memorializes a Free Black, independent community in the 19th century. She built the museum's collection and archives, launched the oral history program, and created the *Lost Jazz Shrines of Brooklyn* project, still the only archive on the history of Brooklyn jazz.

At Weeksville, Jennifer she co-curated a number of public programs and exhibitions, including two well-received multi-site history and public art exhibitions: *In Pursuit of Freedom,* which explored the antislavery and abolition history of Brooklyn, and, *Funk, God, Jazz, and Medicine: Black Radical Brooklyn* in partnership with Creative Time (2014) that explored historical practices of community resistance. She was proudly part of the team that helped to restore the historic houses, open them to the public, reinterpret the historic site and develop its trademark innovative programming, community engagement and new interpretations of history, culture and the arts. She helped to build a new $40 million modern center on the site and transform the emerging campus into a present-day cultural destination.

A civic leader, in 2020, the Chicago Mayor appointed her co-chair of the Chicago Monuments Project to lead a city-wide commission to assess and rethink the city's monuments and public memorials, create public engagement opportunities around problematic monuments, and reimagine new monuments and public art commissions.

Jennifer is currently the Museums and Exhibitions editor for *The Public Historian* journal of the National Council on Public History. She serves as a part-time associate professor at The New School in New York, where she has taught for over 25 years. Jennifer researches, writes, and lectures on arts and social change, memory and place, contested histories, and innovative strategies for museums and public history sites. She is an author and co-editor of a forthcoming publication *Museums of the Future: Crafting the Cultural Landscapes of Tomorrow* (Palgrave Macmillan,2026). She holds degrees from Stanford University, the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.