



Sankofa Collaborative

looking back • moving forward

WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR FUNDERS

New Jersey Council for the Humanities

New Jersey Historical Commission

WITH DEEP APPRECIATION TO OUR HOST

Grounds For Sculpture

THANKS TO PRESENTERS AND SPEAKERS

Dr. **Cynthia Assini** is currently the Social Studies Supervisor in Hillsborough, New Jersey. She formerly taught eighth grade social studies, which included US history from its beginnings through the Civil War, in Flemington, NJ. In addition, she co-taught one section of social studies with a special education teacher. She has also served as a team leader, tutored students in a before school program and advised the Environmental Club. Dr. Assini has consulted with Princeton University's Program in Teacher Preparation for many years, including working on a project about the social studies standards.

Sharon Elaine Buck, who prefers to be called Elaine, is a founder the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum and a member on the Advisory Board. Elaine is also a thirty year Trustee of the Stoutsburg Cemetery Association which is a historic cemetery for people of African descent located in the Sourland Mountains in Hopewell, New Jersey. Along with her research partner, Beverly Mills, Elaine has co-authored a book entitled "If These Stones Could Talk" which is based on over a decade's worth of research on the contribution of African Americans who lived in the Sourland Mountain region and surrounding area. She is a co-founder of Friday Truehart Consultants, is a consulting company that works closely with K-12 educators from various school systems who are interested in including African American history in their lesson plans and curriculum. Along with her colleague Beverly Mills, Elaine was instrumental in forming a partnership, named the Sankofa Collaborative, an initiative created to ensure that material and resources that relate to African American history is accessible statewide to a broader and more diverse audience.

Mrs. **Jocelyn Burgess** has been a high school teacher_ curriculum and assessment writer for ten years for the Jersey City Public Schools. Mrs. Burgess teaches Social Studies at William L. Dickinson High School and serves a very diverse population of students with multiple language backgrounds. Over the years Mrs. Burgess has contributed to multiple curriculum and assessment revisions for the district. Recently she served on the committee to write a new African American Studies Curriculum and included a multitude of current open source resources from Facing History and Ourselves, Teaching Tolerance, the Amistad Commission, Edsitement, the Gilder Lehrman Institute, Reading Like a Historian, the National Archives, PBS, and Harper's Weekly. Through her writing, Mrs. Burgess infuses African American history

into the framework of American history leaving students with a fully inclusive understanding of the African American Experience. Through her curriculum writing and instruction, students throughout the district are engaged in authentic historical inquiry. Mrs. Burgess challenges students to recognize the painful parts of United States history through her lessons on Jim Crow laws and their lasting impact on the country. As an educator Mrs. Burgess imparts a passion for African American history on her students and engages them with all facets of the history. In 2018 she won the Mildred Barry Garvin Prize from the New Jersey Historical Commission for her curriculum on the African American experience during the period after the Civil War to 1900.

Phillip Easton is a Rutgers College graduate and a retired educator after 41 years from the Montclair New Jersey school district. Philip developed and taught the curriculum for MHS first African American History course, the high school's first team taught humanities course and was instrumental in the development of its first entry into the area of schools within schools. It was his expertise in alternative education that propelled Philip into the position as Project Coordinator for the Montclair High School Design for the 21st Century. Upon the completion of the grant Philip became lead teacher for the MHS Social Justice Learning Community. Philip also served as Chairperson of the Montclair High School Middle States Evaluation Committee. During his teaching career Philip was the recipient of numerous awards, and fellowships. He was the recipient of a William Faulkner fellowship at St. Peters College, a NEH fellowship for Holocaust Studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and a New Jersey Folk Arts award for the study of African Drumming in the United States. Philip also received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Education. The highlight of his career was the nomination as Distinguished Teacher by the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars, the award he received from President Bush in the Rose Garden of the White House.

Linda Caldwell Epps, Ph.D., is President and CEO of 1804 Consultants, a consulting firm dedicated to the advancement of educational and cultural organizations. Linda has more than 40 years of experience working with educational and cultural institutions, including the New Jersey Historical Society and New Jersey Network Television and Radio. Prior to this, Linda held various positions at Bloomfield College, where she helped lead the institution to successful completion of an \$8.4 million capital campaign. Linda has also served as a Ford Foundation-funded consultant to several institutions of higher learning on issues of diversity and equity in higher education. Linda holds degrees Rutgers University's Douglass College and Seton Hall University. She earned her Ph.D. from Drew University, completing a dissertation titled, *From Zion to Brick City: What's Going On? Newark and the Legacy of the Sixties*. She completed the Institute for Higher Education Management program at Harvard University, the American Associate of Colleges and Universities Diversity Institute at Georgetown University, and is a Leadership New Jersey Fellow, Class of 1992.

