



Smithsonian Institution

Sabrina Lynn Motley
Director, Smithsonian Folklife Festival
Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

Sabrina Lynn Motley is the director of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival at the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. Before joining the Center in 2013, she was the senior director of programs and exhibitions at Asia Society Texas Center in Houston. Under Motley's leadership, the Texas Center expanded its public offerings and strengthened its collaborative approach to program creation and implementation. Through performances, lectures, exhibitions, and workshops, its programming reflected Houston's rapidly changing demographics and its role as a gateway to Asia. While at the Texas Center, Motley oversaw the mounting of several critically acclaimed exhibitions, including *Universe Is Flux: The Art of Tawara Yusaku*, organized by the Indianapolis Museum, and *Weavers' Stories from Island Southeast Asia*, organized by the Fowler Museum at UCLA. Motley's most recent exhibitions speak to her interest in the creative lives of women and the role of traditional arts in contemporary life.

Motley earned her bachelor's degree from the World Arts & Cultures Program and master's degree in African studies at UCLA. She is a doctoral candidate in anthropology at UCLA, where she conducted research on the interplay between religious faith, doubt and social activism. As a world music aficionada, for more than five years Motley was a popular host of "The Global Village," KPFK 90.7 FM's flagship music program. As a teacher, Motley has taught cultural anthropology at the Art Center College of Design and the Otis Institute for Art and Design.

