



# Sankofa Collaborative

looking back • moving forward

**WITH GRATITUDE TO THOSE WHO MADE THIS WORKSHOP POSSIBLE**

**New Jersey Historical Commission**

**Grounds For Sculpture**

**Ms. Ross Wisnewski**

**THANKS TO PRESENTERS AND SPEAKERS**

**Tom Ankner** has been a librarian for 30 years. After working as a researcher for national media outlets, he joined the Newark Public Library in 2010, where he runs the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center. Tom is also the secretary of Newark Landmarks, a nonprofit organization dedicated to historic preservation. Last year, he curated an exhibit about Kenney Memorial Hospital, New Jersey's first institution established to train African American doctors and nurses.

**Bobbi Bailey** is incoming New Jersey state chair of Historic Preservation, and board member and Registrar of the Morristown Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. She is a docent at the DAR's historic Schuyler-Hamilton House Museum in Morristown, and at the Ford Mansion, Washington's Headquarters at Morristown National Historical Park. She is a retired Vice President at AT&T, leading efforts in the company's Research & Development and network operations areas. She was also an executive at Ernst & Young and Bank of Montreal. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, and a Ph.D. in Engineering and Public Policy, both from Carnegie Mellon University.

**Carin Berkowitz** is Executive Director of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, which supports the public humanities in communities across the state. She joined the Council in 2018 after serving for eight years as the Director of Historical Research at the Science History Institute, a museum, library, and center for scholarship in Philadelphia. She is an active member of the American Historical Association (AHA) and currently co-chairs the planning effort for the 2023 AHA annual meeting in Philadelphia. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from the Johns Hopkins University and Ph.D. in the history of science from Cornell University.

**Sharon Elaine Buck**, who prefers to be called Elaine, is a founder of the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum and a member of the Advisory Board. Elaine is also a 30-plus-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 co-authored a book entitled, *If These Stones Could Talk: African American Presence in the Hopewell Valley, Sourland Mountain, and*

*Surrounding Regions of New Jersey*, which is based on over a decade and a half of research on the contribution of African Americans who lived in the Sourland Mountain region and surrounding area. Elaine is a founding member of the Sankofa Collaborative. Their work has been featured in several national and regional publications and media presentations. In 2020 Elaine and Beverly were invited to participate in a residency program with the Monument Lab Program, an independent public art and history studio commissioned by the Semiquincentennial to engage people of color as partners as it relates to the American Revolution and the roles they played.

**Sara Cureton** joined the staff of the New Jersey Historical Commission in 2004 and now serves as its executive director. She oversees funding programs totaling \$5.5 million that support history organizations and activities across New Jersey, an annual conference, professional development training, and an online journal, *New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. Ms. Cureton's career began with positions at several historic sites in the Garden State, working primarily on interpretation and historic preservation projects. Active in professional organizations, she has served on the boards of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums, the New Jersey Association of Museums, and South Jersey Cultural Alliance. She is actively engaged in preparations for the Semiquincentennial in 2026, both as executive director of the New Jersey Historical Commission, and as chair of the Semiquincentennial Task Force of the American Association for State and Local History. She earned a B.A. in Folklore and Mythology from Harvard University, and an M.A. in Medieval Studies from the University of York in the U.K.

**Phillip Easton** is a retired educator from the Montclair NJ school district, where he developed and taught the first African American history course. During his teaching career he was recipient of numerous awards, fellowships, and grants. In 2020 he received the Distinguished Teacher Award at the White House from President Bush.

**Dr. Linda J. Caldwell Epps** is founder and CEO of 1804 Consultants, where she brings to clients more than 45 years of experience working with educational and cultural institutions, including The New Jersey Historical Society, New Jersey Network Television and Radio, and Bloomfield College. She served as a Ford Foundation-funded consultant to several colleges and universities. She co-founded the Sankofa Collaborative in 2017, with the purpose of helping educators in schools, community organizations, museums, and libraries present, interpret, and discuss African American history and culture. Dr. Caldwell Epps holds a BA from Rutgers University's Douglass College, a MA in American Studies from Seton Hall University, and a D.Litt from Drew University. She completed the Institute for Higher Education Management program at Harvard University, the American Association of Colleges and Universities Diversity Institute at Georgetown University, and the Rutgers Institute for Ethical Leadership (IEL). In 2021 she was awarded an honorary doctorate from Princeton University.

