

John E. Rogers African American Cultural Center, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1931  
Hartford, CT 06144-1931

RECEIVED

DEC 03 2003

Connecticut Historical  
Commission

December 8, 2003

Ms. Cora Murray  
Connecticut State Historical Preservation Office  
10 Prospect Street  
Hartford, CT 06103

Dear Ms. Murray:

On behalf of the John E. Rogers African American Cultural Center, I'm writing to enlist the Connecticut State Historical Preservation Offices' support to help underwrite expenses in the amount of \$2,750 for our upcoming symposium titled "*New England's Black Governors 1740-1855*." This unique event will be held at the Museum of African American History in Boston, Massachusetts on Saturday, July 24, 2004. The program will feature formal presentations, artifacts and exhibitions highlighting the election of Black Governors and Kings by the colonial slave communities of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire.

Because the experience of colonial slaves electing their own leaders as black Governor/Kings was primarily a New England phenomenon, our organization reached out to the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society and the African American Resource Center of New Hampshire to participate in the symposium. Our goal is to significantly expand the historical record regarding Black America's first experiment with mass democracy—a history that most Americans are totally unfamiliar with and one that remains largely unwritten.

In an effort to maximize exposure of this significant gathering, we have selected the Abeil Smith School (the gathering place for Boston's colonial black activists) as the event venue. Moreover, the symposium will occur on the weekend before the Democratic Party's National Convention opens in Boston, and will be listed in the City of Boston's tour guide activities book.

With your organizations' support our recent programs on Connecticut's Black Governors at the Legislative Office Building and Capitol Community College were highly successful. We are hopeful that we will receive your assistance again for this most worthy historical endeavor.

Enclosed please find additional information on the Black Governors, the upcoming program, event budget, the Abeil Smith House venue, and participating organizations. Your donation can be made to:

*John E. Rogers African American Cultural Center*  
Mail to: JERAACC  
P.O. Box 1931  
Hartford, CT 06144-1931

We look forward to hearing from you soon. If you need additional information, please contact Webster Brooks at 695-8415 or 209-2434. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Barbara Alleyne, President

Tel/Fax: 860-233-5297 ~ johnerogers@snet.net ~ www.johnerogers.com



## A Proposal for Funding

### **New England's Black Governor/Kings 1750 – 1850** **Black America's Maiden Voyage With Mass Democracy**

#### **Program:**

On Saturday, July 24, 2004, black historians from several states will host a program on Black Governors and Kings 1750-1855. This program will document the history of Black Governors and Kings that were elected and appointed leaders by their own slave communities in New England from the colonial era to the pre-civil war years. This unique event will take place at the Abeil Smith School in the Museum of African-American History in the historic Beacon Hill district of Boston, Massachusetts.

The program will be hosted by the John E. Rogers African American Cultural Center of Hartford, Connecticut. Organizations that have agreed to participate in the program are as follows;

#### **PARTICIPANTS**

Rhode Island Black Heritage Society

African-American Resource Center (New Hampshire)

The John E. Rogers African American Cultural Center (Connecticut)

Dr. Katherine Harris, Professor of History Central Connecticut State University

#### **PROGRAM BUDGET:**

<i>Rental Fees for Abeil Smith School</i>	<i>\$600.00</i>
<i>Equipment Fees for Event</i>	<i>\$450.00</i>
<i>Printing Promotional Materials</i>	<i>\$600.00 —</i>
<i>Food and Refreshments</i>	<i>\$600.00</i>
<i>Mailing and Postage</i>	<i>\$300.00 —</i>
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>

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<i><b>Total</b></i>	<i><b>\$2,750.00</b></i>
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# Colonial New England's Black Governors 1740-1855

*Black America's Maiden Voyage With Mass Democracy*

Abiel Smith School  
8 Smith Court on Beacon Hill  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Saturday June 24, 2004  
7:00 P.M.

