

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Year of Accomplishments

## Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture



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## Our Mission

The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) is committed to discovering, documenting, preserving, collecting, and promoting Maryland's African American heritage. The commission also provides technical assistance to institutions and groups with similar objectives.

Through the accomplishment of this mission, the MCAAHC seeks to educate Maryland citizens and visitors about the significance and impact of the African American experience in Maryland.



(Left to Right) Verda Freeman Welcome and Benjamin Quarles, Founders of Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture

## Our History

In 1969, the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) began under the leadership of Maryland Senator Verda Freeman Welcome, America's first African American female state senator, and Benjamin Quarles, a student of Carter G. Woodson who is known as the "Father of Black History." Today, the MCAAHC provides technical assistance and resources to Maryland African American museums, universities, and heritage sites. The commission also operates the Banneker-Douglass Museum (BDM), the state's official museum of Maryland African American history and culture.

# Message from Governor

Dear Fellow Marylanders,

For nearly half a century, the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) has been a pioneer in discovering, documenting, preserving, collecting and promoting Maryland's African American heritage. As the nation's first state ethnic commission, the MCAAHC continues to set the standard for education and preservation projects in Maryland. It is with that in mind that I proudly join the MCAAHC in presenting the 2018 Annual Report.



In celebration of the bicentennial of the birth of renowned abolitionist and Maryland native Frederick Douglass, I issued a proclamation declaring February 14, 2018 - February 14, 2019, as the "Year of Frederick Douglass." The MCAAHC championed the implementation of the proclamation by organizing over 30 Frederick Douglass themed events in 2018.

As we commemorate the achievements of this great commission and its 50th anniversary, I am confident the MCAAHC will continue to foster more avenues for recognition and a greater appreciation of the African American experience in Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Larry Hogan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Larry Hogan  
Governor



## Message from Governor's Office of Community Initiatives

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to present the 2018 Annual Report of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC). I would like to salute our dedicated commissioners and executive team members of the Banneker-Douglass Museum (BDM) and its foundation.

We have continued our effort to honor and remember the legacy of those who established the foundation of African American history and culture in Maryland: Senator Verda Freeman, the country's first African American woman State Senator; Dr. Benjamin Arthur Quarles, an intellectual and professional mentor for two generations of African-American scholars; Mr. Benjamin Banneker, the first African American man of science and mathematics; and Mr. Frederick Douglass, the first African American internationally recognized as a social crusader and nominated as a candidate for Vice President of the United States.

This report will show you new achievements made by the commission and BDM. We appreciate the commissioners who have devoted themselves to working with other community leaders and citizens to educate future generations as we seek to preserve Maryland's African American heritage. They are truly the ones who have helped us "rise."

The BDM has great resources, educational programs, and events to share the legacy and mission of African American communities in Maryland. I encourage you to support their initiatives. I look forward to working with you all to change Maryland for the better.

Thank You,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SJM'.

Steven J. McAdams

Executive Director, Governor's Office of Community Initiatives





# Message from Chair

## Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture

84 Franklin Street, Annapolis, MD 21401 410-216-6180

[www.africanamerican.maryland.gov](http://www.africanamerican.maryland.gov)

### MCAAHC

Dale Glenwood Green  
*Chair*

Tamara England Wilson, D.Min.  
*Vice Chair*

Chanel Compton  
*Director*

### Commissioners

Iris Leigh Barnes, PhD  
Lynn Gosman Bowman  
Maya Davis  
H. Russell Frisby, Jr., Esq.  
Malcom Funn, Esq.  
Janice Curtis Greene  
Marilyn Hatza  
Edwin T. Johnson, PhD  
Melvin Kelly  
Steven X. Lee  
Lopez Matthews, Jr., PhD  
Cheryl A. McLeod  
Elinor L. Thompson  
Reginald Turner

2018 was a good year for The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, full of change and progress. We saluted our former Commission Leadership and Commissioners, and more formally welcomed new Commissioners and new Banneker Douglass Museum staff, officially elected Vice Chair Rev. Dr. Tamara England Wilson, celebrated the official one-year anniversary of our incomparable Director Chanel Compton, created a plan to guide us, and built partnerships at the local, state and national level that will have a lasting and positive impact on the State of Maryland.

Most notably in 2018 was the Commission led “Year of Frederick Douglass”, as declared officially by Governor Larry Hogan and prominently kicked off at the Maryland State House (*where Douglass spoke in 1874*), thus commencing the official Bicentennial Celebration of the birth of Maryland’s native son, Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey Douglass which was celebrated year-long and state-wide in Maryland. The Year of Frederick Douglass received international, national, state and local recognition and was praised by the descendants of Frederick Douglass.

2019 will mark the yearlong 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture. Since its founding in 1969 by The Late Senator Verda Freeman Welcome (*the nation’s first African American female State Senator*) and The Late Dr. Benjamin Arthur Quarles (*Morgan State University Professor of History and renowned African American Historian*), the Commission has given rise to a 21 seat statewide commission appointed by the Governor, the State’s official museum on African American History and Culture (Banneker Douglass Museum) and the States \$1-million African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program.

It has been an honor to serve and perpetuate the mission and legacy of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture and the respective resources it provides to the citizens of Maryland and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dale Glenwood Green*

Dale Glenwood Green  
Chair  
MCAAHC

*The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture is committed to discovering, documenting, preserving, collecting, and promoting Maryland’s African American heritage. The Commission also provides technical assistance to institutions and groups with similar objectives. Through the accomplishment of this mission, the MCAAHC seeks to educate Maryland citizens and visitors about the significance and impact of the African American experience in Maryland.*

# Message from Executive Director



As we enter into a new year, the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture has worked diligently with the Banneker-Douglass Museum (BDM), its foundation, the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, and stakeholders to strengthen our educational outreach and initiatives to promote Maryland's African American heritage to larger and diverse audiences.