**Dorothy P. Guzzo** was appointed Executive Director of the New Jersey Historic Trust in February 2008, where she oversees the administration of historic preservation matching grant and loan programs. From 1995 to 2008, Ms. Guzzo served as the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for the State of New Jersey. As the federally recognized State Historic Preservation Office, she oversaw the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places, project certification to qualify for Investment Tax Credits, certifying local governments for implementing programs on the municipal level, historic and archaeological resource inventory and resource protection through state and federal regulations. Ms. Guzzo previously served on the not-for-profit Board of Directors for the Crossroads of the American Revolution Association, ex officio to the New Jersey Historical Commission, New Jersey Historic Trust and Main Street New Jersey Board of Advisors and was the past Chair

of the Alice Paul Institute. Ms. Guzzo is currently serving on the New Jersey Heritage Tourism Task Force charged with creating a Heritage Tourism Masterplan for the state of New Jersey.

**Ryan P. Haygood** is a nationally respected civil rights lawyer. As President and CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, he leads a majority people of color staff of racial justice advocates whose cutting-edge work – powered by grassroots organizing, research, writing, policy and legislative advocacy, and litigation – seeks to build reparative systems that create wealth, justice, and power for Black, Latina/Latino, and other people of color in New Jersey. Prior to leading the Institute, Ryan served as Deputy Director of Litigation at the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF), where he worked for more than a decade. A passionate advocate, Ryan speaks and writes regularly on issues concerning race, law, social justice, democracy, and power. Ryan received his J.D. from the University of Colorado School of Law and B.A. in American History and Political Science cum laude from Colorado College, where he was nominated for the Rhodes Scholarship and earned academic All-American and hall of fame honors as a football player.

**Ridgeley Hutchinson** is President and CEO of Truehart Productions, a nonprofit corporation formed in 2019 to produce a documentary revealing the prevalence of slavery during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries and its lasting effects throughout New Jersey during the 20th century. Ridgeley's leadership skills have been a great value to the documentary project. He was formerly the Executive Director of the Northeast Carpenters Apprentice Training and Education Fund where he honed his grant writing skills. He now serves on the Community Advisory board of NJ PBS and is Vice-Chairman of the board of NJ's Educational Facilities Authority, a position he has held for 11 years.

**Greer Luce** is the Chief Communications Officer at the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the New Jersey Department of State. In her role as Chief Communications Officer, Greer manages the Commission's communications outlets, developing content and implementing strategies for public outreach. She also serves as a project manager for several of the Commission's statewide programmatic efforts including the 2020 *NJ Women Vote: The 19th Amendment at 100* and 2021 New Jersey Indigenous History initiatives. Greer enjoys collaborating with partners statewide to create public programs that make New Jersey history accessible and relevant to a wide audience. Greer holds an MA in History Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program and a BA in History from Gettysburg College.

**Rev. Dr. Wanda M. Lundy** is pastor of Siloam Hope First Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth, New Jersey and on the faculty of New York Theological Seminary, where she teaches World Christianity and in the Doctor of Ministry program. She also directs the Seminary's Center for World Christianity and the Mentoring for Thriving in Ministry in the City Mentoring Program. An ordained Presbyterian minister, she has served in leadership positions for the denomination. She holds a Master's degree from the Howard University School of Divinity, a Master of Divinity from the Interdenominational Theological Center at the Johnson C. Smith Seminary, and a Doctor of Divinity degree from the New York Theological Seminary.

**Victor Marshall** is the founder and director of Marshall Hand & Drum Ensemble, a multi-percussion instrumental group that brings the African Diaspora drumming to life. He has taught West African drumming in a variety of educational programs, including the continuing education programs at Middlesex College and Rutgers University as well as schools and colleges throughout New Jersey and New York. He is also musical director of Iwa L'ewa Heritage Dance Ensemble, presenting the story of Africa and the Caribbean through dance and music.

**Rikki Massand** is on the Marketing Committee for Preservation New Jersey, serves as the chairperson of the Montgomery Township Landmarks Preservation Commission, and is the township liaison to the Delaware & Raritan Canal Commission. He was awarded a certificate in historic preservation from Rutgers Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities, building on degrees from Columbia University and Quinnipiac University. His passion for regional history and historic preservation is integrated into his 18-year career as a journalist.

