



# Teaching Freedom

**Celebrating Black Philadelphia's 200-Year Pursuit of Liberation through Education**



*Ivy Leaf Collection, Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection, Temple University Libraries*

**SPONSORSHIP PROSPECTUS**  
**September 2026**

*Teaching Freedom is a project of the Center for Black Educator Development, Free Library of Philadelphia Exhibitions, Philadelphia Department of Records, and the Philadelphia Dreamkeepers Project with additional support from Cheyney University, the Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection, and Mighty Engine.*

# Teaching Freedom

Equal parts public history, celebration of legendary Philadelphia teachers, and affirmation of an educational vision that remains vital and necessary, **TEACHING FREEDOM** uplifts our city's historical significance as an incubator and steward of liberatory Black teaching traditions for more than 200 years.

---

## Companion Exhibits

### **Philadelphia's Black Dreamkeepers (1976-2026)**

Parkway Central Library, 1901 Vine St.  
September 15 - November 25, 2026

### **Archives in Action: The Education of Black Philadelphia (1839-1976)**

Philadelphia City Archives, 548 Spring Garden St.  
November 1, 2026 - January 15, 2027

- **Archival records, photographs, and artifacts**—many publicly shown for the first time, including from exhibit partners, Philadelphia Freedom Schools, Temple University Urban Archives, the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Swarthmore College, and Nidhamu Sasa, an independent pan-African school that operated in Germantown from 1971-1983.
- **Oral histories with Philadelphia educators, including:** Dr. Ayesha Imani (CEO/Founder of Sankofa Freedom Academy Charter School), Vi Curry (Cheyney University Class of 1968), Liller and William Green (Founders of Ivy Leaf School), and Dr. Jay Fluellen (acclaimed composer and current music teacher at the Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts).

Conducted by Dr. Camika Royal, a Philadelphia native, Central High School alum (254), Director of the Urban Educational Leadership program at Morgan State University, and author of the award-winning book *Not Paved for Us: Black Educators and Public School Reform in Philadelphia* (Harvard Education Press, 2022).

- **Multimedia resources**, including archival classroom footage, Precious Places community videos produced by Scribe Video Center, stunning original photographic portraits of Dreamkeepers, and oral history interview excerpts.

## Special Programming

### **The Education of Black Philadelphia (1839-1976)**

Community Exhibit Symposium: November 5, 2026

Featuring Dr. Greg Carr, former School District of Philadelphia scholar-in-residence and current chair of Howard University's Department of Afro-American Studies, and Sharif El-Mekki, CEO of the Center for Black Educator Development.

### **Philadelphia's Black Dreamkeepers (1976-2026)**

Closing Celebration: November 12, 2026

Featuring Philly native and former School District of Philadelphia teacher and administrator Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings, a panel discussion with featured Dreamkeepers, and an a capella musical performance by CAPA high school students.



# Sponsorship Levels & Opportunities

## All sponsorship levels include:

- Name and logo included on all signage, promotional and press materials (prominence based on sponsorship level).
- Recognition in press releases and official media announcements distributed to local news outlets.
- Social media shout-outs with tagged posts, dedicated spotlights, and shared impact stories.
- Recognition in email newsletters.

## Octavius Catto Torchbearer

**\$30,000**

Title sponsorship of Parkway Central Library exhibit.

### *Additional Benefits:*

- Public remarks at TEACHING FREEDOM Parkway Central Closing Celebration.
- Title-page acknowledgement in TEACHING FREEDOM: Philadelphia's Black Dreamkeepers, a planned coffee table book based on the exhibit.

## Henry Ossawa Tanner Cultural Catalyst

**\$25,000**

Sponsorship of TEACHING FREEDOM artist residency and community engagement series throughout 2027 to support public art and community dialogue inspired by the stories and lessons of Philadelphia's Black Dreamkeepers.

### *Additional Benefits:*

- Name and logo included on all promotion materials on residency, series and public art.
- Public announcement and brief remarks at TEACHING FREEDOM Parkway Central Closing Celebration.

## Caroline LeCount Waymaker

**\$20,000**

Sponsorship of the Center for Black Educator Development's Future Teacher of Excellence Fellowship, awarded to a current college/university student pursuing a career in education at the TEACHING FREEDOM Parkway Central Closing Celebration

### *Additional Benefit:*

- Public announcement and brief remarks at TEACHING FREEDOM Parkway Central Closing Celebration.

