

Maryland  
Commission on  
African American  
History and Culture

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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## About the

# MCAAHC

## The 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 to our state about the significance of the African American experience in Maryland.



## The History

In 1969, the 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, and the African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program with Maryland Historical Trust.

## Objectives

The primary objectives of the MCAAHC are to:

- Cultivate, present, interpret and promote the history and culture of African Americans in the State of Maryland through museum collections, exhibitions, commemorations, educational programs, publications, research and public participation;
- Serve as a clearinghouse for information and insights about African Americans in Maryland and the nation through collaboration with other public, educational, Corporate and Maryland based institutions on strategies for promoting African American history and culture;
- Discover, preserve, collect and catalog African American historical materials and artifacts and establish, manage and coordinate museums and other appropriate facilities for the promotion of African American history and culture; and
- Disseminate and integrate African American historical and cultural materials into the mainstream of Maryland life and education as a method of fostering constructive social change through better racial understanding.

## Message from the Chair, MCAAHC

# Rev. Dr. Tamara E. Wilson



As an African American pastor and community leader, I am honored to serve as the Chair of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC). While 2020 will forever be imprinted in our hearts and minds due to the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, history will also reflect a remarkable year for the Commission.

In partnership with the Banneker-Douglass Museum (BDM) staff, volunteers, and community partners, Commissioners developed and implemented a plan to disseminate trusted health information and resources to promote wellness and public safety to African American communities across the state. In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the passage of the 15th Amendment, the Commission hosted a virtual symposium, entitled “The Power of the Black Vote,” which garnered over one thousand online views. In fact, the BDM’s online presence increased to over 48,000 contacts, followers, and visitors to our sites. For the 10th consecutive year, we awarded a million dollars in capital funding through our African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program. Thirteen Maryland African American heritage sites were the recipients of this year’s funds. It is also notable to mention that we were awarded the coveted National Trust for Historic Preservation Action Fund grant.

Continuing in the fight for equity and against racial injustice, the Commission challenged Maryland Heritage Area Authority’s lack of diversity, equity, and inclusion in funding. This missive led to the development of a workgroup designed to examine and plan for racial equity in decision-making, data collection, and program structure. Finally, against the backdrop of worldwide uprisings and protests following the very public murder of George Floyd, the Commission collaborated in the installation of a mural memorializing Breonna Taylor, who was also a victim of police brutality and racial injustice.

I am proud of all that the Commissioners and the BDM staff accomplished together in 2020, fully aware that the strides we have made were made possible by great African American leaders and activists who came before including. Senator Verda Freeman Welcome, founder of the MCAAHC and the BDM. Amid racial injustice and despite an assassination attempt on her life, Sen. Welcome paved the way to uproot and end racism in Maryland. Ours is to continue that work as indicated in the adage - do not coast on past achievement, climb. This is precisely what we plan to do.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tamara Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Rev. Dr. Tamara E. Wilson  
Chair, MCAAHC

## Message from the Executive Director, MCAAHC & BDM

# Chanel Compton



The mission of the Banneker-Douglass Museum (BDM) is needed more than ever. We are in the midst of the largest civil rights movement in our nation's history. Everyday people, teachers, parents, students, and artists of all backgrounds are using their voices to educate and inspire social change for Black citizens and communities of color. As Maryland's official museum on African American History and Culture, BDM is at the forefront of these collective efforts to embrace anti-racism and dismantle racist policies and systems. Working with The Commission and other committed groups, BDM has become a trusted leader in this critical work.

2020 is the "Year of the Woman", celebrating the ratification of the 19th amendment, and the "Year of the Black Vote", celebrating the passing of the 15th amendment. BDM's and MCAAHC's new community outreach collaboration, "The Breonna Taylor Mural" project, and exhibits such as the "Black Vote Mural Project," amplified this important history and reached far beyond our doors - essential in this COVID-19 era. We are both a hub for historic preservation and also a meaningful resource for social change and racial equality. As a leading Maryland organization - unique in our charter and reach - we are making great strides and impact.

