



African American Experience Fund of the National Park Foundation

PROMOTING AND PRESERVING AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

The African American Experience Fund of the National Park Foundation (AAEF) was established in 2001 with a mission to *connect all Americans to the considerable contributions of African Americans throughout our country's history by raising private funds to support educational, volunteer and community engagement programs in National Parks and Historic Sites that celebrate and tell the story of African American history and culture.*

Since 2001, AAEF has provided more than \$1.3 million in grant support for projects and programs at 25 designated national parks and historic sites. AAEF parks and sites below welcome more than 2 million visitors annually. For more information visit: www.aaexperience.org.

- African American National Civil War Memorial, **Washington, DC**
- African Burial Ground National Monument, **New York**
- Booker T. Washington National Monument, **Virginia**
- Boston African American National Historic Site, **Massachusetts**
- Brown V Board of Education National Historic Site, **Kansas**
- Cane River Creole National Historical Park, **Louisiana**
- Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site, **Washington, DC**
- Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, **Washington, DC**
- George Washington Carver National Monument, **Missouri**
- Gullah/Geechee National Cultural Heritage Corridor, **South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida**
- Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, **Arkansas**
- Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site, **Virginia**
- Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, **Georgia**
- Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial, **Washington, DC**
- Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, **Washington, DC**
- Mary McLeod Bethune National Memorial, Lincoln Park, **Washington, DC**
- Natchez National Historical Park, **Mississippi**
- New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park, **Louisiana**
- Nicodemus National Historic Site, **Kansas**
- Paul Laurence Dunbar House, Dayton Aviation Heritage National Park, **Ohio**
- Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial, **California**
- Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, **Alabama**
- Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, **Alabama**
- Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, **Alabama**
- The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

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More about the AAEF

- AAEF was established under the leadership of Robert Stanton, during his service as the National Park Service director, the first and only African American to serve in this role, and retired, founding Board of Trustee member Barry Lawson Williams, president of Williams Pacific Adventures. AAEF is an official fund of the Washington, D.C.-based National Park Foundation (NPF), the congressionally chartered 501 (c)(3) non-profit partner of America's National Parks. NPF is the single largest non-federal source of support for the National Park System.
- Many stories of African American history are either untold or are under-told, and many individuals have no understanding of the extraordinary sacrifices that have been made to secure the equal rights and freedoms that they enjoy today.

Through our mission, AAEF is connecting past history with the present through grants to support youth, education, and volunteer and community programs such as student education events, internships for college students and teacher education trainings at African American historic sites. AAEF supports the National Park Service's goals of ensuring that individuals of all ages and ethnicities have access to an accurate understanding of African American history and the national treasures that reflect our diverse cultures and history. A visit to an AAEF park or site is a lesson in history that can be a life changing experience. AAEF parks welcome more than two million visitors annually.

- AAEF has provided more than **\$1.3 million** in grant support for projects and programs at national parks and historic sites that commemorate African American history.
- In 2012, contributions from our sponsors, underwriters and individual donors will support AAEF's goals to provide grants to AAEF sites for student education and college internships programs, as well as funding for critical needs and priority activities at AAEF sites. These grants help strengthen local partnership efforts and can help turn underfunded and innovative ideas into successful projects.
- Through **AAEF's Student Internship Partnership and Grants Program**, AAEF is working with the National Park Service's Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program to expand student placement at AAEF parks and sites to help develop future generations of African American history story-tellers, archivists and preservationists, and to help increase diversity in our nation's parks by exposing more African American youth to careers in the National Park Service.
- **Below are examples of projects and programs that our donors have supported through grants to AAEF parks and landmark sites:**
 - The 2011 re-opening of **Ebenezer Baptist Church** and mobile traveling exhibits for the **Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site** in Atlanta, Georgia.
 - "**History of Black Journalism**," a program for middle school students at the **Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site** in Richmond, Virginia.
 - A **radio public service** campaign for the **Tuskegee Airmen Oral History Project** featuring **Secretary of State Colin Powell** and **Good Morning America's Robin Roberts**.
 - Grant to the **African Burial Ground National Monument** in New York, New York to support public outreach for the national monument.
 - Electronic Field Trip (EFT) to **Central High School National Historic Site** in Little Rock, Arkansas that reached millions of students from grades 7 to 12 in all 50 states and six countries abroad through curriculum based interactive online classroom activities.

