

**ANNUAL AWARD LUNCHEON | APRIL 17, 2019**

**HONORING | JOHNNETTA BETSCH COLE, PHD & MICKALENE THOMAS**



## **JOHNNETTA BETSCH COLE, Ph.D.**

Johnnetta Betsch Cole is a Principal Consultant with Cook Ross, Inc., a consulting firm located in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA. Before assuming her current position, she served for eight years as the Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art. When she retired from the museum on March 31, 2017, Dr. Cole was given the title of Director Emerita.

Johnnetta Betsch Cole received her undergraduate degree from Oberlin College. Her M. A. and Ph.D. in anthropology with a specialization in African Studies were received from Northwestern University. After holding teaching and administrative positions at several colleges and universities, Dr. Cole served as the president of both historically Black colleges for women in the United States--Spelman and Bennett Colleges-- a distinction she alone holds. She has authored or edited several books and numerous articles for scholarly and general audiences.

Dr. Cole was the first African American to serve as the chair of the board of United Way of America. She formerly served on several corporate boards. She currently serves on the board of Martha's Table in Washington, DC.

From 2015 to 2016, Dr. Cole was the president of the Association of Art Museum Directors. She recently co-chaired the American Alliance of Museum's Working Group on Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion. She is a fellow of the American Anthropological Association and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is currently a Senior Consulting Fellow at the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Dr. Cole is the National Chair and Seventh President of the National Council of Negro Women. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the Links, Inc.

Dr. Cole has received numerous awards and is the recipient of 68 honorary degrees.