2018 marked the "Year of Frederick Douglass" and BDM presented teacher training, exhibits, and public programs that promoted the life and legacy of the nation's most notable abolitionist. These programs ignited a significant increase in visitation and sponsorship support.

As I entered my first year as Executive Director of BDM and MCAAHC, I continue my dedication to serving the great state of Maryland to amplify and support African American heritage initiatives, groups, and museums to gain further access to resources, partnerships, that reach new audiences and heights.

Peace and Love,

*Chanel Compton*

Executive Director  
MCAAHC & BDM



# Commissioners Appointed in 2018



## **Iris Leigh Barnes - Harford County**

- Curator of Lillie Carroll Jackson Civil Rights Museum in Baltimore
- Interpretation Fellow at Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture
- Two-time Diversity Fellow for National Trust for Historical Preservation



## **Maya David - Prince George's County**

- Senior Research Archivist with Legacy of Slavery Archives at Maryland State Archives
- Former Interim Director of MCAAHC & BDM



## **Malcolm L. Funn - Calvert County**

- Docent and teacher at Old Wallville One Room African American School House
- Founder and President of William Sampson Brooks High School Alumni Association, Incorporated (First African American High School built in Calvert County in 1938)



## **Janice Curtis Greene - Baltimore County**

- President and Life Member of National Association of Black Storytellers
- Life Member and Past President of the Griots' Circle of Maryland



## **Elinor L. Thompson - Anne Arundel County**

- Author of *In the 8th District: Our African-American Church Communities in Southern Anne Arundel County*
- Author of *Nelson's Rest: Documenting the History and Heritage of Asbury Broadneck Annapolis Church Communities and the Historic Burial Grounds*



## **Reggie Turner - Washington County**

- Founder and President of Turner Wealth Management
- President of Doleman Black Heritage Museum in Hagerstown, Maryland

# Commissioners

Lynn Groesback Bowman - Allegany County

- Author of

*Being Black in Brownsville: Echoes of A "Forgotten" Frostburg (2011)*

*Crossing into the Promised Land: An Appalachian African American History (2012)*

*Living the Lie: Separate but Equal in Cumberland, Maryland (2013)*

*Everyone Counts: A history of African American enslavement in Allegany County, Maryland (2018)*

Russell Frisby, Jr., Esq. - Howard County

- Attorney and Partner for D.C. office of Stinson Leonard Street Firm

Marilyn Hatza - Baltimore City

- Program Office for Grants and Strategic Partnerships at Maryland Humanities

Edwin T. Johnson - Baltimore City

- Associate Adjunct Professor at University of Maryland University College, teaching African American and U.S. History

- Assistant University Archivist and University Historian at Morgan State University

Melvin Kelly - Anne Arundel County

- Chairman of Fairfield Outreach and Sponsors Association, a nationwide organization that fundraises for the Fairfield Children's Home at the United Methodist Mission at Old Mutare in Zimbabwe

Steven X. Lee - Baltimore County

- Founding Director for Benjamin Banneker Historical Park & Museum in Oella, Maryland

Lopez D. Matthews, Jr., Ph.D. - Baltimore County

- Digital Production Librarian for Howard University Libraries and the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center

- Adjunct professor at Coppin State University, teaching courses in the U.S., African American, and World histories

Cheryl A. McLeod - Howard County

- Mediator for Maryland Commission on Human Rights

- Election Observer, providing voter rights protection in many states throughout the country

# Commission Leadership in 2018



## **Chair**

### **Dale Glenwood Green**

Professor Dale Glenwood Green is the Chair of the Historic Preservation Program and a Assistant Professor of Architecture in the School of Architecture + Planning at Morgan State University. Green was honored as the recipient of two 2012 Maryland Preservation Awards (the Education and Community Engagement award and the Preservation Partnerships for Project Excellence Award).



## **Vice Chair**

### **Rev. Dr. Tamara England-Wilson**

Rev. Dr. Tamara England Wilson is the pastor of Nu Season Nu Day Church & Ministries. She was licensed and ordained by the Enon Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland where she served as the Assistant Minister. An advocate for preserving and strengthening the African American community, Dr. Wilson devotes much of her time working with various community and civic organizations.

# Chair Emeritus Honored in 2018



**Lyndra Marshall (née Pratt) - Prince George's County**  
**Served as Chair 2015-2017**

**Theodore Mack - Anne Arundel County**  
**Served as Chair 2007-2015**





# Preservation Leadership Training



National Trust *for*  
Historic Preservation®

The National Trust for Historic Preservation in partnership with the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) hosted a two-day workshop designed to address the specific needs of executive directors, trustees, and boards managing African American historic sites and museums. Topic areas included non-profit management, preservation planning, board development, and fundraising strategies. Workshop facilitators used highly interactive exercises, case studies, small group work, and assignments focused on the specific needs of participant organizations. As an outcome, members of the BDM Foundation, Inc. and Friends of BDM, BDM Executive Director, and MCAAHC leadership developed a 6-month action plan focusing on donor stewardship. Facilitators from the National Trust of Historic Preservation encouraged MCAAHC, BDM Foundation, and Friends of BDM to think bigger when it comes to collaboration and philanthropy.