I thank all of the staff, supporters and partners in 2020 that have helped us reach thousands of people throughout the state of Maryland and inspire others to be agents of change in their communities. Together we have the power to effect real and positive change that will improve the lives of all Marylanders and, in this digital age, people throughout the nation for generations to come. Let us all embrace anti-racism, community empowerment and wellness and actively work together to dismantle oppressive systems for today and the next generation.

With Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chanel Compton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'C'.

Chanel Compton  
*Executive Director, MCAAHC and BDM*

**Message from the Chair,  
BDM Foundation Inc.**

# Beryle Hall

As Chair of the Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation, Inc., I am so proud of the work of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture; 50 years is a tremendous milestone. As a foundation, our mission is to benefit the Banneker-Douglass Museum. The Foundation was started in 1976 to support the Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture in establishing and maintaining the Banneker-Douglass Museum as the State of Maryland repository of African American History and Culture.



This year has been so difficult and painful for so many. So many volunteers and community members have come together in support of our museum. This has been a true blessing and testament to the importance of the Banneker-Douglass Museum to our state. Together, we have raised funds to support the "Black Vote Mural Project" and educational programs that teach youth and families the meaning of the Black Vote. This is a critical time to do so, as this year is the anniversary of the Women's Suffrage Movement and an election year. To see artists, teachers, young people, community leaders and families come together to learn and explore this history and find ways to incorporate these important lessons to their lives, has been a great honor and joy.

I'd like to thank all of our supporters: the Friends of the Banneker-Douglass Museum, the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County, Four Rivers Heritage Area, the National Trust for Historic Preservation Saving Places program, and more for all of your support and confidence in our work.

With Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beryle Hall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Beryle Hall  
*Chair, Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation, Inc.*

# Response to COVID-19

## Banneker-Douglass Museum and MCAAHC's Response to COVID-19:

- Completed a professional deep-clean of the facilities and closed its doors to visitors for the safety of patrons and staff.
- Collected and shared good news stories of communities working together to combat COVID-19 and promote safety and good health habits.
- Tailored and effectively communicated the "Masks on Maryland" to African American audiences.
- Converted in-person programming to "Virtual BDM" events to continue engaging museum patrons safely and effectively.
- Communicated the Governor's #GoVAX campaign to African American audiences.
- In 2020, BDM engaged more than 10,000 Marylanders through virtual programming.
- Activated the MCAAHC to communicate Hogan Administration's stay-at-home orders to more than 1 million through outreach to diverse community groups and organizations throughout the state.

# Commissioners at Work

## 2020 African Americans and the Vote Theme

- The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture presented “The Black Vote Mural Project” a public arts project that transforms the interior galleries of the Banneker-Douglass Museum. This exhibit showcased 17 murals and installations that interpret the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) 2020 theme: “African Americans and The Vote.”
- The year 2020 marked the centennial of the 19 Amendment and the culmination of the Women’s Suffrage Movement. It also marked the sesquicentennial of the 15 Amendment (1870), which gave Black men the right to vote after the Civil War. These exhibited murals depict images of Black abolitionists, the Civil Rights Movement as well as the Women’s Suffrage Movements that inspire current and future change agents. This exhibit reaffirms the importance of participation in and challenging of some of the aspects of our elections and political systems.



A selection of murals from "The Black Vote Mural Project".

## Commission Retreat

An MCAAHC Retreat was fostered and given virtually on Saturday, November 7, 2020. This gathering brought 19 MCAAHC Commissioners together to collaborate on the needs of the Banneker-Douglass Museum, the commissions outreach efforts, their connections to their respective counties, as well as any recommendations for year 2021.

From this meeting, it was established that the MCAAHC Commissioners needed to: further share their expertise in assisting the BDM’s programs and events, continue to move forward with the Pendulum Newsletter initiatives, and provide additional support opportunities in helping further fundraising program such as the MCAAHC Gala as the BDM Symposium.

It was also suggested that the BDM have: increased budget for museum endeavors; expand finances for staff salary support; increase funding programs and operational budgets; support the museum’s Anti-racism campaign; provide critical support for museum capital upgrades and repairs to the facility.

