



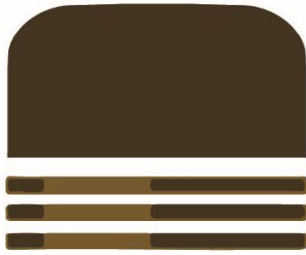
LET'S TALK ABOUT OUR DREAM











**About the 400 Years of African American History Commission (400 YAAHC).** Authorized by Public Law 115-102 signed by President Donald Trump on January 8, 2018, the 400 YAAHC is federally authorized to plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities throughout the United States to recognize and highlight the resilience and contributions of African- Americans since 1619.



By law, the 400 YAAHC was also enacted to lead efforts which acknowledge the impact that slavery and laws that enforced racial discrimination had on the United States; educate the public about the arrival of Africans in the United States; and encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, artistic, religious, economic, and other organizations throughout the United States.



**About the Nick Cannon Foundation and the 400 NCredible Years Partnership.** Nick Cannon, National Ambassador of the 400 Years of African American History Commission commemorative activities, has joined the movement to empower youth to articulate their messages to the world and create impact in their respective communities. It began with a legislative launch in Washington, DC, with **Let's Talk About Our Dream** on June 12, 2019, at the United States Capitol. Conversations will continue through the voices of 400 schools during our **Writing A New History** Campaign.



**About the National Alliance of Faith and Justice (NAFJ)**

NAFJ, through its PEN OR PENCIL Initiative ([www.penorpencilmovement.org](http://www.penorpencilmovement.org)), is committed to raising consciousness and developing innovative strategies which have been used by multiple federal cabinets and agencies through education, training, compassion, and service – in addressing some of society's most pressing social justice issues. Renewed for five additional years in July 2017, NAFJ entered into cooperative agreement with the National Park Service and will be a key partner with the 400 YAAHC to fulfill *Opportunities for Social Research on History; Youth Centered Education and Programming*.



**Writing A New History**





# LET'S TALK ABOUT OUR DREAM



**NICK CANNON**  
**Honorary Chair**

For over 20 years, the multi-faceted Nick Cannon has entertained audiences on stage, television and film. As a comedian, TV executive producer and host, actor, writer, director, DJ, entrepreneur, philanthropist and children's book author, Cannon continues to take the industry by storm.

*Writing A New History*



Now that we have enjoyed the June 12, 2019 successful legislative launch of the **400 Years of African American History Commission** at the United States Capitol, the Commission is pleased to announce a major step in fulfilling its Congressional mandates and path forward. The first discipline to be addressed is education in the Commission's **Writing A New History** Campaign.

**"Let's Talk About Our Dream"** represents the opportunity to become one of 400 public/private schools or colleges and universities across the country to be designated as institutional ambassadors of African American (AA) history by the Commission throughout the 2019-2020 academic year. Using a template provided by the Commission, educational institutions will be eligible by hosting local conversations throughout the U.S. **Let's Talk About Our Dream** is designed to encourage students to engage their peers, teachers, family members, guests, and our national partners in one-hour or more structured discussions beginning September 2019 and continuing throughout the 2019-2020 academic/commemorative year.

Using three thematic focus areas (*STEMulating Freedom and the Future*, *Breaking Barriers*, and *Take A Stand To Keep A Seat*), **Let's Talk About Our Dream** presentations will allow each host school, secondary or higher education, to take an active role in shaping 400 years forward by:

- Examining the difficult, complex, and often under told history of AAs in the context of the U.S. Semiquincentennial anniversary (2026)
- Improving student experiences and knowledge of historical facts associated with tragedies, triumphs, and trailblazing of AAs in U.S. History
- Exploring ideas to break barriers, bridge divides, and write new history beyond 400 years
- Envisioning generous opportunities draw connections between history and today as the next generation of preservation specialists and other less known career goals.









## Let's Talk About Our Dream

### STEMulating Freedom and the Future

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) have been the foundation for discovery and technological innovation throughout American history. Since the founding of the Nation, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) have been a source of inspirational discoveries and transformative technological advances, helping the United States develop the world's most competitive economy and preserving peace through strength, much as accomplished and led by African Americans.