# Year of Frederick Douglass



Governor's announcement of the Year of Frederick Douglass at the Maryland State House on February 14, 2018. (Left to Right) Dale Glenwood Green, MCAAHC Chair; Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford; Kenneth B. Morris; Nettie Washington Douglass; and Governor Larry Hogan.

In honor of the bicentennial anniversary of the birth of Frederick Douglass, Governor Larry Hogan issued a proclamation declaring 2018 as the “Year of Frederick Douglass” in Maryland. To celebrate the “Year of Frederick Douglass,” the Banneker-Douglass Museum announced partnerships with various organizations to host educational seminars, celebrations, and events across the state.



# Year of Frederick Douglass



Governor's announcement of the Year of Frederick Douglass at the Maryland State House on February 14, 2018. (Left to Right) Reggie Turner, MCAAHC Commissioner; Malcolm Funn; Stephen Lee; Herbert Russell Frisby; Dale Glenwood Green, MCAAHC Chair; Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford; Kenneth B. Morris; Nettie Washington Douglass; Governor Larry Hogan; Elinor L. Thompson, MCAAHC Commissioner; Maya Davis, MCAAHC Commissioner; and Chanel Compton, MCAAHC & BDM Executive Director.



Frederick Douglass Community Day Celebration on July 1, 2018. MCAAHC Commissioner Janice Greene, orator and performer, performing as Harriet Tubman with Nathan Richardson, author and poet, acting as Frederick Douglass.



(Right) Kenneth B. Morris, a descendant of Frederick Douglass and Co-Founder of the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, speaking at the Kenneth B. Morris Lecture on May 22, 2018. Deonte Ward, Annapolis based artist and activist, moderating the conversation.



Proclamation presentation at the Kenneth B. Morris Lecture on May 22, 2018. (Left to Right) Tamara England-Wilson, MCAAHC Vice Chair; Chanel Compton, MCAAHC & BDM Executive Director; and Dale Green, MCAAHC Chair.



# Year of Fredrick Douglass



(Top Left Photo) Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Committee Meeting in Anne Arundel County  
(Top Right Photo) Dr. Joan M.E. Gaither, storyteller and quilter, created a series of Frederick Douglass themed quilts and traveled throughout Maryland during the bicentennial year.  
(Bottom Left Photo) At the Frederick Douglass Community Day Celebration on July 1, 2018, participants worked with Dr. Gaither on a Frederick Douglass themed quilt.

## Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Committee

The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) and the Banneker-Douglass Museum partnered with Anne Arundel County and Maryland State organizations in celebration and recognition of the bicentennial of Frederick Douglass' birth. Beginning on February 14, 2018, the date of Douglass' birth, planned events throughout the State of Maryland included lectures, reenactments, celebrations, walking tours, film series and more. They explored the history and life of Frederick Douglass and related topics in social justice, community building, and education. The committee hosted meetings where Frederick Douglass lived and worked: Anne Arundel County, Talbot County, and Baltimore City.

# Awards to Commission

## FOUR RIVERS HERITAGE AWARD

For inspiring collaborative effort that celebrated the history and legacy of Frederick Douglass

## CROSS BOTTONY AWARD

For contribution to the Historic St. Mary's City Museum exhibit "Struggle for Freedom: African American Life at St. Mary's City in the 19th and 20th Century" at the Brome Slave Quarter site

## MARYLAND OFFICE OF TOURISM LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS AWARD

For outstanding contributions to the "Year of Frederick Douglass"

## PACESETTER AWARD

Awarded to Chanel Compton, BDM & MCAAHC Executive Director, by the Association of African American Museums for her academic and professional achievement within the field of African American museums and community outreach

# African American Heritage Preservation Program

## More Than 1 Million Dollars in Capital Grants

The African American Heritage Preservation Program (AAHPP) is a grant program administered as a joint partnership between the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT).

The goal of the AAHPP is to identify and preserve buildings, communities, and sites of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland. The program offers assistance to non-profit organizations, local jurisdictions, business entities, and private citizens in their sponsorship of successful acquisition, construction, or improvement of African American heritage projects.

This competitive program, offered once per year, is supported through an annual appropriation from the Maryland General Assembly. The amount available for the grant award is not known until the General Assembly adopts the State budget in early April.

In partnership with MHT, the MCAAHC conducted four workshops for potential applicants in locations across the state:

March 13, 2018 Fairmount Heights Library - Prince George's County

April 12, 2018 Historical Society of Baltimore County - Baltimore County

April 19, 2018 Federalsburg Historical Society & Museum - Caroline County

May 3, 2018 Thurmont Regional Library - Frederick County



# 2018 Grant Awardees

## McComas Institute – Joppa, Harford County (\$100,000 grant awarded)

The McComas Institute stands as the most important landmark in the history of black education in Harford County. Constructed in 1867, this building is one of three schools erected in the area for the Freedmen's Bureau after the Civil War. McComas Institute is the only one, however, to remain intact. This one-story frame structure with a gable roof is five bays long and three bays wide, stands on a raised stone foundation, and has a modest belfry over the north gable.

## Jane Gates House – Cumberland, Allegany County (\$100,000 grant awarded)

This property derives its name from Jane Gates, a former slave, who was able to purchase the property in 1871. She lived here with her 5 children, including Edward Gates, the great-grandfather of Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr., a prominent scholar of African American culture at Harvard University. Dr. Gates showcased this property, 515 Greene Street, on his TV program "Finding your Roots" as a significant landmark for the Gates family. The property is still in Gates family ownership; it will be rehabilitated as a community center.