**Beverly Mills** is a co-founder of the [Stoutsbury Sourland African American Museum](#) and a member of the Advisory Board. She is a fourth-generation trustee of the Stoutsbury Cemetery Association. Along with her research partner, Elaine Buck, Beverly co-authored a book entitled, *[If These Stones Could Talk: African American Presence in the Hopewell Valley, Sourland Mountain, and Surrounding Regions of New Jersey](#)*, which is based on over a decade and a half of research on the contribution of African Americans who lived in the Sourland Mountain region and surrounding area. With Elaine, Beverly proudly received the [Kirkus Book Review](#) in October, 2018 and in 2019 the [New Jersey Author's Award Non-fiction Popular Works Category](#). Their work has been featured in national and regional media and publications. In 2018, to further create awareness of the African American narrative through presentations and webinars, Beverly co-founded Friday Truehart Consultants, which a consulting company that works closely with K-12 educators interested in infusing African American history in their curriculum in school districts throughout the state.

**Dolly Marshall** has a unique interest area—African American cemetery preservation—which has brought her notable recognition in Southern New Jersey and beyond. As a historical preservation activist and researcher, Dolly leads many community partnerships related to African American experiences and the African diaspora, bringing this crucial part of history to life for the public. Ms. Dolly Marshall is a Trustee of The Mount Peace Cemetery Association, is a member of the Association of Black Women Historians and of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She is the recipient of the 2022 Public Service Award from the Preservation Alliance for greater Philadelphia, the 2022 Chancellor's Award for Diversity, Inclusion and Civic Engagement, Rutgers University-Camden and in 2021, winner of the David H. Knights New Preservation Initiatives Award. She was featured on the front pages of The Burlington County Times, The Courier Post and the Daily News February 20, 2022, editions. Ms. Marshall continues her devoted stewardship of Mt. Peace and considers her work with the younger generation at the cemetery critically important. Originally serving as a volunteer, over the past four years, she has evolved into a preservation steward and seeks to promote Mount Peace Cemetery's hidden African American history across the region, the state of New Jersey, and nationally.

**Anthony Minick** is Director of Marketing for the New Jersey Division of Travel and Tourism, where he directs the State's tourism marketing efforts targeted to visitors' internationally, promoting New Jersey as a great vacation destination. Mr. Minick works closely with the tourism industry in New Jersey providing council to the State's Destination Marketing Organizations, tourism attractions and tourism organizations, and municipalities. Mr. Minick serves as an Adjunct Professor at the Fairleigh Dickinson University International School of Hospitality, Sports and Tourism Management, and on various boards including the Franklin Township Housing Authority and Building Better Futures. Mr. Minick graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, New Jersey with a BS degree in Marketing and earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Saint Peter's University- formerly Saint Peter's College in Jersey City.

**Gilda Rogers** is Executive Director of the T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center, a National Historic Landmark that was the former home of one of the greatest African American journalists and newspaper editors of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. She also teaches history at Brookdale Community College and is the author of three books, most recently *[Out of the Ashes Came Hope](#)*, a biography of Monsignor William J. Linder, founder of the New Community Corporation in Newark. Gilda is an award-winning journalist, playwright, and director, serving

as the community relations manager for Two River Theater in Red Bank. She holds a Master's degree in history from Monmouth University.

**Dr. Denise Rompilla** is the Chair of the Memorial Management Committee for the Lost Souls Public Memorial Project, which seeks to honor 137 enslaved and free Black women, children, and men who were sold from Middlesex County, New Jersey to perpetual enslavement in the Deep South. Dr. Rompilla is a professor of Art History and Women's History at Middlesex College, and the recipient of Middlesex College's 2022 Excellence in Teaching Award. She holds a doctorate in Art History from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, with a graduate certificate in Women's Studies. She is the founder of the MC Feminist Collective, and the co-director of the women's leadership initiative, Women Leaders Rising. She has been a leader in arts, cultural, and non-profit spaces for 15 years, and has been the recipient of two awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities for her work on historic interpretation.

