

Request for Proposals

Provide Scholar/Consultant Historian for Research, Technical Assistance and Education in
African American Civil Rights
September 19, 2022

The National Park Service (NPS) Park History Program is seeking the services of a Scholar/Consultant Historian through a cooperative agreement with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc., (ASALH). The purpose of the contract is to hire a Scholar/Consultant meeting or exceeding the Secretary of the Interior Professional Standards for a GS-11 Historian to undertake project activities. The contract is administered by ASALH and the work prepared for and completed in coordination with the National Park Service Park History Program. The successful Scholar/Consultant will be embedded with the NPS Park History Program team for the duration of the project.

Interested candidates should submit a proposal in response to this RFP to ASALH no later than 5:00 pm EDT on October 21, 2022. Electronic copies may be directed to ASALH at nps@asalh.org with the subject line "Scholar/Consultant Historian."

Project Objectives

This Agreement fulfills the Public Purpose of support and stimulation for the following reasons:

- Projects will engage ASALH, NPS, diverse communities, and/or visitors in shared stewardship of cultural and historic resources important to the history of African American civil rights.
- Projects will promote greater public and private participation in the African American Civil Rights Network program and other National Park Service activities related to preservation of U.S. civil rights history.
- The information, products and/or services identified or developed under this contract will be shared through a variety of strategies, such as the ASALH annual conference, ASALH Black History Month Luncheon, Kiamsha Youth Empowerment Organization Annual Conference, newsletters, websites, and social media to increase public awareness, knowledge and support for historic preservation and stewardship of African American history.
- The scientific community and/or researchers external to NPS gain by new knowledge provided through research and related results, dissemination of cultural and/or historical resource information.
- The contract assists in the creation, promotion, facilitation, and/or improvement of the public's understanding of the history of African American civil rights in the areas of natural resources, culture, history, and recreation in national, state and local parks, research facilities, and within

interpretive and educational programs.

Scope of Work

1. Provide timely research, technical assistance, training, and public educational services to NPS parks and programs related to African American civil rights history including but not limited to the African American Civil Rights Network (AACRN) program and its members, the African American Civil Rights Grants program, and units of the National Park System.
2. Develop and conduct outreach and training activities to increase the number (as of the date agreement signature) of AACRN members by 25%+ during the period of performance.
3. Provide an inventory, historical summary and analysis report of National Park Service initiatives and activities to research, document, preserve, steward, and interpret the history of African American civil rights through its national Cultural Resources programs, including but not limited to the Civil Rights Cultural Resource Preservation Programs fund source, the African American Civil Rights Grants program, the African American Civil Rights Network, and the National Historic Landmarks Program.
4. Serve as NPS/AACRN liaison for the ASALH annual meeting and conference. Tasks include collaborative planning and implementation with ASALH conference staff of at least one educational session, one NPS/AACRN exhibit space, one half page color ad and facilitate participation of up to 4 NPS staff at each annual ASALH conference undertaken during this agreement. Specific panel session to be determined collaboratively by NPS and ASALH.
5. Serve as NPS liaison to collaboratively plan and execute with ASALH staff to host one table (if held in person) and one exhibit space for the use of the NPS/African American Civil Rights Network program at each Annual Black History Festival/Luncheon undertaken during this agreement.

Basic Candidate Requirements

- Comprehensive knowledge of African American and/or U.S. civil rights history, and a broad knowledge of professional historical research methodology, consistent with a Masters to Ph.D.-level in history.
- Ability to exercise a good understanding of the purposes of the projects at hand and to consider such matters as the accessibility of source material and the time or other limitations involved in independently planning the details of project accomplishment.
- A broad knowledge of available research sources.

- A broad grasp of the primary subject matter involved and of related subject-matter fields (in order to achieve complete coverage of significant sources).
- Sound critical judgment in the evaluation of sources and the establishment of historical “fact,” and in the development of hypotheses to account for casual relationships.
- Substantial skill in organizing and writing a narrative that sets forth a balanced and realistic picture of the subject under consideration.
- Experience presenting information to diverse audiences in varied formats (i.e. orally, written, in-person, and virtual) and settings.
- Experience working independently and in a collaborative team setting.
- Ability to organize, provide timely response to information requests, and meet deadlines.
- Ability to travel to in-person meetings, conferences, and archives when needed, (TBD; estimated 2-3 days per quarter).
- Ability to pass a federal background check.

AND

- A graduate degree in African American or U.S. History or a closely related field of study and
- A minimum of two (2) years of full-time work experience at a professional level.

OR

Education

- Successful completion of at least three (3) years of progressively higher-level graduate education leading to a Ph.D. degree or Ph.D. or equivalent doctoral degree in African American and/or U.S. History. Course work in fields other than those specified above may be accepted if it clearly provides applicants with the background of knowledge and skills necessary for successful job performance in this position. If you are using education to qualify, you must document your degree in your resume. If your degree is not in one of the directly related fields listed, you must submit a copy of your transcripts or a complete list of college courses taken that identifies for each course the college or university, semester or quarter hours earned, grade received, and date completed.

Available Funding

This contract will fund a Scholar/Consultant Historian at \$85,000 plus limited benefits each year for a period of two (2) years. Work-related travel costs will be provided.

Proposals Must Include:

- **A cover letter or statement of interest**
- **Resume or CV**

- **A writing sample, no more than 5 pages or 3,000 words, in traditional or electronic (i.e. blog, online article, web feature, etc.) format.**
- **Other documents that support qualifications (optional)**

Questions

Respondents are invited to submit written questions requesting clarifications or explanations of the information contained in this RFP. Please direct all proposals or contract-related questions to Ms. Kay Phillips, ASALH Project Manager, at nps@asalh.org.