## Morgan State University: Carnegie Hall, University Memorial Chapel, and Holmes Hall – Baltimore City, Baltimore County (\$100,000 grant awarded)

Founded in 1867, Morgan State University is an urban, 143-acre campus with a diverse collection of structures. Three of these buildings, Carnegie Hall; University Memorial Chapel; and Holmes Hall, are to be assessed in preparation of impending construction. In 1917, industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie funded the campus relocation to its current site in northeast Baltimore and the construction of Carnegie Hall (constructed 1919), the oldest extant building on campus. Carnegie Hall was designed by Carnegie's New York architect Edward Tilden. University Memorial Chapel constructed 1941 is the only National Register-listed building on campus and honors the University's founding as the Biblical Centenary Institute. It was designed by African American architect Albert I. Cassell. Holmes Hall constructed in 1949 holds the University's signature clock tower – a classic symbol modeled after Philadelphia's Independence Hall. Designed by the Baltimore architectural firm Taylor & Fisher, the building was named in honor of the University's first African American President Dwight O. W. Holmes.

**Catoctin Furnace Iron Master's House Ruins – Thurmont, Frederick County  
(\$5000 grant awarded)**

The Catoctin Furnace complex is significant to American industrial history and industrial archeology. The industrial site and its related living quarters illustrate the growth and development of the iron industry between 1774 and 1904. Slaves labored in the village in various capacities including iron production, charcoal making, and domestic services. There are documented cases of enslaved persons leaving this site to seek freedom. This site is included in NPS's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Gateway program. While the 1781 Iron Master's House is in ruins, it is open for public viewing year round. A new interpretive panel will explain the role the Iron Master played in the community and the importance of this structure. The Iron Master's House is owned by the State of Maryland.

**Mutual Memorial Cemetery – Sandy Spring, Montgomery County  
(\$78,000 grant awarded)**

Mutual Memorial Cemetery was officially established in 1873 as part of the historic Freedman's Village of Sandy Spring, one of the oldest free black communities in Maryland. The Quakers, who founded Sandy Spring, freed their slaves by 1800 before federal or state emancipation. These pioneering black families chose to remain within the borders of Sandy Spring in an area which became known as Freedman's Village. They purchased homes, founded houses of worship, created small businesses and established the Mutual Memorial Cemetery.

**Old Pomonkey High School – Bryans Road, Charles County  
(\$100,000 grant awarded)**

Old Pomonkey High School served as the first African American public high school in Charles County. Established in 1922, the original frame building was replaced in the 1930s by a one-story structure with high ceilings, large windows, and Colonial Revival styling. In the 1950s, a one-story gymnasium wing was added. This is currently the only portion of the building that remains after a fire in the 1980s destroyed the 1930s portion. The building will become a cultural center and museum, with the 1950s wing rehabilitated and the 1930s portion ultimately rebuilt.

**John Wesley M.E. Church – Deal Island, Somerset County**  
**(\$100,000 grant awarded)**

John Wesley M.E. Church is a late Victorian T-plan Gothic Revival church, dating from 1914. It is a prominent landmark in the low, marshy landscape between the settlements of Deal Island and Wenona. A black congregation has continuously worshipped on this site since at least the third quarter of the 19th century. The building will be used as a heritage-focused cultural and interpretive center.

**Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center – Annapolis, Anne Arundel County**  
**(\$100,000 grant awarded)**

The Wiley H. Bates High School is of exceptional significance in the history of the development of public education for African Americans in Anne Arundel County. From the time the school was built in 1932 until 1966 when the county public school system was finally desegregated, Bates was the only public school in the county which African American students could attend for a secondary level education. The 1932 building was expanded in 1937, 1945, and 1950 to accommodate increasing enrollment. In each building campaign, facilities which equaled or exceeded those available to white students were provided. These expansions represent the response of the county to the "separate but equal" doctrine which was applied to public facilities in the first half of the 20th century.

**Sis's Tavern / Baby Dee's – North Brentwood, Prince George's County**  
**(\$50,000 grant awarded)**

Initially operated as a grocery, then as a tavern and music hall, the building on 41st Avenue has been owned and operated by residents of North Brentwood, the first African American incorporated community in the county, and served town residents for over eighty years. It became known as "Sis' Tavern" during the 1960s when it was owned by Marie "Sis" Walls and later known as "Baby Dee's" after Deloris R. Spriggs. It was a central social hub for the town attracting famous actors such as Duke Ellington and Pearl Bailey during its heyday who would come to perform after hours when visiting the Howard Theatre in D.C. The building also housed a barbershop, in a circa 1920 addition, which was operational until Baby Dee's closing in 1996. In addition to being the first commercial building built in the town, it was owned at one time by the town's first mayor, Jeremiah Hawkins. When rehabilitation is completed, the building is planned for community use and will be managed by the town.



**Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church – Easton, Talbot County**  
**(\$100,000 grant awarded)**

Bethel AME Church, built in 1877, houses a congregation that has been in existence since 1818. The Hill neighborhood, established by freed slaves in Easton, grew up around Bethel and the nearby Asbury AME Church. The church building may be the first structure for public use owned and operated by African Americans on the Eastern Shore. The building is still in use as a church.

**Asbury M.E. Church – Easton, Talbot County**  
**(\$100,000 grant awarded)**

Asbury M.E. Church is the oldest African American church structure in Easton, and the second oldest African American church structure in Talbot County. The church was dedicated by Frederick Douglass in 1878. Asbury was a temporary high school for black students in the 1930's and is now a community center for a historically African American enclave known as the "Hill." The lower-level "fellowship hall" will become an education and research center for the public. The upper-level sanctuary is still used for worship.