Recognizing the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Africans in the English colonies and addressing multiple priorities as published in the **Report by the Committee on STEM Education of the National Science and Technology Council** (December 2018), *Let's Talk About Our Dream* conversations offer an opportunity for students, peers, educators, guests, and others to look back and move forward in examining trials, triumphs, trailblazing, and new opportunities of and for African Americans in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Students should plan discussions which will recognize one or more African Americans from the list recommended (right), reflect upon their accomplishments, explore STEM application in the real world, and discuss how actual scientists, engineers, and possibly a new generation of students may be inspired to pursue STEM concepts, to include historic preservation, to solve complex problems.

*Writing A New History*

## Using 3 thematic Focus areas

### STEMulating Freedom and The Future

*George E. Alcorn  
Guy Bluford  
Marjorie Lee Browne  
Alexa I. Canady  
Ben Carson  
George Washington Carver  
Charles R. Drew  
Jocelyn Elders  
Mark Dean  
Gladys Mae West  
William A. Hinton  
Frederick McKinley Jones  
Lewis Howard Latimer  
Ronald McNair  
Garrett A. Morgan  
Granville T. Woods  
Onesimus*

### Breaking Barriers

### Take A Stand To Keep A Seat





## Using 3 thematic Focus areas

### STEMulating Freedom and The Future

### Breaking Barriers

*Bayard Rustin  
Carol Moseley Braun  
Blanche Kelso Bruce  
Alexander L. Twilight  
Robert (Bob) Stanton  
Constance Baker Motley  
Eugene Jacques Bullard  
Fritz Pollard  
Joseph Rainey  
William Carney  
Dr. John Mercer Langston  
Dr. Ralph J. Bunche  
Ida B. Wells  
Willie O'Rhee  
Representative John Lewis  
Jack Johnson  
Dr. Lonnie Bunch  
Mary Church Terrell*

### Take A Stand To Keep A Seat



## Let's Talk About Our Dream

### Breaking Barriers

Every year **National History Day**® frames students' research within a historical theme. The theme is chosen for the broad application to world, national, or state history and its relevance to ancient history or to the more recent past. The 2019-2020 theme is **Breaking Barriers in History**.

Pursuant to priorities of Public Law 115-102 which authorize the 400 YAAHC, the objectives of this segment are consistent with the following Commission legislative priorities:

1. To acknowledge the impact that slavery and laws that enforced racial discrimination had on the United States;
2. To recognize and highlight the resilience and contributions of African Americans since 1619;
3. To educate the public about the contributions of African Americans to the United States;

Students should plan discussions and invite guests, as or if applicable, which enrich and inspire a constructive conversation using one or more topics from the recommended list (left).

To further stimulate research and participation in National History Day 2020, the 400 YAAHC and partners have provided a potential list of topics/persons whose history may prove valuable and insightful in learning about persons and instances in African American history which have broken barriers.

[https://www.nhd.org/sites/default/files/NHD\\_2020\\_ThemeBook\\_web%20version\\_0.pdf](https://www.nhd.org/sites/default/files/NHD_2020_ThemeBook_web%20version_0.pdf)

## Writing A New History



## Let's Talk About Our Dream

### Take A Stand To Keep A Seat

Many young people have the desire and capacity to transform the world and are looking for opportunities to do so. In fact, youth have been key actors in nearly every major social movement in modern history and can continue to be.

America has a long history of youth-led or assisted efforts which took a stand to keep or gain access to a seat, respect, and for equal rights. They have braved the courts, the Constitution, conscious or unconscious bias and brutality - some without realizing the impact their actions might have to change millions of lives and shape advances for ages to come.

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Students should plan discussions and invite guests, as or if applicable, which enrich and inspire a constructive conversation using one or more topics from the recommended list (right).