02114  
02114

**DRAFT**

## Program

Welcoming Remarks

Introduction of the topic

*Moderator, Webster Brooks - John Rogers African-American Cultural Center*

Black Governors / Kings in Rhode Island (20 minutes)

*(Invited speaker/organization) Rhode Island Black Heritage Society*

Black Governors / Kings in New Hampshire (20 minutes)

*(Invited speaker/organization) African-American Resource Center*

Black Governors / Kings in Massachusetts (20 minutes)

*(Seeking presenter)*

Black Governors in Connecticut (20 minutes)

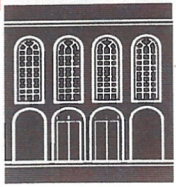
*Dr. Katherine Harris, History Professor Central Connecticut State University*

Questions and Answers (50 minutes)

Closing Remarks

*Reception – Abiel Smith Hall*





## The Museum of Afro-American History

Administrative Offices

14 Beacon Street, Suite 719 • Boston, MA 02108

Phone: (617) 725-0022 • Fax: (617) 720-5225 • Internet: [www.afroammuseum.org](http://www.afroammuseum.org) • Email: [history@afroammuseum.org](mailto:history@afroammuseum.org)

### FACILITY RENTAL INFORMATION

#### AFRICAN MEETING HOUSE AND ABIEL SMITH SCHOOL

The African Meeting House and Abiel Smith School on Beacon Hill, both built in the early 1800's, are two of the Museum of Afro-American History's most valuable assets. Located in what once was the heart of Boston's 19<sup>th</sup>-century African American community, these buildings remain a showcase of black community organization, and enduring testimony to black craftsmanship.

Historic restoration work was completed on the African Meeting House in 1987, returning the building to its appearance in the 1850's. Once a church, a school, a vital community meeting place, the African Meeting House is open to the public.

Renovations on the Abiel Smith School were completed in February 2000, transforming the building into a first class exhibit space with a gallery, classroom and museum store. This historic space commemorates the history of African-Americans from slavery to the abolitionist movement, with a focus on the quest for educational equality. Exhibits include a film presentation, touch screen computer interactives, art works and historic artifacts.

Discover the African Meeting House and Abiel Smith School on Boston's Beacon Hill. Meet in the rooms where Frederick Douglass recruited the historic 54<sup>th</sup> Regiment of black civil war soldiers. Hold your reception among the sculptures of African American artists Meta Warrick Fuller and Edmonia Lewis. Speak from the platform of the building once called the Black Faneuil Hall. Conduct your workshop in the classrooms that sparked a controversy over equal school rights that continues today. Hold your board meeting where William Lloyd Garrison launched the New England Anti-Slavery Society.

Add one or both of these rich historic backdrops to your next meeting, workshop, wedding, concert, press conference, or other important event. The Museum of Afro-American History invites individuals and organizations to enjoy the facilities and resources of the African Meeting House and Abiel Smith School. Our staff will be glad to assist you in the planning and facilitating of your event.

We have a referral list of florists, caterers, and other necessary suppliers to make your meeting or social event a memorable occasion.

CULTURAL SITES: Abiel Smith School • 46 Joy Street • Boston, MA 02114  
African Meeting House on Beacon Hill • 8 Smith Court • Boston, MA 02114

Black Heritage Trail® • Boston, MA 02114

The African Meeting House on Nantucket • 29 York Street • P.O. Box 2637 • Nantucket, MA 02584

MUSEUM STORE: Abiel Smith School • 46 Joy Street • Boston, MA 02114 • (617) 720-2991



**MUSEUM OF AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY**  
**RENTAL RATES:**  
**Effective April 1, 2000**

<b>Building</b>	<b>Capacity 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> floor</b>	<b>Rate Profit/Non-Profit</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Overtime Profit/Non-Profit</b>
African Meeting House	100/200	\$1200/600	4hrs	\$250/150/hr
Abiel Smith School	50/50	\$1200/600	4hrs	\$250/150/hr