- Installation of interactive activities for classroom visitors to **Booker T. Washington National Monument** in Hardy, Virginia.
- Transportation for area school children to the **Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site** in Topeka, Kansas.
- Grant to the **Frederick Douglass National Historic Site** in Washington, D.C. to support the conservation of the library collection at “Cedar Hill”, the last residence of the world-renown civil rights activist and humanitarian, and awards to youth who participate in the annual Frederick Douglass Oratory Program and Contest.
- Music appreciation for elementary school students at the **New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park** in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Annual grants to the **National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom** sites and conference.

AAEF’s National Spokesperson

AAEF is pleased to join forces with **restaurateur and lifestyle icon B. Smith**, as she lends her support and star-power to AAEF as **our first national spokesperson**. Her efforts will help increase public awareness of the significant roles of African-Americans in our nation’s history through educational, volunteer and community engagement programs at AAEF historic parks and sites. **B. Smith will serve as the Honorary Chair of AAEF’s 2012 Annual Gala Awards Dinner and Women’s History Month Symposium, March, 28, 2012 in Washington, DC.**

Upcoming Major 2012 Events

Save the Date: AAEF 2012 Women History Month Symposium and the AAEF Annual Awards Gala; Wednesday, March 28, 2012, Washington, DC. Tickets and advance RSVP are required. See details below. To participate, purchase tickets/tables or underwriting support contact AAEF at 202-354-6489.

- **Women’s History Month Symposium: 8:00 am – 12:30 pm;** Cannon House Office Building (Capitol Hill). Theme: **“Women of Excellence: The Power of the Past and the Power of their Paths,” an educational symposium** with the National Park Service and other partners to inspire, educate and empower women and youth particularly, and all attendees, to pursue their paths to excellence in education, careers and daily living. Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. (IL-2nd) is the lead congressional co-sponsor. This event is open to the public.

The Symposium will bring together prominent women and individuals in leadership (private and public sector) from the region and from around the country to bridge their accomplishments and opportunities to the untold and under-told stories and extraordinary accomplishments of women who are honored in our national parks.

- **AAEF 2012 Awards Gala Reception and Dinner: 6:00 pm reception; 7:00 pm dinner and program; The Willard Hotel;** AAEF national spokesperson, restaurateur and lifestyle icon B. Smith is the Honorary Gala Chair; **live performance by jazz greats, “Pieces of a Dream.” Awardees and keynote speaker to be announced.**
- The Gala: ***Celebrating Legacies: African American Women from Civil War to Civil Rights to Today; The Power of the Past and the Power of their Paths***, combines the national Black History Month 2012 theme: *Black Women in American History and Culture*, and the National Park Service’s observance of the African American experience during the Civil War, from *Civil War to Civil Rights*.
- The Gala is AAEF’s major annual event to raise funds for grants to national parks and to raise awareness of African American history by honoring living individuals who have made a major impact on American history, as well as those who have contributed to the success of the AAEF.

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AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE FUND

African American National Civil War Memorial, Washington, DC

“The Spirit of Freedom”, a 9-foot bronze statue commemorates the service of 209,145 African-American soldiers and sailors who fought for the Union in the American Civil War. The memorial includes panels with the names of those who served in the war.

African Burial Grounds National Monument, New York, New York

The nation’s earliest known African and African American cemetery. Unearthed in 1991 during excavation of the federal office building in lower Manhattan, the remains of 419 individuals were re-interred in 2003.

Booker T. Washington National Monument, Hardy, Virginia

Nineteenth century plantation commemorates the life and work of the acclaimed educator, orator and founder of Tuskegee Institute born here in April, 1856. Demonstrations of farm life in Civil War Virginia help bring to life the era.

Boston African American National Historic Site, Boston, Massachusetts

Operated through a cooperative partnership with the Museum of Afro-American History, this 1.6 mile trail links fifteen pre-Civil War African American history structures that give the history of the 18th and 19th century free Black community on the North Slope of Beacon Hill.

Brown vs. Board of Education National Historic Site, Topeka, Kansas

The landmark Supreme Court Decision ending legal segregation in public schools is commemorated at the former Monroe Elementary School attended by the Lead Plaintiff’s daughter.

Cane River Creole National Historical Park, Natchitoches, Louisiana

Part of the 40,000 acre Cane River National Heritage Area. The Oakland Plantation and portions of the Magnolia Plantation demonstrate the history of colonization, French Creole architecture and culture, cotton agriculture and slavery.

Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site, Washington, DC

Home and office of the “Father of Black History Month”, and founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, scheduled for restoration by the National Park Service in 2006-08.

Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, Washington, DC

Cedar Hill, the final home (1877-1895) of the outspoken abolitionist, publisher, civil rights fighter. The home offers interpretation of his life from birth, including his work as U.S. Marshall of the District of Columbia and U.S. minister to Haiti.

George Washington Carver National Monument, Diamond, Missouri

Birthplace and childhood home of George Washington Carver, agronomist, educator and humanitarian. Discovery Center and ¾ mile trail provide insight into his early life and scientific genius.

Gullah/Geechee National Cultural Heritage Corridor, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida

Extending from Wilmington, NC to Jacksonville, FL, the Gullah/Geechee National Cultural Heritage Corridor is home to the Gullah/Geechee people who were descendents of enslaved Africans from various ethnic groups of west and central Africa.

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, Little Rock, Arkansas

Site of the crucial testing ground of Brown v. Board of Education where nine African American students integrated the school in 1957 escorted by the 101st Airborne Division and continues to operate as the major high school in Little Rock.

Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site, Richmond, Virginia

Home of this major 20th century newspaper publisher, community and business leader and the first American woman to found and be president of a bank. Provides extensive insight into lifestyle of early 20th century entrepreneurs.

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, Atlanta, Georgia

Birthplace, church and grave of the Nobel Peace Prize recipient and civil rights leader. Visitors will experience the restored “Sweet Auburn” district, the economic and cultural center of Atlanta’s 20th century African American community.

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial, Washington, DC

Honoring a man of conscience; the freedom movement of which he was a beacon; and his message of freedom, equality, justice and love, the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial is the first site on the National Mall devoted, not to a United States President or war hero, but a citizen activist for civil rights and peace.

Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, Washington, DC

Headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women, established in 1935 commemorating Mrs. Bethune’s leadership in the black women’s rights movement from 1943-1949. Home of the largest existing archival collection of African American women.

Mary McLeod Bethune National Memorial, Lincoln Park, Washington, DC

A tribute to educator and activist Mary McLeod Bethune, the national memorial is the first monument to honor a black woman in a public park in the District of Columbia.

Natchez National Historical Park, Natchez, Mississippi

Among the preserved antebellum properties is the home of William Johnson “The Barber of Natchez”, a prominent free black business man. His two thousand page diary provides a vivid picture of life in Natchez before the Civil War.

New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park, New Orleans, Louisiana

The park will interpret jazz as it has evolved in New Orleans and serve as a resource for a wide range of organizations involved with jazz and its history, including area schools.

Nicodemus National Historic Site, Nicodemus, Kansas

The only remaining western town established by African Americans during the reconstruction period, representing the western expansion and settlement of the Great Plains. Preserved buildings include a hotel, two churches, the town hall and school.

Paul Lawrence Dunbar State Memorial, Dayton Aviation Heritage National Park, Dayton, Ohio

Located in the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park commemorating Wilbur and Orville Wright, the home honors the life and work of this great poet who was a business associate and friend of Orville.

Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial, California

The site of the July 17, 1944 explosion, the largest homeland disaster of World War II, that killed 320 men instantly when the munitions ships they were loading with ammunition for the Pacific theatre troops blew up. Port Chicago National Memorial is about many things, from the tragedy of loss of life, to discrimination, segregation and the very beginnings of civil rights for all Americans.

Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, Selma, Lowndes and Montgomery Counties, Alabama

The fifty four mile trail traces the historic march that led to the Voters Rights Act of 1965. The trail offers both pedestrian and automotive pathways, much of it remaining as it was in 1965 with interpretive centers and stops strategically placed along the way.

Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, Tuskegee, Alabama

Scheduled to open in 2012, this park will preserve the airfield, historic hangar and other buildings at Moton Field, where the first African American military pilots were trained and includes the stories of the thousands of supportive staff involved.

Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, Tuskegee, Alabama

College founded in 1881 by Booker T. Washington includes preserved brick buildings constructed by Tuskegee students, Washington's home and the George Washington Carver Museum and offers extensive information about the struggle for higher education.

National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

Provides on-going technical assistance to organizations in identifying, documenting, preserving and interpreting sites, travel routes and landscapes related to the Underground Railroad, including developing and operating interpretive and educational programs and facilities.

About the NPF: You are the owner of 84 million acres of the world's most treasured memorials, landscapes, ecosystems, and historic sites -- all protected in America's nearly 400 national parks. Chartered by Congress, the [National Park Foundation](#) is the official charity of America's national parks. We work hand in hand with the National Park Service to connect you and all Americans to the parks, and to make sure that they are preserved for the generations who will follow. Join us in supporting your national parks -- this is your land.

www.nationalparks.org.

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