*Writing A New History*

## Using 3 thematic Focus areas

### Take A Stand To Keep A Seat

*Freedom Ride(r)s*  
*Brown v Board of Education*  
*Boynton v Virginia*  
*The Clinton 12*  
*Green v County Sch. Board*  
*of New Kent County*  
*Greensboro Sit-Ins*  
*Tallahassee Sit-Ins*  
*New Orleans Sit-Ins*  
*Wiley A. Branton*  
*Baton Rouge Bus Boycott*  
*Montgomery Bus Boycott*  
*Claudette Colvin*  
*Little Rock Nine*  
*James Howard Meredith*  
*Ruby Bridges*  
*McDonogh Three*  
*George W. McLaurin v OK*

### STEMulating Freedom and The Future

### Breaking Barriers





**The Time Has  
Come!**



**Present facts about  
topic of choice  
(person/event)  
:10**



**Discuss the current  
impact of this  
event/person in  
history?  
:05**



**Discuss how history  
in the U.S. would  
have been different  
without the impact of  
this event/person?  
:05**

## **Let's Talk About Our Dream AT-A-GLANCE**

**August 28, 2019**

Official Launch

*Writing A New History Campaign*

**September 25, 2019**

*Let's Talk About the Dream Conversations  
Begin*

### **Steps**

- **Register your school to become one of 400 YAAHC Commemorative Schools on or after August 23, 2019, by visiting: [www.400yaahc.com](http://www.400yaahc.com)**
- **Determine your thematic focus**
  - STEMulating Freedom and the Future
  - Breaking Barriers
  - Take A Stand To Keep A Seat
- **Determine engagement level**
  - School-wide
  - Class
  - Club or school organization
  - Other
- **Select Thematic focus then discussion topic from lists provided**
- **Conduct your research**
- **Determine Proposed Date(s)**
- **Conduct conversation(s) which will enrich and inspire a constructive conversation**

**Writing A New History**



## Let's Talk About Our Dream AT-A-GLANCE

There are those among us who never imagine themselves as or plan to be great.

History is not always planned. Like so many others introduced during ***Let's Talk About Our Dreams***, a single moment, a planned or unplanned action, or with determination, their inspiration and their images of triumph and trailblazing became new history now recorded and told.

For this reason, remember it only takes one:

Dare to expand your knowledge  
***by one person or act***

Share your thoughts and seek inspiration  
***in one or more hours***

Imagine ***any one of your dreams*** may yet become history told by yours and generations to follow

Consider it possible that your destiny awaits, undiscovered, and it may change the trajectory of the world ***in one lifetime***.

**July 1, 2020**

*Let's Talk About the Dream*

Conversations End

Writing new history will always continue

**Writing A New History**

## The time is now



How did the trials or tragedies of enslavement or Jim Crow influence the triumph of this person or event?  
:10

