

**Historical Society of Pennsylvania and  
1838 Black Metropolis**

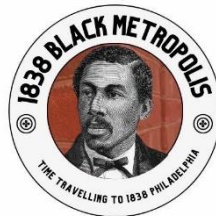
**Public History Teach In  
Using|Doing|Teaching  
Black History**

**Friday, April 25-26, 2025  
Historical Society of Pennsylvania  
1300 Locust Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107**



**Historical Society  
of Pennsylvania**

PHILADELPHIA'S LIBRARY  
OF AMERICAN HISTORY



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## About

### The Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Since its founding, [The Historical Society of Pennsylvania](#) (HSP) has collected and preserved an astonishing array of documents that bring the people of the past into conversation with us today. HSP enters its third century eager to invite individuals and families to find themselves in history, connect with the past, and make meaningful discoveries about who they are and who we are together.

To learn more about HSP, please visit [hsp.org](http://hsp.org), sign up to receive the [HSP Newsletter](#), and be the first to hear about upcoming programs and new collections. Like, subscribe, and follow [@historicalpa](#) on [Facebook](#), [TikTok](#), [YouTube](#), and [X](#).

### 1838 Black Metropolis

The 1838 Black Metropolis is a youth-led nonprofit organization based in Philadelphia, dedicated to uncovering and sharing the rich history of the city's antebellum Black community. Founded by public historians Michiko Quinones and Morgan Lloyd, the project utilizes the 1838 Census conducted by the Pennsylvania Abolition Society to highlight a vibrant Black population that comprised nearly one-fifth of Philadelphia's residents at the time. Through interactive maps, digital archives, and walking tours, the initiative brings to life the stories of free Black individuals, entrepreneurs, and activists who thrived in neighborhoods like Sixth and Lombard Streets. By emphasizing youth leadership, immediate free access to historical data and information, and visualizations, the 1838 Black Metropolis aims to empower the next generation to engage with and preserve this crucial chapter of American history.

### Friday April 25

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\*4:30-6:30\*

#### Community Resource Fair

- [POWER Library \(HSLC\)](#)
- [Jubilee School](#)
- [Amy Cohen, author of \*Black History in the Philadelphia Landscape\* \(available for sale\)](#)
- [Women in Medicine Archives, Legacy Center of Drexel University](#)
- [African American Genealogy Group of Philadelphia](#)
- [Black Docents Collective](#)
- [The Preserving Black Haddonfield History Project](#)
- [Philadelphia Archaeological Forum \(PAF\)](#)
- [Avenging The Ancestors Coalition \(ATAC\)](#)
- [Office of Councilman Thomas](#)
- [New Africa Center](#)
- [Public History Summer Academy](#)

**\*Friday April 25\***  
**6:30-8:00pm\***  
**Key Note**

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***Arrived, New Names***  
**Nell Irvin Painter**



Historian and artist Nell Irvin Painter will present "Arrived, New Names," as the keynote address Friday evening. Sharing insights about her commissioned artwork focused on William Still's *Journal C* of the Underground Railroad, she will set the tone for exploring how creative projects can share complicated and compelling histories. In her talk, she will dive into her research on 19th century anti-slavery movements and the interwoven literary, political, and artistic work of Black communities.

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**Schedule at a Glance**

**Saturday April 26, 2025**

**\*8:15-8:45\***

**Registration and breakfast**

**\*8:45-9:00\***

**Welcome and Purpose of the Conference**

**\*9:00-10:15\***

**Panel 1: Grassroots History & Community Preservation**

**\*10:30-11:45\***

**Panel 2: Art, Writing & Storytelling as Historical Interpretation**

**\*11:45-1:00pm\***

**Lunch**

**\*1:00-2:15pm\***

**Panel 3: Personal Passion to Tell Untold Histories**

**\*2:30-3:45\***

**Panel 4: Education & Public Engagement**

**\*4:00-5:15\***

**Panel 5: Walking Tours, Mapping & Local History**

**5:15-5:30: Wrap up and next steps**

**\*9:00-10:15am\***

**Panel 1: Grassroots History & Community Preservation**

◆ **Synopsis:** This session highlights the importance of community-driven efforts to preserve, protect, and share Black history in **historic sites**.

**Shamele Jordon and Linda Shockley, Lawnside Historical Society**

**“From Crates to VR: Reimagining Storytelling at the Peter Mott House”**

- Sharing the inspiration behind the Lawnside Historical Society and the Peter Mott Underground Railroad Museum in Lawnside, NJ—a historically Black town founded by free people escaping enslavement.”

**Dr. Abdul-Rahim Muhammad**

**“New Africa Center”**

- Discusses the work of the New Africa Center in Philadelphia to preserve and present the history African American Muslims, with a focus on education, public engagement and cultural preservation.

**Samuel Still, Dr. James Still Historic Site and Education Center**  
**“Dr. James Still Historic Medical Office Restoration”**

- Presents the legacy of Dr. James Still, 19<sup>th</sup> century herbalist and brother of abolitionist William Still, and current efforts to preserve the James Sill Historic Site and Education Center.