**Denton Colored School – Denton, Caroline County**  
**(\$100,000 grant awarded)**

Constructed in the late 19th or early 20th century, the Denton Colored School is a T-plan building which stands above a tall basement made of rough-cast concrete block. The half-acre of land which the school occupies was purchased by African American school trustees in 1867. The structure has been used as a masonic hall since 1969. The project will restore the structure to its historic appearance.

# History Day Awards



Contest winners with Maryland Delegate Adrienne A. Jones and MCAAHC & BDM Executive Director Chanel Compton

The Maryland Humanities Council hosted a history-based contest for students in grades 6 through 12 in honor of the Maryland History Day on April 29, 2018. Students learn about people, places, and ideas from history and apply what they learn to the original projects and productions they create. The 2018 contest's theme was, "Conflict and Compromise." The MCAAHC sponsored two awards: one in the junior division (grades 6 through 8) and the other in the senior division (grades 9 through 12).

Winners received a cash prize and a plaque with the name of the commission. The commission was acknowledged in Maryland History Day and National History Day programs as well as in press releases announcing the Maryland History Day winners.

Special Prize in African American History sponsored by the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture:

Students: Katera Jones, Kalayah Murray  
Topic: Conflict and Compromise of Harriet Tubman  
Category: Performance  
School: Somerset 6/7 Intermediate School  
County: Somerset County  
Teacher: Randi Merritt

Student: Daniel Bates  
Topic: The Harlem Globetrotters: Champions of Equality  
Category: Documentary  
School: Trinity Home School Academy  
County: Prince George's County  
Teacher: Robin Bates, Wendell Bates

# Commission Retreat



**MCAAHC Retreat:** On October 27, the MCAAHC held a retreat at Morgan State University. The retreat was facilitated by Brent Leggs of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Research topics included the MCAAHC 50th-anniversary campaign, the 35th anniversary of the BDM, and the 10th anniversary of the African American Heritage Preservation Program.

## 2018 Goals:

- Onboard new commissioners and BDM staff
- Increase the visibility of the MCAAHC and BDM through statewide initiatives
- Provide professional development, fundraising, and donor stewardship
- Complete roofing repairs to the Verda Welcome Hall

## Long Term Goals:

- Establish an endowment fund for the MCAAHC and BDM
- Increase funding for the African American Heritage Preservation Program
- Update BDM's permanent exhibits
- Restore and upgrade BDM facilities



# Commission Public Meetings

## **February 5, 2018 - REGULAR MEETING**

Reginald F. Lewis Museum  
830 E. Pratt St.  
Baltimore, MD 21202

## **April 2, 2018 - REGULAR MEETING**

Cecil College  
One Seahawk Drive  
North East, MD 21901

## **June 4, 2018 - REGULAR MEETING**

The National Great Blacks In Wax Museum  
1601-03 East North Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21213

## **August 6, 2018 - REGULAR MEETING & SPECIAL MEETING**

University of Maryland Eastern Shore  
30665 Student Services Center  
Princess Anne, MD 21853

## **October 1, 2018 - REGULAR MEETING**

Hagerstown Community College  
11400 Robinwood Drive  
Hagerstown, MD 21742

## **December 3, 2018 - REGULAR MEETING**

All Saints Episcopal Church  
100 Lower Marlboro Road  
Sunderland, MD 20689

# Commissioners in Action

When	What	Where
1/20/2018	Having Difficult Conversations about Race	BDM
1/27/2018	BDM MLK Day Celebration	BDM
1/29/2018	The Senate of Maryland Executive Nomination Committee	Miller Senate Building (Annapolis)
2/13/2018	Bent But Not Broken Opening Reception	BDM
2/13/2018	State Proclamation Year of Frederick Douglass	State Capitol Building Governor's Reception Room (Annapolis)
2/14/2018	Dedication/Groundbreaking Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe	Frederick Douglass Park (Talbot County)
2/19/2018	Parlette Elmore Library Obama Statue Unveiling	Coppin State University (Baltimore City)
2/20/2018	Reception - Black History Month	Government House (Annapolis)
2/23/2018	Illustrated talk on the Douglass Family by international scholar Dr. Celeste-Marie Bernier	Maryland State Archives (Annapolis)

2/24/2018	The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) Annual Luncheon	Renaissance Hotel, (Washington, DC)
2/27/2018	MCAAHC Commissioner Orientation	BDM
3/6/2018	Voices of Freedom: An Evening with Umar Bin Hassan	Francis Scott Key Auditorium, St. John's College (Annapolis)
3/8/2018	Teacher Training that Inspires Series	BDM
3/11/2018	Emerging Leaders in the Arts Symposium	American University (Washington, DC)
3/12/2018	Governor's Cabinet Meeting Calvert County	Sewell Funeral Home (Prince Frederick)
3/13/2018	AAHP Grant Workshop	Fairmount Heights Library (Fairmount Heights)
3/13/2018	2018 Governor's Ethnic Commissions' Joint Legislative Night	House Office Building (Annapolis)
3/13/2018	Celebration of Resilience: Recognizing the Contributions of African American members of the Annapolis City Council	Annapolis City Council
3/24/2018	"Struggle for Freedom: African American Life at St. Mary's City in the 19th and 20th Century" at Brome Slave Quarter Site	St. Mary's College