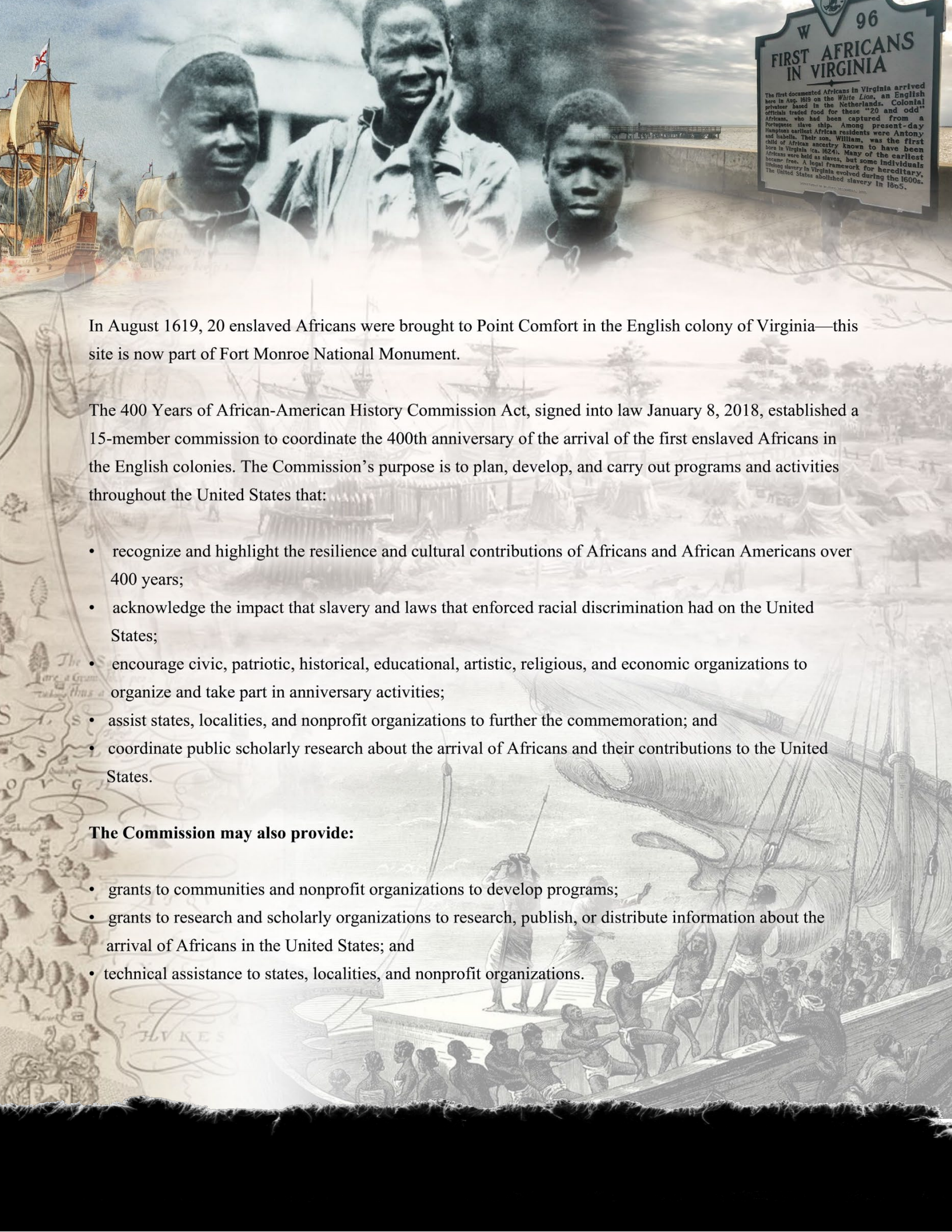


How will we be able to inspire a new generation of historic preservationists?  
:05



What is your dream?  
Moderator  
controlled open  
dialogue and  
summation  
:25





In August 1619, 20 enslaved Africans were brought to Point Comfort in the English colony of Virginia—this site is now part of Fort Monroe National Monument.

The 400 Years of African-American History Commission Act, signed into law January 8, 2018, established a 15-member commission to coordinate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in the English colonies. The Commission's purpose is to plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities throughout the United States that:

- recognize and highlight the resilience and cultural contributions of Africans and African Americans over 400 years;
- acknowledge the impact that slavery and laws that enforced racial discrimination had on the United States;
- encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, artistic, religious, and economic organizations to organize and take part in anniversary activities;
- assist states, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration; and
- coordinate public scholarly research about the arrival of Africans and their contributions to the United States.

**The Commission may also provide:**

- grants to communities and nonprofit organizations to develop programs;
- grants to research and scholarly organizations to research, publish, or distribute information about the arrival of Africans in the United States; and
- technical assistance to states, localities, and nonprofit organizations.





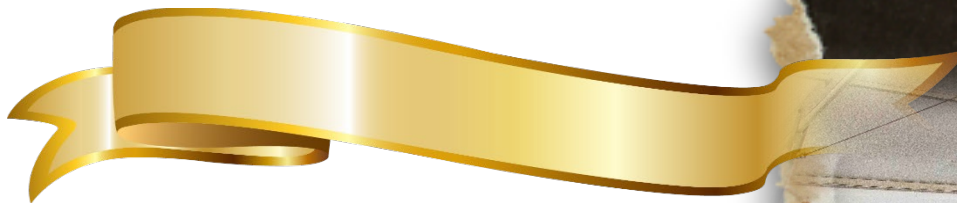
## The Distinguished 400 Award

The Distinguished 400 Award will be presented by the 400 YAAHC to corporations, organizations, educational institutions and noteworthy individuals. This is the highest, recognizable honor bestowed upon individuals by the 400 Commission. It will acknowledge their sacrifices, contributions and achievements of African Americans fighting for justice and equality over the past 400 years.

This award will be given to 400 outstanding individuals who have dedicated their lives in pursuit of excellence for the welfare of all African Americans and other citizens who seek equal treatment governed by the laws of the United States. Those of merit, living and dead will be awarded.