## Fanny Jackson Coppin Trailblazer

**\$15,000**

Sponsorship of the TEACHING FREEDOM instructional design residency to integrate the lessons of Philadelphia's Black Dreamkeepers into the Center for Black Educator Development's Freedom Schools Literacy Academy and Teaching Academy Career and Technical Program curricula.

### *Additional Benefit:*

- Public announcement and brief remarks at TEACHING FREEDOM Parkway Central Closing Celebration and alumni nights.



# Sponsorship Levels & Opportunities

## All sponsorship levels include:

- Name and logo included on all signage, promotional and press materials (prominence based on sponsorship level).
- Recognition in press releases and official media announcements distributed to local news outlets.
- Social media shout-outs with tagged posts, dedicated spotlights, and shared impact stories.
- Recognition in email newsletters.

## Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings Dreamkeeper

**\$12,000**

- Sponsorship of keynote address by Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings and presentation of the PHILADELPHIA DREAMKEEPER AWARD.
- Sponsorship of panel discussion with Dr. Camika Royal and TEACHING FREEDOM Dreamkeepers.
- Sponsorship of a capella Performance of Freedom Songs by CAPA high school students.

### Additional Benefit:

- Public announcement and brief remarks at TEACHING FREEDOM Parkway Central Closing Celebration.

## John C. Bowers Organizer

**\$10,000**

*multiple sponsorships avail.*

- Sponsorship of the Center for Black Educator Development's 2026 Black Men in Education Convening.
- Sponsorship of TEACHING FREEDOM Movie Night, open to the public and promoted at regional colleges of education.

### Additional Benefits:

- Four tickets to #BMEC2026.
- Sponsor-provided promotional item distributed to all attendees of #BMEC2026 in Philadelphia (Nov. 13-15, Registration deadline Oct. 9)
- Recognition on convening signage, app, and webpage.
- Public announcement and brief remarks at TEACHING FREEDOM Movie Night.

## Joyce Marie Abbott Guiding Light

**\$5,000**

*multiple sponsorships avail.*

Sponsorship of the Philadelphia Dreamkeepers Project Community Advisory Council

### Additional Benefit:

- Guided tour of TEACHING FREEDOM exhibits and private lunch with Dreamkeepers and Community Advisory Council members.

## Teaching Freedom Supporter

**\$100 - \$1,000**

*multiple sponsorships avail.*

- TEACHING FREEDOM exhibit expenses, including: design, printing, equipment, supplies, programming, and promotion.
- TEACHING FREEDOM field trips/private tours for high school students enrolled in the Center for Black Educator Development's Philadelphia Teaching Academy career and technical programs.
- The Center for Black Educator Development's Freedom Schools Literacy Academy instructional coaches and school site leaders' field trip to TEACHING FREEDOM exhibits.
- TEACHING FREEDOM Cheyney University Alumni Night, Ivy Leaf School Alumni Night, and Harambee Opening Ceremony.



# Funders & Supporters

TEACHING FREEDOM is funded in part by Campus250 and the M3K Foundation.

---

## Exhibit Supporters

Laura Boyce, Executive Director, Teach Plus PA  
Julia Cadwallender, Managing Director, Read by 4th  
Kate Callahan, Executive Director, Research for Action  
David Hardy, President, Girard College  
Stacy Holland, Executive Director, Elevate 215  
Dr. Ashley Jordan, President and CEO, African American Museum in Philadelphia  
Louis Massiah, Director, Scribe Video Center  
Julia McWilliams, Co-Director, University of Pennsylvania Urban Studies Program  
Michelle Palmer, Executive Director, Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia  
Aissia Richardson, President, African American United Fund  
Diane D. Turner, Curator, Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection  
Suzanna Urminska, Curator of Exhibitions, Free Library of Philadelphia  
Pa. Senator Antony Hardy Williams, Pennsylvania Senate District 8



# Further Information

To learn more about TEACHING FREEDOM and related sponsorship opportunities, please contact:

---

**Vanessa Renee**

*Chief of Staff*

Center for Black Educator Development

vanessa.renee@cbed.org

**Benjamin Herold**

*Coordinator*

Philadelphia Dreamkeepers Project

215.901.9774

benjaminbherold@gmail.com

**Steven Sonntag**

*Head Writer*

Mighty Engine

215.384.1944

steven@themightyengine.com