4/12/2018	AAHPP Grant Workshop	Historical Society of Baltimore (Baltimore County)
4/19/2018	AAHPP Grant Workshop	Federalsburg Historical Society (Caroline County)
5/22/2018	Lecture with Kenneth B. Morris, Co-Founder of Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives	Francis Scott Key Auditorium, St. John's College (Annapolis)
6/9/2018	Heritage Days Festival- Enslavement Lecture	Allegany County Public Library (Allegany County)
6/9/2018	The Douglass Reading Room Exhibition Opening	BDM
7/26/2018	Western Maryland Humanities Network	Penn Alps Restaurant (Garrett County)
8/08 - 08/10/2018	Association of African American Museums Annual Conference	Hampton, va
8/18/2018	Council of the Alleghenies Symposium	Cumberland Country Club (Allegany County)
9/11/2018	Brownsville Project presentation	Frostburg State University (Allegany County)
9/13/2018	Brownsville Project performance- Frostburg State University Appalachian Festival	Palace Theatre (Allegany County)

10/17/2018	Brownsville tour	Frostburg State University (Allegany County)
10/18/2018	Maryland Historical Trust Meeting	Patterson Park & Jefferson & Museum St. Leonard, MD (Calvert County)
10/19/2018	Brownsville discussion	Frostburg State University (Allegany County)
10/23/2018	A Lecture by Frederick Douglass	Patuxent High School Lusby, MD (Calvert County)
10/23/2018	An Evening with Frederick Douglass	All Saints Episcopal Church (Calvert County)
11/03/2018	NAACP Luncheon	Rod N' Reel Restaurant (Cecil County)
11/09/2018	Quarles Symposium	Morgan State University (Baltimore City)
11/09/2018	Frederick Douglass Creative Arts Competition	Chesapeake Arts Center (Annapolis)
12/01/2018	The Hill Community 230th Anniversary Celebration	Asbury United Methodist Church (Frederick County)

# Banneker-Douglass Museum



## Mission & History

The Banneker-Douglass Museum (BDM), named for Benjamin Banneker and Frederick Douglass, was dedicated on February 24, 1984. The original museum was housed within the former Mount Moriah African Methodist Episcopal Church in the heart of historic Annapolis. The Victorian-Gothic structure was included in the Annapolis Historic District in 1971 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. Thanks to a community-led effort to transform the former Mt. Moriah AME Church building into a museum, the BDM opened on February 24, 1984. In light of this legacy, the BDM focuses on a community-based approach to building collections and exhibitions and in providing tours, public programs, and other services.

As the State of Maryland's official museum of African American heritage, the BDM is committed to discovering, documenting, preserving, collecting, and promoting Maryland's African American heritage through exhibitions, programs, and projects in order to improve the understanding and appreciating of America's rich cultural diversity for all.



# Capital Repairs



*Lewis Contractors crew working on the first week of capital repairs to the Verda Welcome Hall*

In November 2018, the BDM began capital repairs to the exterior of the historic section of our facility, Verda Welcome Hall, once known as Mt. Moriah Church. At nearly 150 years old, restorations and preservation are essential to maintaining the integrity and beauty of this historic building. Today, this section of BDM is used for museum events and celebrations, exhibits, and space rentals. In 2018, all masonry work was completed: rebuilding chimney, repatching stucco in the alley, and repointing coping stone on the roof. Also, a new gutter was added and the slate roofing was repaired. After 2 years of the repairs to prevent roof leaks and damage, the Verda Welcome Hall is now open to present exhibitions.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE LEADERSHIP AND GUIDANCE FROM  
GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN, LT. GOVERNOR BOYD K. RUTHERFORD,  
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES,  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES, AND  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

# Exhibitions



"When Douglass Speaks"  
by Ulysses Marshall

## Bent but Not Broken

Dates: February 13 - May 19, 2018

Maryland artist Ulysses Marshall captured Frederick Douglass' spirit through his highly expressive mixed media compositions and his colorful and poetic collages delivered with blunt sincerity. Marshall's work talked of the glory, the pain, and the hope in Douglass' life and in the African American experience.



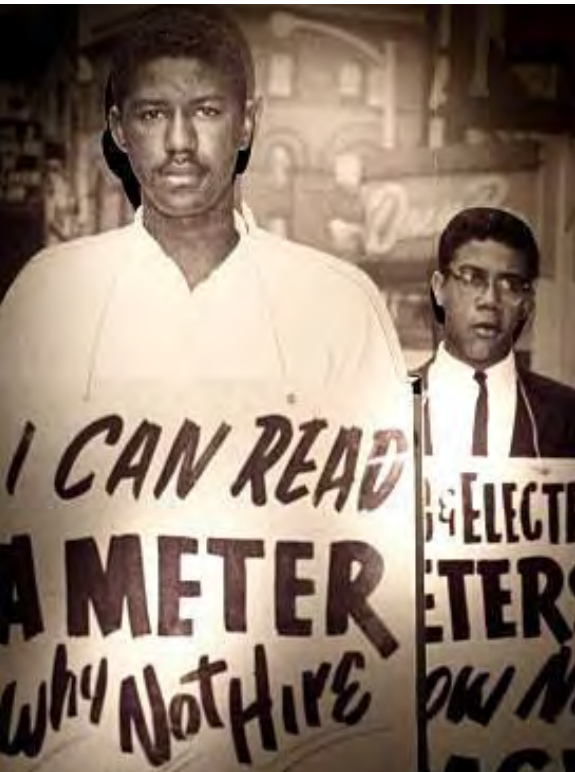
"Well Prepared and Maladjusted"  
by Amy Sherald

## The Douglass Reading Room

Dates: June 5, 2018 - February 28, 2019

In celebration of the "Year of Frederick Douglass," the Douglass Reading Room featured books written by and about Frederick Douglass and other influential African American authors. Artworks by other noted artists, Elizabeth Catlett and Romare Bearden, were also included. Guest curated by Greg Morton of Baltimore, this interactive exhibit brought life to the writings and living quarters of Frederick Douglass connecting historical themes with modern day discussions.