# Commissioners at Work

## Commission Public Meeting Schedule

### **MCAAHC Public Meeting - Baltimore County**

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Monday, February 3, 2020 at 11 AM  
Mother House of Oblate Sisters of Providence  
701 Gun Road, Baltimore, MD 21227

### **Commission Public Teleconference Meeting Schedule**

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Monday, June 1, 2020 at 11 AM - Virtual  
Monday, August 3, 2020 at 11 AM - Virtual  
Monday, October 5, 2020 at 11 AM - Virtual  
Monday, December 7, 2020 at 11 AM - Virtual

# Commissioners in the Community

Commissioner Cheryl McLeod



Date	Title of Event	Location	County
January 10, 2020	MCAAHC Nominations Committee	Tele-Conference Mtg.	Howard County
January 10, 2020	H. Tubman Foundation	Ridgely's Run Columbia, MD	Howard County
January 16, 2020	"Black n Black" film	Howard Community College	Howard County
January 17, 2020	BDM Committee	MD State Archives	Anne Arundel County
January 26, 2020	"Black Women in Politics"	Harmony Hall	Prince George's County
February 1, 2020	Sankofa Museum Opening	Pimlico	Baltimore County
February 3, 2020	MCAAHC Public Meeting	Oblate Sisters of Providence	Baltimore County
February 6, 2020	Black History in Howard County	Harriett Tubman Jr.-Sr. High School	Howard County
February 10, 2020	Black Vote Mural	Banneker-Douglass Museum	Anne Arundel County
February 10, 2020	F. Douglass/H. Tubman Statue Unveilings	Maryland State House	Anne Arundel County
February 15, 2020	Public Viewing & Program	Maryland State House	Anne Arundel County
February 27, 2020	Emancipation Day Legislation	State Legislature	Anne Arundel County
March 5, 2020	African Americans & Women's Suffrage	Banneker-Douglass Museum	Anne Arundel County
March 23, 2020	BDM Program Committee	Teleconference	Virtual
April 7, 2020	MCAAHC Conference Call	Teleconference	Virtual
April 20, 2020	BDM Program Committee	Teleconference	Virtual
April 22, 2020	Centering Black Stories: Premier for Heritage Professionals	Teleconference	Virtual
May 8, 2020	African American Women Artists	Busboys & Poets	Washington D.C.

## Commissioners in the Community

June 3, 2020	BDM Committee Meeting	Teleconference	Virtual
June 4, 2020	"Black Artists Speak" BDM	Teleconference	Virtual
June 15, 2020	MCAAHC Special Meeting	Teleconference	Virtual
June 3, 2020	BDM Committee Meeting	Teleconference	Virtual
June 18, 2020	Program "Good Trouble"	Teleconference	NAACP Virtual
June 24, 2020	NMAAHC "The African American Story"	Teleconference	Virtual
June 29, 2020	Brice Mansion Virtual Tour MHT Applications	Teleconference	Anne Arundel County Virtual
July 1, 2020	BDM Committee Meeting	Teleconference	Virtual-Program Logistics
July 4, 2020	Breonna Taylor Mural Painting	Chamber's Park Annapolis, Maryland	Anne Arundel County
July 10, 2020	"Life of Mary McLeod Bethune"	Prince George's Parks & Recreation-Virtual	Prince George's County
July 11, 2020	Harriet Tubman Foundation	Ridgely's Run	Howard County
July 13, 2020	News Interview regarding Breonna Taylor Mural	Chamber's Park Annapolis, Maryland	Anne Arundel County
July 28, 2020	BDM Committee	Teleconference	Virtual
July 31, 2020	BDM Youth Conference	Teleconference	BDM Virtual
August 3, 2020	MCAAHC Public Meeting	Teleconference	Virtual
August 6, 2020	"Black Early Entrepreneurs in Howard County"	Virtual	Howard County
August 18, 2020	BDM Committee	Teleconference	Virtual