**Laura Keim and Stephanye Watts, Stenton/Historic Germantown**  
**“Inequality in Bronze: Stenton Embracing its Role as a Community Museum”**

- Presents the "Inequality in Bronze" project, a community-based effort to recognize and honor Dinah, an enslaved woman who saved the house during the Revolution.

**Moderator:** Faye Anderson

**\*10:30am-11:45am\***

**Panel 2: Writing & Storytelling as Historical Interpretation**

◆ **Synopsis:** This panel explores how **artistic expression**—through literature, digital media, and performance—brings Black history to life and fosters deeper engagement with historical narratives.

**Octavia McBride-Ahebee, educator and writer**

**“Dreaming in Black Spaces; An Unexpected Journey of Love”**

- Reads from her short story, which explores the historical connection between the Haitian Revolution and Philadelphia’s free Black community.

**Pamela Mays McDonald, retired fine arts museum director, Mother Bethel AME Church Historical Society**

**“Judith Jamison Memorial Tribute: An Inspirational Upbringing at Mother Bethel AME Church”**

- Screens and discusses a 7-minute memorial video tribute to Judith Jamison and her connection to Mother Bethel

**Mona R. Washington, playwright/librettist/attorney**

**“Freedom... and Equality?”**

- Presents monologue as an exploration of the terms and concepts of ‘freedom’ and ‘equality.’

**Reet Starwind, curator and poet**

**“Interpreting family legacies through Poetry”**

- Presents Camden Invincible, a project using poetry and art to interpret family legacies and community stories.

**Alisha Laws, LCSW, creative historian**

**“Visual Artwork”**

- Shares digital artwork and research centered on William Still and his role in the Underground Railroad

**Moderator:** Morgan Lloyd

**\*1:00pm-2:15pm\***

**Panel 3: Personal Passion to Tell Untold Histories**

◆ **Synopsis:** This panel focuses on **personal research projects** that have resulted in sharing little-known stories with the public.

**Tyler Diaz, student, 1838 Black Metropolis scholar in residence**

**“Uncover Francis Johnson’s Northeastern Tours of 1838”**

- Presents original research on Francis Johnson’s 1838 Northeastern tour—the earliest documented tour by a Black bandleader—highlighting early Black musical excellence and cultural mobility.

**Faye Anderson, Director, *All That Philly Jazz***

**“Mapping Moses Williams’ Philadelphia”**

- Shares her campaign to commemorate silhouette artist Moses Williams, one of the earliest Black museum professionals, through a historical marker and walking tour initiative.

**Michael Clemmons, independent researcher**

**“Life and Impact of Stephen Smith”**

- Discusses ongoing work to uncover and share the history of Stephen Smith, a wealthy Black abolitionist and businessman in 19<sup>th</sup> century Philadelphia.

**Michael Kearney, independent researcher**

**“Finding the Ganges (Dozens of Needles in Millions of Haystacks)”**

- Presents the *Ganges Project*, detailing the stories of Africans freed by the USS Ganges in 1800, placed under the guardianship of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, and indentured out in the region—each given the surname “Ganges.”

**Moderator:** Michiko Quinones

**\*2:30pm-3:45pm\***

## **Panel 4: Education & Public Engagement**

⇒ **Synopsis:** This panel explores **innovative ways to teach and engage the public with Black history**—whether in classrooms, digital spaces, or community programs.

**Rann Miller, teacher, scholar, and writer**

**“How Do I Teach Black History?”**

- Discusses strategies for teaching Black history across formal education settings and in public facing platforms.

**Amy Jane Cohen, author**

**“Case Studies in Public Engagement”**

- Shares case studies of Black historical interpretation at sites such as Independence Hall, Stenton, and Freedom Fighters’ Way, emphasizing public history in contested spaces.

**Ms. Michelle S. Allen, community researcher, Jahyonna Brown, undergraduate community researcher, Haley Kowal, JoY Lab Operations Manager, Drexel University School of Education, West Philadelphia High School Alumni Association and West Philadelphia High School**

**“If the Stairs Could Walk and the Walls Could Talk: The Story of the West Philadelphia High School Preservation Project”**

- Presents the West Philadelphia High School (WPHS) Preservation Project, a collaborative intergenerational effort between WPHS youth and JoY Lab to document the school’s legacy and cultural impact

**Avis McClinton and David Satten-Lopez, 339 Manumission Project**

**“339 Manumissions and Beyond Project”**

- Presents the 339 Project, which traces genealogical records and family stories of people manumitted by Quakers, shedding light on early paths to freedom.

**Moderator:** Richard White

**\*4:00pm-5:15\***

**Panel 5: Walking Tours, Mapping & Local History**

◆ **Synopsis:** This panel focuses on **local history initiatives that use tours, mapping, and public history projects** to engage communities with Black historical narratives.

**Judith Robinson, president, NORTH to the WORLD**  
**“North Philly- The Lay of the Land”**

- Presents an ongoing history project uncovering North Philadelphia’s rich Black history using deeds, wills, and maps to tell community stories.

