



MISSION

The Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire promotes awareness and appreciation of African American history and life in order to build more inclusive communities today.

HISTORY

The Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire was established in 2016 to promote awareness and appreciation of African American history and culture in New Hampshire and received non-profit status in 2017. However, the work began in 1994 by the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail which now has 30 Portsmouth sites and provides the ideal foundation for a statewide expansion that fosters deeper research into a truer and more complete understanding of NH history.

PROGRAMS

The Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire documents and shares the stories of African Americans who lived in and helped build New Hampshire since 1645, who fought in every war beginning with the Revolutionary War, and who built their community, established institutions, and preserved their culture, traditions, and values for over 400 years in often challenging conditions. **Our goal is to share stories, create bonds of understanding, and engage hearts and minds for stronger, more inclusive communities.** By fostering dialogues about race, diversity, and inclusion, and sharing these corrective narratives, we believe it is possible to decrease barriers of misunderstanding and decrease people's racial anxiety. We create safe places for community dialogue.

- **The Annual Black New England** - Conference is an annual 2-day gathering in its 13th year where academics, artists, activists, and community members share insights and research on Black experiences, past and present, in New England and beyond.
- **Annual Juneteenth Celebration** is a full day of educational programs and cultural celebrations to commemorate the ending of slavery in the United States.
- **Annual Spring Symposium** focuses on culturally historical specific information geared to educate teachers and the general public about black history.
- **Community Readings of the July 4th speech by Frederick Douglass**
- **Elinor Hooker Winter Tea Talks** are intentional and participatory dialogues that act as a catalyst for deeper dialogue on New Hampshire's Black history.
- **Sankofa Guided Tours** - are theme specific and held each weekend from May through October. Guided bus and trolley tours are also offered for longer journeys from Portsmouth to Hancock, Greenland, Milford, and Warner. Additional sites will be added as we expand to more towns.

HEADQUARTERS FOR STATEWIDE EXPANSION

In 2018, BHTNH initiated a 5-year expansion to link all seven regions of NH. The award of NH CDFA Tax Credits, investment from individuals, grants, and NH Community Loan Fund, purchased 222 Court Street in Portsmouth. This historic building serves as the headquarters and visitor center to support statewide expansion. The NH Black Heritage Trail is a constant reminder of an African presence that started in 1645.



IMPACT

- Revenue from Sankofa tours has increased from \$500 in 2017 to an expected \$10,000 in 2019 in Portsmouth, Greenland, Hancock, Warner, and Milford.
- Since 2018 Tea Talks have expanded from 6 talks a year in Portsmouth to 6 towns: Andover, Concord, Manchester, Nashua, Plymouth, and Keene. Since 2016, participation in Frederick Douglas July 4th community readings has increased from 100 people to over 1,000 people in 12 towns statewide.
- Juneteenth commemorating the end of slavery was signed into law as a NH state holiday.
- Shadows Fall North Film – a documentary about BHTNH has aired on Public Television stations in NH, ME, VT, NY, and Los Angeles in honor of black history month.
- A collaboration with the Episcopal Church of NH resulted in 80 stories of black history for presentation over 2 years and will result in a book.
- The Black New England Conference in its 13th year is expanding to a larger venue in Manchester.

\$450K
*NHCDFA Tax
Credits Awarded*

\$145K
30% Tax Credits Sold

“One of my great joys in my role as President of Meredith Village Savings Bank is the ability to support our many worthy nonprofits. Supporting the Black Heritage Trail of NH is an easy decision for us – the organization ensures all of us have the opportunity to learn about the full, sometimes unknown, history of the people of NH. Both BHTNH and MVSF have new offices in Portsmouth – and both have presence throughout the state with a rich history that is decades, even centuries, long. We hope that lots of people from throughout the state participate in the organization’s many programs and tours.”

Rick Wyman, President, Meredith Village Savings Bank