# Commissioners in the Community

## Commissioner Dr. Barbara Paca

Date	Title of the Event	Location	County
01-02/13/2020	One of the Nominator's of Easton's BAAM (Building African American Minds) to the Governor's Black History Month.	Easton, Maryland	Talbot County
01-02/2020	Consulting Curator and co-editor to MMK Frankfurt Germany's exhibition on Frank Walter of Antigua in conversation with 9 artists of color	Museum of Modern Art, Frankfurt, Germany	
03-08/2020	Working with Antiguan's in funding and collaboration to promote the intangible cultural heritage of seedwork.	St. John's, Antigua, Antigua and Barbuda	
04/06/2020	Open Meeting - MCAAHC Virtual	Teleconference	Virtual Meeting
04/20/2020	BDM Program Committee Meeting (Committee Member, Black Vote Symposium)	Teleconference	Virtual Meeting
07/10/1010	Nomination to the Maryland Commission for Women's Sheroes Award for Denton Councilwoman Ms. Doncella Wilson was also successful, and she will be celebrated in the (virtual) Sheroes Parade.	Nominator	Virtual Application
06/01/2020	Open Meeting - MCAAHC Virtual-Commissioner	Teleconference	Virtual Meeting
07/14/2020	BDM Program Committee Meeting, (Committee Member, Black Vote Symposium)	Teleconference	Virtual Meeting

# Commissioners in the Community

07/28/2020	BDM Program Committee Meeting-Committee Member, Planning the Black Vote Symposium		Virtual Meeting
07/31/2020	BDM Youth Conference--(Commissioner Attendee)	Teleconference	Virtual Event
08/03/2020	Open Meeting - MCAAHC Virtual-(Commissioner)	Teleconference	Virtual Meeting
08/18/2020	BDM Program Committee Meeting	Committee Member-Planning the Black Vote Symposium	Virtual Meeting

## Commissioner Tony Spencer

Date	Title of Event	Location	County
July 2020	Brianna Taylor Mural Event	Chamber's Park	Anne Arundel County
August 2020	MCAAHC Public Teleconferencing Meeting	Telephone	Virtual



Commissioners with Maryland state officials at the BDM.



# Museum Staff



## **CHANEL COMPTON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Responsible for leading the programmatic plans and operations for the Banneker-Douglass Museum, a component of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture

- M.A., Arts Management



## **SABRIYAH HASSAN PROGRAMS DIRECTOR**

Develop a BDM after-school program for teens

- 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



## **ROBERT JAMES, III MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**

Responsible for the BDM and MCAAHC's marketing, media relations, public affairs, and communications

- Bachelor's Degree in History & Education
- Over 10 years experience in Marketing & Public Relations

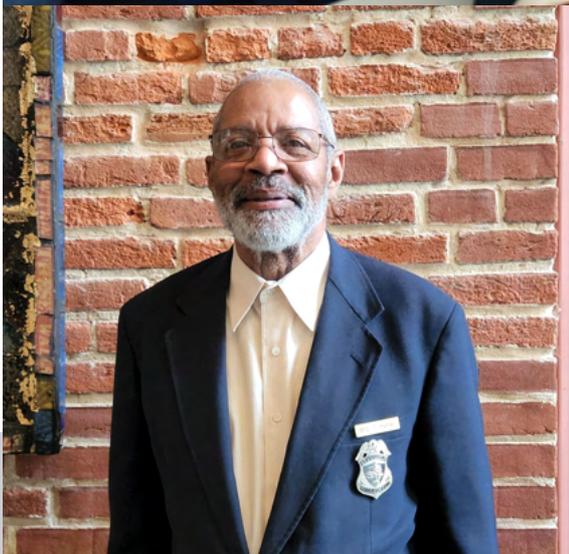
# Museum Staff



## **LERONN HERBERT ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO MCAAHC**

Support the BDM Staff, provide support to the MCAAHC, manage operation management duties, manage the volunteer program, assist with the marketing and publicity of programs, establish docent guided tours, coordinate site rentals, lead museum tours, and perform front desk duties of the BDM.

