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United States Mint Spokesperson Biographies

About The Honorable Ventris C. Gibson, Director of the United States Mint

Ventris C. Gibson brings over 40 years of experience in human resources and executive leadership to her role as Director of the United States Mint (Mint). She was confirmed by the Senate and sworn in as the 40th Director of the Mint on June 16, 2022. Her historic appointment as the first African American to lead the Mint underscores her trailblazing career in federal service.

Before joining the Mint, Gibson held several high-profile positions including:

1. **Deputy Chief Human Capital Officer** at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services where she played a key role in workforce planning and organizational development.
2. **Director of Human Resources** at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) where she managed HR services for one of the largest federal workforces.
3. **Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Resources Management** at the Department of Veterans Affairs where she oversaw HR policy and operations for the nation's largest healthcare system.
4. **Director of the Office of Human Resources** at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) where she developed strategic HR initiatives and led significant organizational changes.

Gibson's leadership at the Mint involves overseeing all operations, including the production of circulating coinage, bullion coins, national medals, and numismatic products. Her tenure is characterized by a strong focus on operational efficiency, innovation, and employee engagement. She is committed to enhancing the Mint's legacy of quality and excellence while promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the organization.

A veteran of the United States Navy, Gibson also brings a wealth of military experience to her civilian roles, further enhancing her leadership capabilities. Her educational background includes studies in business administration and management, which have provided a solid foundation for her career in both public and private sectors.

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About Joseph Menna, Chief Engraver of the United States Mint

Born in Blackwood, NJ, Joseph Menna developed a passion for art at a young age and pursued formal training to hone his skills. While earning his BA and MFA in sculpture, he studied for six years with his mentor and friend, Leonid Leman. Menna followed in Leman's footsteps and completed his training at the prestigious Saint Petersburg Stieglitz State Academy of Art and Design where he studied monumental and architectural sculpture.

Menna joined the Mint in 2005 and was the first full-time digitally skilled artist hired by the Mint and was instrumental in integrating digital sculpting into traditional coin design. Menna's career is distinguished by his versatility in both traditional and digital sculpting methods. His proficiency with 3D modeling software allows for greater detail and precision, enabling complex and intricate designs that are both artistically and technically impressive which have made him an invaluable asset to the Mint. His expertise spans a wider range of styles and subjects, reflecting both historical relevance and innovative artistry. The resulting designs are favorites among collectors, celebrated for their precision and beauty.

Over the years, Joseph Menna has designed and sculpted numerous coins and medals, contributing to the creation of some of the most iconic pieces in recent numismatic history. Click here for [Menna's Design and Sculpting Credits at the Mint](#). Menna's ability to translate intricate designs into tangible forms has earned him numerous accolades. His ability to balance artistic integrity with the technical demands of coin production and has earned him respect both within and outside the numismatic community.

In addition to his work with the Mint, Menna worked as a professional sculptor for several high-profile companies, including DC Collectibles, Sideshow Collectibles, and Diamond Select Toys. He was one of the first digital sculptors to work in the collectibles industry and his pioneering efforts inspire many younger artists to this day. His work often includes characters from DC, Marvel Comics, LucasFilm, and more, bringing iconic heroes and villains to life. These sculptures have been highly sought after by collectors for their accuracy and artistic interpretation. Menna's first sculpture for DC was *The Gotham Stories Batman*.

Many of his sculptures were released as limited editions, increasing their value and desirability among collectors. He has done many digital sculpting demonstrations for DC and others at both the New York and San Diego Comic Cons.

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Menna's approach to collectible sculpture was deeply rooted in his classical training and love of all things comics and fantasy. He strived to capture the essence of each character or subject, with the aim of bringing them to life for the fans who love them.

Menna's work has had a substantial impact on the collectible sculpture industry, setting high standards for detail and quality. His sculptures were celebrated not only for their visual appeal but also for their ability to evoke the spirit and personality of the characters they depicted. Menna's contributions to the world of collectible sculptures are a testament to his artistic talent and versatility. Whether through his detailed comic book characters, mythical figures, or collaborative projects with major collectible companies, Menna's work continues to captivate and inspire. His dedication to his craft and ability to blend classical techniques with modern technology make him a standout figure in the art of collectible sculpture. He retired from the collectible sculpture industry in 2024.

Outside of his collectibles industry work, Menna created the digital model for The Statue of Unity, the world's tallest statue in Gujarat, India. He continues to create sculptures in clay and his fine art drawings have been exhibited in Pop Surrealism galleries in Philadelphia and New York City. He considers serving the American people through his work at the United States Mint to be the highest honor of his life and career. That work and beyond continues to inspire and captivate audiences, securing his legacy as one of the leading figures in contemporary numismatics.

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