**Rental of the African Meeting House includes access to the sanctuary on the second floor, the gallery downstairs, and kitchenette facility. The gallery/reception area is wheelchair accessible.**

**Rental of the Abiel Smith School includes access to the gallery and classroom, a film presentation, access to exhibits, computer touch screen interactives, and use of the kitchen. All floors are wheelchair accessible.**

**Services charges additional. Fees subject to change.**





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## The Rhode Island Black Heritage Society

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**65 Weybosset Street at the Arcade, Suite 29**  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903  
Phone: (401) 751-3490 Fax: (401) 751-0040  
**The Exhibition Room is on the 3rd Floor**



**The Rhode Island Black Regiment  
under the Brilliant leadership of  
General Nathaniel Green**

### MISSION

The Rhode Island Black Heritage Society "is constituted for the purpose of: Procuring, collecting, and preserving books, pamphlets, letters, manuscripts, prints, photographs, paintings, and any other historical material relating to the history of the Blacks of Rhode Island; encouraging and promoting the study of such history by lectures and otherwise; and publishing and diffusing information as to such history."

[Incorporated 1975]

### **Exhibition Hours**

**Monday - Friday 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM**  
**(And by Appointment)**

**Become a Member - Download our "Membership Application" in "PDF" format**

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### Upcoming Major Events

- **Urban Roots - A 2-hour walking tour of the African American experience on the East Side of Providence**
  - **Sept. 20th Urban Roots**

### HISTORY and LINKS

- **Martin Luther King**
- **The Rhode Island Black Regiment**
- **24th Annual Ball Honorees**
- **Creative Survival**
- **Collections (in "PDF" format)**
- **African-American History & Related**





♦ New Hampshire Humanities Council ♦  
19 Pillsbury Street ♦ PO Box 2228 ♦ Concord, New Hampshire ♦ 03302-2228 ♦

*Connecting  
people  
with ideas*

## Humanities Resource Center Catalog

### IT HAD TO BE DONE SO I DID IT

The history of the working lives of rural New Hampshire women in the early 20th century is the focus of this exhibit. The evocative historical and contemporary photography and supporting text illustrate the remarkable diversity of women's work.

Three 2-sided display stands are approximately 2 feet wide by 4 feet long by 5 feet high each and can be linked or stand alone.

### **MAKING A LIVING: THE WORK EXPERIENCE OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN NEW ENGLAND**

Combining images of oil portraits, early engravings, photographs and explanatory text, Curator Marilyn Richardson has created an exhibition which presents visual testimony of the work experience of African Americans in New England. Research for this project covered three centuries of history, with special effort given to unearthing information regarding the small African American populations of rural areas. Each of the six panels in the exhibit is devoted to a single New England state.

### **MILL ON MAIN STREET**

New Hampshire has often been painted as a state of mountains, lakes, and farms. But factories have played a vital role in its economic life. This exhibit conveys the impact of industrialization on New Hampshire using a variety of visual images - maps, photographs, and stereopticon views - as well as supporting text. The free-standing, 5-panel exhibit is constructed on hollow core doors (3 feet by 6 feet 8 inches). Panels are connected by hook and eye hinges allowing flexibility in display configurations.

### **SEEDS OF CHANGE: 500 Years of Encounter and Exchange**

This exhibition, available in English or Spanish, focuses on cultural encounters in the centuries after Columbus' voyages of exploration. The exchange between Europe and the Americas took place on many levels. Corn and potatoes were introduced to European settlers, changing dietary patterns forever. Native Americans, on the other hand, were introduced to more deadly "seeds" - sugar and disease. The horse also had important



implications in the daily life of American peoples and in the way wars were fought, particularly between native Americans and the settlers. The 32-panel poster exhibition is mounted on eight free-standing kiosks and requires 400 square feet of display area.

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New Hampshire Humanities Council  
19 Pillsbury Street  
PO Box 2228  
Concord, NH 03302-2228  
603-224-4071 fax 603-224-4072

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