- MBA: Industrial Management
- Bachelor's of Science: Industrial Print Management



## **THEODORE "TED" HYMAN SECURITY OFFICER**

Responsible for monitoring the building and greeting museum visitors with museum history.

- Veteran and former USPS Carrier



From Left to right:  
Robert James III,  
LeRonn Herbert,  
Chanel Compton,  
Ted Hyman, and  
Sabriyah Hassan.

# Volunteer & Docent Program

The Banneker-Douglass Museum's (BDM) Volunteer program continues to share rich American History to all especially the growth of home school groups, colleges, universities, organizations as well as community partnerships.

Since this programs inception, these great volunteers have:

- Accumulated 3,648 hours in service hours to BDM.
- Generated \$91,200 in-service hours to BDM.
- Assisted in being front desk attendants, docents, program helpers, greeters, behind the scenes personnel and general museum assistants.

While in the midst of these most diverse challenges with COVID-19, the BDM volunteer-docent program:

- Served 336 people up until the month of March 2020.
- Provided 12 docent guided tours that secured individuals from:
  - \* 3 states and 1 district (Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, and Washington, DC)
  - \* 7 counties, 1 city and 1 district (Anne Arundel, Baltimore County, Baltimore City, Cecil County, Prince George's County, Harford County, Howard County, Montgomery County and Washington, DC)

Delivered docent guided tours to new groups such as the:

- New Annapolitan's Club
- USDA Nature Conservatory
- Annapolis Ladies Lot Club
- Office of Wildlife Federation
- Kids Time Out Club
- Lanham-Seabrook Homeschool Group
- Columbia Academy Inc.
- Ms. Julita Anthony Homeschool Group
- Humanim Incorporated
- Lou Field's BDX-Black Business Exchange Group from WOLD 1010 AM
- Ms. Sonya McCallum-Bakalis Silver Spring Homeschool Group
- Little Homeschooler's Group

**3,648  
Service  
Hours**

**\$91,200  
In- Service  
Hours**

**336  
Served  
Until March  
2020**

# Exhibitions Department

## The Black Vote Mural Project

February 15, 2020 - August 31, 2021



The Black Vote Mural Project explored the intersection of public art, Black voices, and civil rights with seventeen murals and an installation that transformed the interior galleries of the museum. Painted by regional artists, these murals interpreted the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) 2020 theme: African Americans and the Vote.

The goal of The Black Vote Mural Project was to provide BDM's visitors with an authentic artistic and historical experience that demonstrates the importance of using art as a vehicle for social change.

Featured Artists: Steuart Hill Academic Academy, Ryan Allen, Bowie State University (ART342: Installations & Public Art Class), Nikki Brooks, Jay Coleman, Chanel Compton, Brandon Donahue, Nessar Jahanbin, Jabari Jefferson, Gina Lewis, Megan Lewis, Greta Chapin McGill, Future History Now, Latoya D. Peoples, Ernest Shaw, Zsdayka Nzinga Terrell, and James Terrell

[View a visual synopsis of the exhibit here.](#)



Top Left: ; Top Right: Promotional graphic for the exhibition; Mid-Left: ; Bottom Left: Attendees at the exhibition; Bottom Right: Historian Janice Hayes-Williams addresses the crowd about "Rolla", featured runaway of the Chesapeake.

# Program Highlights

## “The Black Vote Mural Project” Exhibit Opening & VIP Reception

February 15, 2020



All sponsors were invited to a VIP reception with exhibit artists, members of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, Banneker–Douglass Museum Foundation, Inc., and guided tour by Banneker–Douglass Museum Executive Director.

## Museum on the Move: Maryland's African American History & Cooking

February 20 & 22, 2020

A Delicious Story- Get up close and personal with artifacts that paint a picture of African American life through their food with this interactive Black History Month program (Hyattsville & Hillcrest Heights PG County Public Libraries).

## African Americans and Women’s Suffrage Movement

March 5, 2020

A lecture with Asst. Professor Sharon Harley of the University of Maryland College Park that explored the rich and often overlooked presence of African American women during the Women’s Suffrage Movement.