# Collections



## Cataloging Report

Cataloging collections is a vital part of making the collections accessible to communities. It is essential to the BDM's mission. Since the current Curator of Collections, Schillica Howard, onboarded in July 2018, 377 objects from the Anna Mae Queen Holmes, African Art, Fine Art, and Verda Welcome Collections have been cataloged in the BDM's Past Perfect database. Nearly 700 records in the database were updated in terms of condition reporting, description, and location.



## Tasks for Volunteers

The Collections Department at the Banneker-Douglass Museum welcomed volunteers to assist with the preservation of Maryland's African American Heritage.

Volunteers processed the remaining audio files from the Herbert Frisby Collection and Archives, (Boxes 94-99) as well as scanned and described documents and photographs from the Verda Welcome Archives and Collection in preparation for the Verda's Place exhibition.

Schillica Howard, Curator of Collections, assessed artifacts at Morgan State University for the Verda's Place exhibition.



# Collections



In 2016, the African Art and Fine Art Collections were removed from the BDM's Off-site Storage Facility and relocated to the BDM for appraisal.

## 2018 Donors:

Aris T. Allen, Jr. gifted a Banneker-Douglass Museum Cookbook published in 1984.

Ivan Schwartz, Founder and Director of StudioEIS, gifted a Benjamin Banneker model created by StudioEIS. (left photo)

Dr. Evelyn Higginbotham, President of Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), donated a collection of books about African American history and women studies.

# Public Programs



## 2018 Community Day Celebration

Sunday, July 1, 11 am - 5 pm

Inspired by the famous Frederick Douglass speech “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” the Banneker-Douglass Museum hosted a fun summer event that featured performances, a Frederick Douglass reenactment, food and beverage, guided tours of our exhibitions, and family fun and educational arts and crafts activities. Families and community members of all ages and backgrounds explored topics of freedom, community, art, and history.

## Frederick Douglass Youth Conference

Friday, July 27, 10 am - 4 pm

In celebration of the “Year of Frederick Douglass,” the Banneker-Douglass Museum, in partnership with RETAP Baltimore, hosted the Frederick Douglass Youth Conference. Youth ages 13-18 joined together at the museum to explore innovative approaches to real-world issues through the exchange of ideas and experiences while engaging in discussions on college and career readiness as well as STEM-focused education.



**Teacher Training that Inspires Series** was led by the 2014 National Humanities Medal recipient, Dr. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham and other scholars and historians from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) on May 3, 2018. Various sessions of the teacher training explored the writings by and about Frederick Douglass and the places associated with his life and work. The ASALH training sessions provided a valuable tool for teaching, learning, and discovering one's community in new ways.

## Other Programs & Events

Saturday, January 27th

## Having Difficult Conversations About Race Part I Workshop

Saturday, February 10th

## Having Difficult Conversations About Race Part II Workshop

Saturday, February 17th

## Bent But Not Broken Art Exhibit Opening Reception

Saturday, February 24th

## Family Day: Celebrating Frederick Douglass

Tuesday, March 6

Voices of Freedom: An Evening with Umar Bin Hassan of The Last Poets

Thursday, March 8, April 5, May 4

Teacher Training That Inspires Series

Saturday, March 10

SHERO Film Series

Saturday, March 31

Author Talk: Sharon Parker

Saturday, April 7

Family Day: Celebrating the Legacy of Matthew Henson

Saturday, April 21

Poetry & Picas

Tuesday, April 24

Generation Douglass Lecture w/ Lincoln Cottage

Saturday, April 28

An Evening of Jazz in Celebration of Jazz Appreciation Month

Saturday, May 5

The Politics of Activism

Tuesday, May 22

Kenneth B. Morris, Jr. Lecture

Saturday, June 9

The Douglass Reading Room Exhibit Opening Reception

Sunday, July 1

Frederick Douglass Community Day

Friday, July 27

Frederick Douglass Youth Conference





Saturday, August 18  
Douglass Reading Room New Exhibit and Opening Reception

Saturday, October 13  
Curators, Collectors and Conversations

Thursday, October 25  
Lights On Afterschool: Read Aloud

Saturday, October 27  
Night at the Museum: Sip & Paint

Wednesday, November 7  
C.R. Gibbs Benjamin Banneker Birthday Lecture

Friday, November 9  
Frederick Douglass 200 Creative Arts Competition

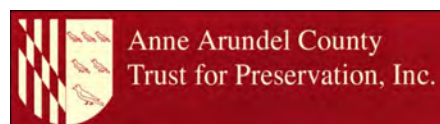
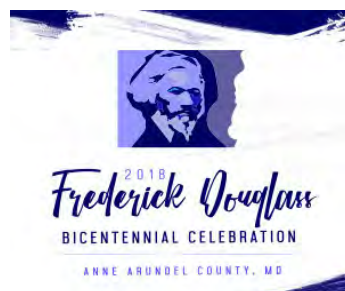
Saturday, November 17  
Artful Afternoon: Open Mic and Jam Session

