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## **Banneker-Douglass Museum School Programs Opportunities**

### **About the Museum**

The Banneker-Douglass Museum, named for Benjamin Banneker and Frederick Douglass, is dedicated to preserving Maryland's African American heritage, and serves as the state's official repository of African American material and culture. The museum 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. The recently completed Banneker-Douglass Museum addition is a four-story addition (one understory story) which uses the nineteenth-century brick of the church's north facade as its interior lobby wall.

### **Create your Own Story Quilt** (*Recommended for grades K-4*)

- ❖ Students design a story quilt square chronicling a person or event in their life through images. Upon completion of their quilt square, students write a descriptive label for their design. At the end of the program, all of the quilt squares are placed together for a class quilt photo which is emailed to the school after the program. Students will take their quilt squares home at the conclusion of the program.

### **Sensing History** (*Recommended for grades 2-6*)

- ❖ This program teaches students about the importance of investigation in historical research. Students are presented with historical objects and asked to identify them using the power of observation, exploration, and their primary senses. Through touch, smell, sight, taste, and sound students will determine the origin and use of various objects by drawing comparisons to objects they use every day.

### **Telling My Story** (*Recommended for grades 9-12*)

- ❖ Students will learn about the tradition of oral history and its importance in various cultures throughout the world. Students will see how oral history has provided information about people and cultures that may otherwise have gone undocumented. Using oral history projects such as the Slave Narratives collected during the 1930s as a WPA project for inspiration, students will interview each other about their life experiences growing up in Maryland during the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries.

### **Follow the North Star** (*Recommended for grades 4-8*)

- ❖ Learn about the importance of the North Star for three prominent Marylanders – Benjamin Banneker, Frederick Douglass, and Harriet Tubman. Students will investigate Benjamin Banneker's love for astronomy and how he was able to use the movement of

the starts to create one of the most accurate almanacs of his time. Then students will learn about Frederick Douglass's North Star – the most influential black antislavery paper published during the antebellum era. Students will discover the importance of the North Star and the constellations for Harriet Tubman as a conductor on the Underground Railroad.

**Symbols and Messages** (*Recommended for grades K-6*)

- ❖ Learn how African American communities developed methods of communication without using written words. During this program students will discover the art of storytelling and the importance of griots, interpret Adinkra cloth symbols, go on a mission directed by quilt symbols from the Underground Railroad, and interpret messages embedded in song lyrics sung by slaves.

**Riding the Underground Railroad** (*Recommended for grades 4-8*)

- ❖ Follow the Underground Railroad through the stories of people who help thousands of enslaved people to freedom. In this program, students will hear about the many people working in the Abolitionist Movement and supporting the Underground Railroad. Students will learn about the many different ways enslaved people escaped and the difficult journey they successfully and unsuccessfully made to the Free States and Canada. During the program, students will learn about quilt symbols, the importance of music in providing information, methods of escape employed, and the secret message of the Underground Railroad.