Dr. **Tabitha (Bellamy) McKinley** is the state coordinator for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) for the New Jersey Department of Education. In this role, she reports to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) under the Institute of Education Sciences, which is a subsidiary of the United States Department of Education. She serves as a liaison between the state of New Jersey and the NCES to ensure that all NAEP-selected schools are in compliance with federal mandates. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated, National Council of Negro Women, American Educational Research Association, Northeastern Educational Research Association, and The Consortium of State and Regional Educational Research Associations.

Beverly Mills is a founder of the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum and a member on the Advisory Board and a thirty-five year Trustee of the Stoutsburg Cemetery Association. Along with her

research partner, Elaine Buck, Beverly has co-authored a book entitled “If These Stones Could Talk” based on over a decade of research on the contribution of the African American population who lived in the Sourland Mountain and surrounding region. It was through this research that Beverly has been able to trace her ancestry to African Americans who were enslaved in the Hopewell Township, New Jersey area prior to the Revolutionary War. For many years Beverly, along with fellow trustees of the Stoutsburg Cemetery Association, has presented at various schools, community groups and historic sites. She has also partnered with the William Trent House, 1804 Consultants, the Grounds For Sculpture and the National Assessment of Educational Progress for the State of New Jersey to host a series of symposiums created to explore African American history in New Jersey, how to interpret African American history at historic sites and museums and how to present and discuss difficult topics in African American history. Beverly is a co-founder of Friday Truehart Consultants.

Dr. **Rosetta Treece** has been an educator for 15 years and currently is the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for Hopewell Valley Regional Public Schools in Pennington New Jersey. Dr. Treece’s career as an educator began at Trenton High School’s Chamber Street Campus, where she taught Literature courses for students in grades 9 through 12. Later she became an instructional coach for Trenton High School and its four satellite locations. After leaving Trenton Public Schools, Dr. Treece accepted a position as Vice Principal at Northern Burlington County Middle School. Dr. Treece is committed to preparing teachers and school leaders to create learning environments that are culturally responsive and that build cultural competence in young adults. Dr. Treece has conducted research on social-emotional learning in middle school and high school students and has a core belief that students need to be supported emotionally in order to be successful learners.

Wendel A. White was awarded a BFA in photography from the School of Visual Arts in New York and an MFA in photography from the University of Texas at Austin. White taught photography at the School of Visual Arts, NY; The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, NY; the International Center for Photography, NY; Rochester Institute of Technology; and is currently Distinguished Professor of Art at Stockton University. His work has received various awards and fellowships and is represented in many museum and corporate collections across the country. Recent projects include; *Red Summer, Manifest, Schools for the Colored, Village of Peace: An African American Community in Israel, Small Towns, Black Lives*, and others. A selection of images from the Manifest project are the subject of a Smithsonian Magazine article, “The Powerful Objects From the Collections of the Smithsonian’s Newest Museum” (in the September 2016 issue), dedicated to the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

THANKS TO RESOURCE PANEL ORGANIZATIONS

Amistad Commission, New Jersey Department of Education
(<https://www.nj.gov/education/amistad/about.htm>)

The Amistad Bill (A1301), which became law in 2002, calls on New Jersey schools to incorporate African-American history into their social studies curriculum. This legislation also created the Amistad Commission, a 23-member body charged with ensuring that African-American history, contributions and experiences are adequately taught in the state’s classrooms. The Amistad Commission ensures that the Department of Education and public schools of New Jersey implement materials and texts which integrate the history and contributions of African-Americans and the descendants of the African Diaspora. Its goals are:

- 1) To infuse the history of Africans and African-Americans into the social studies curriculum in order to provide an accurate, complete and inclusive history.
- 2) To ensure that New Jersey teachers are equipped to effectively teach the revised social studies core curriculum content standards.
- 3) To create and coordinate workshops, seminars, institutes, memorials and events which raise public awareness about the importance of the history of African-Americans to the growth and development of American society in global context.