Saturday, December 8  
Kwanzaa Celebration

Tuesday, December 10  
Anne Arundel County Public Schools Open House

# Supporters & Partners

*All donations benefit the Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*



# Marketing & Visitation

## BDM Visitation 2011-2018

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
January	478	500	483	482	482	303 <small>Big Blizzard 29"</small>	600	443 <small>snow storms</small>
February	523	788	884	927	919	973	597	1305
March	674	506	780	519	645	800	630	744
April	476	436	721	664	717	721	750	820
May	449	218	429	580	837	703	568	903
June	459	542	881	645	905	1,149	727	807
July	671	565	1,207	1,122	1,418	1,246	1,068	1,211
August	896	412	543	958	860	903	754	894
September	425	494	404	507	587	604	668	407
October	541	427	576	587	665	588	513	441
November	368	391	367	305	469	364	681	651
December	259	202	219	304	504	462	257	417
Grand Total	6,219	5,481	7,494	7,539	9,007	8,818	7,813	9,043

### BDM Website

The website's content was streamlined to provide a simpler, cleaner interface which allows visitors to navigate the website more easily. The PayPal button was added for donations to the Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation. The Governor's Young Readers Program was added in partnership with the Imagination Library.

### Marketing

Instagram followers increased from 2017 to 2018 by 36%.

Facebook followers increased from 1,128 to 1,182, a 4% increase.

The Google Customer Service Reviews rated the BDM 4.5 stars. The BDM was named the 2nd best place to visit in Annapolis as stated by U.S. News and World Report.

## Staff



(Left to Right) Robert James, III; LeRonn Herbert; Schillica Howard; Sabriyah Hassan; and Chanel Compton

Chanel Compton - Executive Director

LeRonn Herbert - Administrative Manager and MCAAHC Special Assistant

Sabriyah Hassan - Programs Director

Schillica Howard - Curator of Collections

Robert James, III - Marketing & Communications Director





**Robert James, III**  
**Marketing & Communications Director**

- Bachelor's Degree in History & Education
- Over 10 years experience in Marketing & Public Relations
- Responsible for the BDM and MCAAHC's marketing, media relations, public affairs, and communications



**Schillica Howard**  
**Curator of Collections**

- Master of Arts: American Studies
- Previous Curatorial Assistant at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture
- Create diverse, accessible, and culturally relevant museum spaces through collections management, exhibition design, and educational and public programs



**Sabriyah Hassan**  
**Programs Director**

- M.Ed. Educational Leadership
- Over 10 years experience in academic and nonprofit administration
- Awarded the National Institute of Out of School Time & National Writing Project Fellowship
- Researched on professional development and research on best practices for after school programming
- Develop a BDM's after school program for teens

# Thank You to Supporting Organizations and Volunteers

## **Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation**

The Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit and nonpartisan 501(c) corporation. The foundation is created and operated for the benefit of the Banneker-Douglass Museum. The Foundation was founded in 1976 to support the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture in establishing and maintaining the Banneker-Douglass Museum as the State of Maryland's repository of African American History and Culture.

The BDM Foundation awarded Four Rivers and Wells Fargo a grant which sponsored and co-planned BDM's annual Kwanzaa celebration, contributed over \$8,000 to BDM programs and exhibits, and gave "*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*" books to 200 BDM youth visitors.

## **Friends of BDM**

Friends of the Banneker-Douglass Museum (BDM) works diligently in supporting the programs of the museum. It was established on January 10, 1978 under the direction of the late Mrs. Lulu Hardesty and the late Mr. Spencer Logan. It became immediately evident that the group understood the importance of preserving African American history and culture.

Friends of BDM contributed over \$800 to BDM operations, gave "*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*" books to 100 BDM youth visitors, and hosted the annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser.



**Docents Brenda McCord and Jutta Butler gave a docent-guided tour to a visitor from Germany, Maryann Butzkies.**



**Administrative Manager, LeRonn Herbert pictured at Severna Park Middle School's Community Service Fair organized for educators and organizations in Anne Arundel County.**

## Docent and Volunteer Program

Banneker-Douglass Museum's docents and volunteers create a space of introspective thought and insight of Maryland's African American history. Our docents share that African American history is truly American history. These leaders selflessly give of themselves and go the extra mile so that every person under their care feels and sees that they are respected and recognized.

BDM's great volunteers provided docent-guided tours to 1,271 people, which accumulated 241.5 service hours; generated \$5,965.64 in-service hours to BDM; and assisted as front desk attendants, program helpers, and museum assistants. We could not function without our docents; thank you all those who volunteered.

# Thank You



## Frederick Douglass

### BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Banneker-Douglass Museum

Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation, Inc.  
Four Rivers Heritage Area  
Association for the Study of African American Life and History (AS AHL)  
Anne Arundel Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Committee  
Talbot County Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Committee  
Baltimore City Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Committee  
Kay James  
St. John's College  
Anne Arundel County  
Lost Towns Project of Anne Arundel County  
President Lincoln's Cottage  
Anne Arundel County Trust for Historic Preservation, Inc.  
Lights On Afterschool, A Project with the Afterschool Alliance  
Annapolis Chapter of The Links Incorporated  
National Parks Service  
Evelyn Higginbotham, Ph.D.

**"Year of Frederick Douglass" BDM Program Supporters**  
***All donations benefit the Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation.***



# What's Next in 2019



**2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture & the 35th anniversary of the Banneker-Douglass Museum. Learn more from [bdmuseum.maryland.gov](http://bdmuseum.maryland.gov).**