



mvafricanamericanheritagetrail.org

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Director of Research & Outreach, African American Heritage Trail of Martha's Vineyard (AAHTMV)

The African American Heritage Trail of Martha's Vineyard (AAHTMV) seeks an experienced public history or preservation professional to join its team of volunteer, consulting, part-time and full-time staff advancing heritage preservation, public history, and cultural tourism. With AAHTMV's Executive Director plus community and academic partners, the **Director of Research and Outreach** will plan and manage research, recognition, commemoration, and preservation of African American heritage throughout Martha's Vineyard.

Funded by a two-year capacity building grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the **Director of Research and Outreach** will play a critical role in the expansion and protection of MV's 25-year old African American Heritage Trail. The Director will join AAHTMV research initiatives underway, which currently focus on enslavement, emancipation, entrepreneurship, and endangerment of diasporic African Americans on Martha's Vineyard seasonally and year-round. The Director will also lay the groundwork for AAHTMV to take strategic actions vis-à-vis African American heritage at risk of exclusion, erosion, and erasure, i.e. documentation for digital preservation and/or nomination for local preservation protections. The contracted position provides an early-career professional the opportunity to transform local preservation ordinances, state heritage inventories and national registers of historic places as well as the island's Inkwell beach and to assist in the protection and development of the much toured African American Heritage Trail of Martha's Vineyard <https://mvafricanamericanheritagetrail.org>.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Initiate and sustain partnerships with community, governmental, cultural and academic institutions that support AAHTMV's mission
- Engage individuals as part of the island community and diaspora via diverse settings and techniques—from online dialogue and virtual meetings about research subjects/sites to large commemorative gatherings, intimate oral history sessions, and 1-on-1 home visits

- Independently and collaboratively perform research on African American-owned property and commercial enterprises using historical and ethnographic methods
- Present research on existing and prospective Trail sites and subjects to multiple audiences (e.g. public, professional, community, academic) and in many formats (e.g. oral presentations, media interviews, social media posts, website writeups)
- Present research, outreach and their outcomes to prospective donors and sponsors in the form of grant applications, grant reports, and fund-raising communications
- Facilitate inclusion of AAHTMV research sites in local landmark designation reports, National Register nominations and federal and state historic tax credit applications
- Advise, and take direction from the Executive Director on Trail expansion, Trail site inclusion in local, state and national registries of historic places, and other strategic initiatives relevant to the mission

Requirements

1. An academic background in public history, historic preservation; Africana, African American, ethnic, or American studies; or architectural and urban history.
2. Must have demonstrable heritage / history related experience (part-time or full-time, volunteer or paid),
3. Experience working with or for a nonprofit corporation (part-time or full-time, volunteer or paid),
4. Experience communicating research to public audiences and preservation stakeholders in print, digital and social media
5. An ability to plan and prioritize the tasks, expertise and experience of others.
6. Excellent communication skills, strong organizational skills, and an ability to handle sensitive and controversial issues
7. Experience managing multiple assignments in short timeframes

Preferred Qualifications (in addition to above)

1. Interdisciplinary education or experience (e.g. urban x Africana studies or stewardship)
2. Experience managing a research project from design to dissemination
3. Experience of successful fund-raising via capital campaigns, grant writing and donor engagement
4. Training or experience with qualitative research methods and tools for public engagements (i.e. surveying, semi-structured interviews)
5. Training or experience with digital humanities/history techniques, technologies and tools (e.g. data mining, extraction, curation and management; Story Maps, Ameka, etc)
6. Training or experience in heritage documentation technologies and techniques (e.g. ArcGIS, qGIS, Arches)

Details of the Position

This salaried position is a two-year contract, potentially renewable. Depending on experience, total compensation of \$50,000/year can be earned.

Residency on the island of Martha's Vineyard will be necessary to perform the tasks required. Martha's Vineyard is accessible via local ferries and airlines. The island also retains a diverse full-time residency which expands greatly in the summer months.

How to Apply

Applicants should submit a 2-page **Resume** accompanied by a 2-page **Cover Letter** that highlights related experiences and expertise relevant to AAHTMV's place markings, publications, projects and programming. Applicants with personal connections to AAHTMV are also welcome.

Email a single PDF document containing the Cover Letter and resume addressed to AAHTMV Executive Director, Dr. Elaine Cawley Weintraub to lightingthetrail@gmail.com in accordance with the following naming conventions for the combined PDF [DRO_Lastname_Firstname] and the email subject heading [AAHTMV-DRO_Lastname_Firstname]. **Review of applications begins November 15, 2021 and continues until position is filled.**

The African American Heritage Trail of Martha's Vineyard is a 501c3 Equal Opportunity Employer. All members of the diasporic Martha's Vineyard community, including Wampanoag Aquinnah Tribe members, non-U.S. citizens and their descendants, are encouraged to apply.

Preserving the legacy, saving the history, educating, building community, honoring the stories.

A Massachusetts Nonprofit Educational Foundation

Trustees: Dr. Elaine Cawley Weintraub, Cofounder/Executive Director, Carrie Camillo Tankard, Cofounder, Joseph C. Carter, Reverend Deborah Finley Jackson, Arthur Hardy Doubleday, Esq., Carmen Tankard Amadeo, Dr. Charles Ogletree, James Jennings