New Jersey Association of Black Educators

James E. Harris is the immediate past President of the Montclair Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and First Vice President of the State Conferences of NAACP branches. Mr. Harris has received numerous awards for his social policy work and leadership in education, including Community Service Awards as President of the Montclair NAACP; and recognition from the New Jersey Association of Black Educators, the New Jersey Black United Fund, and the New Jersey Alliance of Black Educators. Mr. Harris is also Associate Dean of Students and University Ombudsman at Montclair State University. He earned his B.A. in Social Studies with a New Jersey Secondary School Certification from Montclair State College, now Montclair State University. He holds masters degrees in Personnel Service and in Public Administration. He is currently pursuing a doctorate degree in Public Administration at New York University. Mr. Harris is also a retired Major of the New Jersey National Guard.

New Jersey History Day

(<https://www.wpunj.edu/coe/departments/professional-development-school-community-partnership/njhistory/index.html>)

The New Jersey History Day program is an affiliate of National History Day (NHD), an exciting education program that engages students in the process of discovery and interpretation of historical topics. Either individually or in a group, students present their historical research on a topic related to the competition's annual theme in the form of a performance, exhibit, documentary, website, or paper. These projects are then evaluated at local, regional, and state competitions that culminate in a national contest every June at the University of Maryland, College Park. The History Day program is open to all students in grades 6-12. All types of students participate in History Day - public, private, parochial, and homeschool students; urban, suburban and rural students; gifted students and students with special needs.

Nancy Norris-Bauer, Director of Professional Development and School/Community Partnerships at William Paterson University, directs the New Jersey History Day program. In 2016 she was the recipient of the Jefferson Award/NJTV Education for her work in expanding New Jersey's program to reach more than 5,000-plus middle and high school students from public, private, religious and home schools. Through her work, Norris-Bauer has established a statewide Advisory Board, sought and received annual grant funding, built long-term relationships with archives and historic sites, and actively visited school districts across the state. As the program grew, Norris-Bauer developed partnerships with Seton Hall, Kean, Princeton, Rutgers, Rider and Monmouth universities, which now sponsor regional contests.

KidsBridge

(<http://www.kidsbridgecenter.org/>)

Kidsbridge is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing imaginative, hands-on programs focusing on: bullying & cyberbullying prevention; tolerance, diversity appreciation & respect for all persons; individual and group empowerment; conflict resolution & empathy; sensitivity to persons with disabilities; understanding of LGBT persons; changing bystanders into UPstanders; and grassroots youth activism.

Lynne Azarchi is a tireless advocate for improving the lives of at-risk youth in communities across New Jersey. Founder and Executive Director of Kidsbridge, Lynne focused on creating an immersive learning experience for kids, teachers, and community leaders in inner-city Trenton in 1996. She expanded into Mercer County, aspiring to educate as many youth and teachers as possible. Lynne has created programs, curriculum, and interactive engagements dealing with bullying prevention, personal empowerment, diversity appreciation, character education and pro-social skills. Social-emotional learning skills are incorporated in all Kidsbridge SEL UPstander Experiences.

A true change agent, Lynne saw early on how “kids just being kids” was leading to genuinely painful consequences for children, teens and parents. Bullying and cyberbullying were becoming an epidemic. In 2006, partnering with her Board, they did something about it and created the Kidsbridge Tolerance Center — the only youth-oriented tolerance center in the United States.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SANKOFA COLLABORATIVE TEAM

Heather Brady joined Grounds For Sculpture in 2015 as its first-ever Director of Education and Engagement. In this role, she oversees a diverse mix of education, performing arts, and community programs. Heather came to Grounds For Sculpture from The Noguchi Museum, where she served as Head of Education. Heather also worked as the Director of Education at the Museum of Chinese in America, and as an educator at the Bronx Museum of Arts, the Museum of Modern Art, and in schools and community-based organizations throughout New York City.

Bruce Daniels has been the Facilities Director and Project Manager at Grounds For Sculpture for more than 30 years. He was involved in the initial planning of the park and was responsible for all of its building and landscape construction, as well as the day-to-day supervision of its operations. Bruce is also Vice President of the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum. Bruce has a master’s degree in Sociology from Rutgers College.

Samuel A. Stephens, Ph.D., is a Trustee of the Trent House Association, which works with City of Trenton to maintain the 1719 William Trent House Museum and provide programming related to the history of the House. With a background in sociology, he has led the Trent House Association’s work on expanding its research into and deepening its interpretation of slavery at the Museum, including work with consultants on the Museum’s tours and exhibits and on field trip lesson plans for school groups. He co-founded and is the Museum’s representative on the Sankofa Collaborative, which has conducted a number of well-received public workshops on presenting, interpreting, and discussing African American history and culture in various settings, including museums and historic sites, libraries, schools, and community groups.