**Paul Schopp, South Jersey Black History Round Table**  
**“Uncovering Black Enclaves Across the South Jersey Landscape”**

- Shares research on free Black enclaves in 19<sup>th</sup> century South Jersey, and how mapping these communities brings visibility to long-overlooked local histories.

**Adrienne Rhodes, founder and Eric Zino, library director, Preserving Black Haddonfield History Project, “Building Bridges”**

- Presents a comprehensive community history initiative in Haddonfield, NJ, including a walking tour map, oral histories, and digital storytelling.

**Carolyn C. Williams, Independent researcher**  
**“William G. Harvey and his entrepreneur’s life in Center City, Philadelphia 1847 to 1893”**

- Discusses the migration of free Black families from North Carolina to Pennsylvania and the broader Philadelphia region, emphasizing their roles in forming Black abolitionist communities.

**Moderator:** Melissa Benbow Flowers



## Next Steps! Connect with your peers!

- Historical Society of Pennsylvania ([programs@hsp.org](mailto:programs@hsp.org))
  - [Hsp.org/enews](http://hsp.org/enews)
  - @historicalpa (YouTube, FB, Instagram, X)
- 1838 Black Metropolis ([connect@1838blackmetropolis.com](mailto:connect@1838blackmetropolis.com))
  - <https://www.1838blackmetropolis.com/>
  - <https://www.instagram.com/1838blackmetropolis/>
  - [icygrad.com](http://icygrad.com)
- Alisha Laws ([exhibitaartdesign@gmail.com](mailto:exhibitaartdesign@gmail.com))
  - <https://exhibitaartdesign.mypixieset.com>
  - exhibitaartdesign (Instagram)
- Mona Washington ([monasax2@gmail.com](mailto:monasax2@gmail.com))
  - <https://newplayexchange.org/user/15877/mona-washington>
- Pamela Mays McDonald ([bossandnova@aol.com](mailto:bossandnova@aol.com))
  - motherbethel.org
- Octavia McBride-Ahebee ([octaviamcbridgeahebee@gmail.com](mailto:octaviamcbridgeahebee@gmail.com))
  - <https://omcbride-ahebee.blogspot.com>
- Judith Robinson ([northtotheworldphl@gmail.com](mailto:northtotheworldphl@gmail.com))
  - Northtotheworld (Instagram)
- Faye Anderson ([andersonatlarge@gmail.com](mailto:andersonatlarge@gmail.com))
  - <https://phillyjazz.us>
- Adrienne Rhodes and Eric Zino
  - [preservingblackhaddonfield@gmail.com](mailto:preservingblackhaddonfield@gmail.com)
  - <https://www.haddonfieldlibrary.org/local-history>
- Tyler Diaz ([tylerdcomposer@gmail.com](mailto:tylerdcomposer@gmail.com))
  - <https://youtube.com/@tylerdiaz-musicology>
- Michael Kearney
  - Thegangesfamilies.com
- Paul Schopp ([paul.schopp@stockton.edu](mailto:paul.schopp@stockton.edu))
  - <https://jerseyman-livesofquietdesperation.blogspot.com/>
- Amy Jane Cohen ([amyjanecohen@gmail.com](mailto:amyjanecohen@gmail.com))
  - <https://amyjanecohen.com>
- Stephanye Watts ([stephanye.watts@stenton.org](mailto:stephanye.watts@stenton.org))
  - StentonMuseum (Instagram/Facebook)
- Carolyn Williams
  - [Carolyncw50@gmail.com](mailto:Carolyncw50@gmail.com)
- 339 Manumissions and Beyond Project
  - <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550768513197>
  - Dennis Gregg, [dennisgregg@gmail.com](mailto:dennisgregg@gmail.com)
- Rann Miller ([inquiries.rannmiller@gmail.com](mailto:inquiries.rannmiller@gmail.com))
  - [www.rannmiller.com/all-articles/](http://www.rannmiller.com/all-articles/)
  - [linktr.ee/rannmiller](http://linktr.ee/rannmiller)
- West Philadelphia High School Preservation Project ([wphspreservinghistory@gmail.com](mailto:wphspreservinghistory@gmail.com))
  - @joyedlab (Instagram)
- Linda Shockley
  - Lawnside Historical Society, [lhs@petermotthouse.org](mailto:lhs@petermotthouse.org)
- Shamele Jordon
  - [sjordon@gmail.com](mailto:sjordon@gmail.com)

## [Upcoming Events at HSP!](#)

**Tuesday, May 20, 6pm, free**

Gallery talk with 1838 Black Metropolis

**Thursday, June 5, 6pm, \$10**

Uncovering Black Genealogy Through Archives (virtual webinar)

**Thursday, June 12, 6pm-8pm, free**

Voices of the Community: Local Black Preservation exhibit opening

**Friday, June 27, 6:30pm, free**

The Sublime Narrative of Self Emancipation: An Artist Conversation with Curlee Raven Holton and Dr. Ashley Jordan

**Wednesday, July 2, 5-7pm, \$10**

Sisters in the Archives: Open Public Learning Session