The first official awards ceremony took place in Hampton, Virginia on August 25, 2019.

(Subsequent events will be announced).



**Visit**

<http://400yaahc.com/index.php/nominations>

**OPEN NOW –  
February 2020**





## 400 Years of African American History Commission

**Dr. Lonnie Bunch III**

Secretary  
Smithsonian Institutions  
Washington, DC

**Mr. Terry E. Brown**

Superintendent  
Ft. Monroe National  
Monument  
Hampton, Virginia

**Dr. Rex Ellis**

Assoc. Director of Curatorial Affairs  
(Retired)  
National African American History Museum  
Washington, DC

**Dr. Myron Pope**

Vice President for Student Affairs  
University of Central Oklahoma  
Edmond, Oklahoma

**Ms. Kenya Cox**

NAACP KS State Director  
Executive Director  
KS African American Affairs Commission  
Wichita, Kansas

**Mr. Ted Ellis**

Artist and Cultural Historian  
Art Ambassador, National Juneteenth Organization  
Friendswood, Texas

**Ms. Addie L. Richburg**

Interim Executive Director

**Ms. Christine Lucero**

U.S. Department of Interior Liaison

**Dr. Joseph L. Green, M.A.**

**Chairman**

Senior Pastor, Antioch Assembly  
Founder, The 2019 Movement

**Mr. Ron Carson**

Founder  
Appalachian African American Cultural Center  
Black Lung Program Director  
Stone Mtn. Health Services  
Pennington Gap, Virginia

**Reverend Anyanwu Cox, RN, M.Ed.**

Reconciliation Ministry Without Walls  
International Missions Reform  
Holistic Practitioner; Activist  
Wichita, Kansas

**Dr. H. Patrick Swygert**

President Emeritus  
Howard University  
Washington, DC

**Mr. Glenn Freeman**

President, Omaha Chapter  
Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge  
U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sergeant (Retired)  
Omaha, Nebraska

**Mr. Hannibal Johnson**

Attorney, Author  
Independent Consultant  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

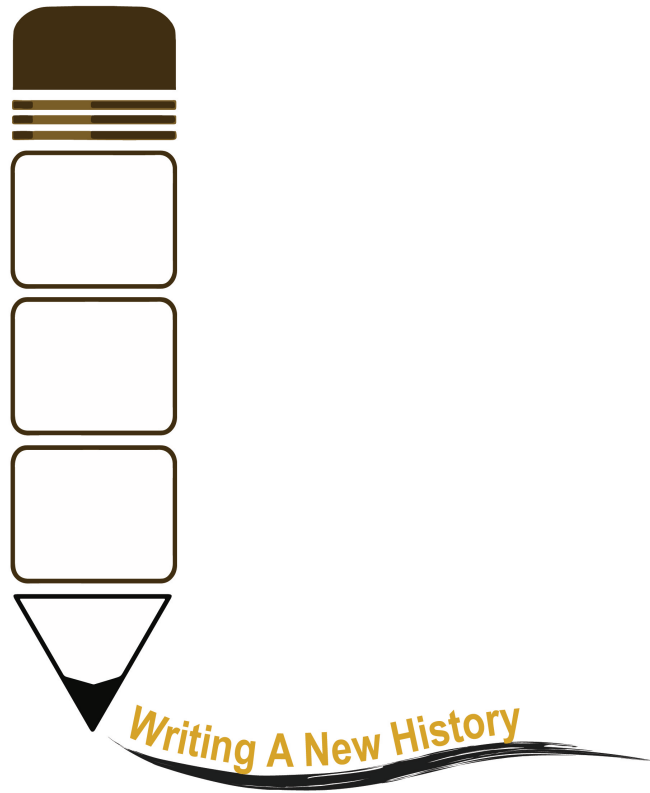
**Mr. Kenneth Johnson**

CEO, Johnson, Inc.  
Board of Trustees  
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts  
Richmond, Virginia

**Mr. Bob Kendrick**

President  
Negro Leagues Baseball Museum  
Kansas City, Missouri





**400 Years  
of African American History Commission  
Writing A New History Campaign  
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Washington, DC 20013  
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400 YEARS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY COMMISSION