**Janice Selinger** is the Executive Director of Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area, which is the non-profit organization that enhances and promotes New Jersey's Revolutionary War legacy. She is a 14-time Emmy-award winning producer of documentaries and specials, with productions aired nationally on Public Television. Selinger worked at NJN Public Television for many years where she served as the Acting Executive Director of NJN Public Television and Radio, Acting President of the NJN Foundation, Acting Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Executive Director for Programming and Production. She is currently Vice Chairman of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and a long-time adjunct professor at The College of New Jersey in the Communication Studies Department. She has also taught at Drexel University and Rutgers University. She is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the Pennsylvania State University and has a Master's in Public Administration from Rutgers University.

**Peg Shultz** is Regent of the Morristown Chapter - National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. She recently retired as Director of the Morris County Heritage Commission. As Director - Archives and Heritage Affairs, County of Morris (retired) she supervised all aspects of the Heritage Commission including, but not limited to, the preservation of materials held in the County of Morris Archives; Collection Access; Public Programming; Historic Site Marker Program, and grant programs. She holds an MA in History from William Paterson University. She has been a DAR member since 2016.

**Rabbi Steven Sirbu** has served Temple Emeth in Teaneck since 2003. He was president of the Teaneck Clergy Council and was a member of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Northern New Jersey. Rabbi Sirbu was one of several rabbis who marched in the NAACP's Journey for Justice in 2015, marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. He now serves on the Religious Action Center-New Jersey's School Desegregation Task Force. In 2017, the Teaneck Advisory Board on Community Relations awarded him the Matthew Feldman Community Relations Award. For the past year he has served as the chair of the Soil Collection Committee of the New Jersey Social Justice Remembrance Coalition.

**Algernon S. Ward, Jr.** co-founded the 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment United States Colored Troops, Civil War Reenactors Inc., where he is the President and 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant. The regiment expanded to include African American Revolutionary War patriots where he portrays both a soldier of "The Black Regiment" (the 1<sup>st</sup> Rhode Island Regiment) and Black Joe Brown, a soldier of Glover's Marbleheaders. He has portrayed many African American historical figures in live re-enactments and on film. As project manager, he leads the Locust Hill Project Development Team for the 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment, which works with the City of Trenton to restore Trenton's largest African American cemetery and create an interpretive center to illustrate the history of racial injustice and progress in Trenton.

**Brenda Goode Way** was born and raised in the great city of Newark, New Jersey, where she and her family have been members of the Clinton Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church since the late 1950s. Brenda served in several church ministries there as a youth, young adult, and now senior member. She is currently a Trustee, Finance Committee Secretary, Usher, and Church Administrator. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Math and Economics from Douglas College, Rutgers University, and worked for 37 years in the telecommunications industry. Clinton Memorial was her village as she grew up and she considers herself blessed to now be a part of the village for those coming after her.

**Noelle Lorraine Williams** is a public humanities specialist whose work spans several different media including photography, glass bead embroidery and video. She is also a researcher, curator, and writer. Her work examines the ways African Americans utilize culture to imagine liberation in the United States and has been reviewed in the Star-Ledger, New York Times, ArtNews, and other publications. Williams' work has been exhibited at venues such as the Newark Museum, Rush Arts Gallery, Philadelphia African American Museum, Jersey City Museum and Skylight Gallery. She serves as the Director of the New Jersey Historical Commission's African American History Program.

### **OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SANKOFA COLLABORATIVE TEAM**

**Bruce Daniels** was the Facilities Director and Project Manager at Grounds For Sculpture (GFS) for over 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. Daniels is the Vice President of the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum (SSAAM) and has been acting as the liaison between SSAAM and GFS, helping to expand GFS's audience and programming.

**Gary Garrido Schneider** is Executive Director of the Grounds For Sculpture, having joined in 2014 after eleven-plus years at the Montclair Art Museum as Director of Education and then Deputy Director, where he provided leadership in the areas of audience engagement, education, marketing, visitor services, special initiatives, and museum-wide strategic planning and assessment. Gary received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Parsons School of Design at the New School and Certification in Arts Education from the Bank Street College of Education. He is a 2012 alumnus of the Getty Museum Leadership Institute at Claremont Graduate University.

**Samuel Stephens** was recently named Interim Executive Director for the Trent House Association, having just finished a nine-year term as a Trustee of the Association's Board, which works with City of Trenton to maintain the 1719 William Trent House Museum and to provide programming related to the history of the House. With a background in sociology, Sam has led the Trent House Association's work on expanding its research into and deepening its interpretation of slavery at the Museum.