## Creatives Connect: Using Art as Activism

June 4, 2020

A panel discussion exploring art as a tool to document social justice in African American communities. Panelists examined the implications of mass incarceration, voter suppression, and policies that adversely affect communities of color.

# Program Highlights

## Youth Conference

July 10, 2020

The 3rd annual youth conference explored topics of the history of voting in the African American community. (Virtual, 150 Attendees)



## Educator Workshop

August 22, 2020

Art educators presented ways to use art to teach black history and anti-racism in the classroom. (Virtual, 75 Attendees)



## African Americans and the Vote Symposium

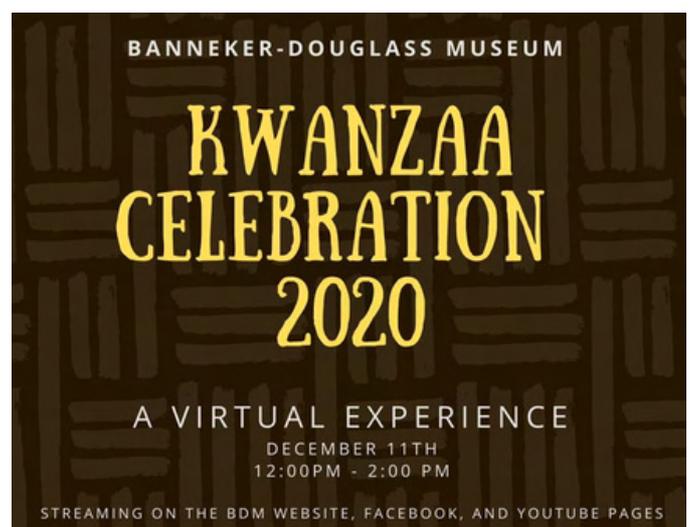
October 24, 2020

Historians, educators and others shared their direct experiences with the history of African Americans and the vote in the State of Maryland. (Virtual, 500 Attendees)

## Kwanzaa

December 11, 2020

Annual Kwanzaa celebration. (Virtual, 175 Attendees)



# Marketing & Communications

## By the Numbers

Virtual Events  
**1,544**

Website Visitors  
**9,673**

Gov. Service Award  
**31,400**

Facebook  
**1,743** Views  
**2,031** Followers

Instagram  
**7,245** Reach  
**1,567** Followers

Total Reach: **51,605**

For your support and  
contribution...

**Thank You!**

## **FY 2020 Contributors**

Institute of Museum & Library Sciences  
Sonja Swygert Foundation  
Arts Council of Anne Arundel County  
Anne Arundel Trust  
Wells Fargo  
Four Rivers  
Maryland Humanities Council  
Prince George's Arts & Humanities Council  
Anne Arundel Community Foundation  
Friends of the Banneker-Douglass Museum  
Grace Matthews, BDM Foundation, Inc.  
George Williams, BDM Foundation, Inc.  
Olivia Jacobson  
Liberty Grace Church of God, Inc.  
Evan Richardson  
Brown Advisory Group  
Donna Jones - Cypress & Family  
Carroll Hynson Foundation, Inc.  
Theodore & Betty Mack  
Friends of the Maryland State Archives  
Iris and Daniel Barnes  
Eastern Shore Network for Change, Inc.  
PNC Bank  
Paris Foods Corporation  
Dr. Tamara E. Wilson  
Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation  
Heritage Foundation



The Year Ahead

# What's next in 2021?

## Anti-Racism Training

BDM will present "Anti-Racism Training: Defining the Roots of Bigotry and Discrimination." Learn about the history of structural racism in America. This training presents a unique opportunity to strengthen racial equity practices personally, professionally, and culturally. During this training, participants will:

- Examine key concepts of racial equity and structural racism
- Learn to have constructive conversations about race within their networks
- Develop tools and practices for counteracting racial bias
- Apply strategies to advance racial equity

### **Banneker-Douglass Museum**

#### **Address**

84 Franklin Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

#### **Phone**

(410) 216-6180

#### **Email**

bannekerdouglassmuseum@gmail.com

#### **Websites**

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