International Underground Railroad Month September 2020

The Maryland Department of Commerce Office of Tourism (OTD) invites you to join us in commemorating International Underground Railroad Month during September 1-30, 2020.

What is International Underground Railroad Month?
International Underground Railroad Month acknowledges the significance of the Underground Railroad, and all those involved, for its contribution to the eradication of slavery in the United States and as a cornerstone for a more comprehensive civil rights movement that followed. It honors the inspiring efforts of people from around the world who have committed themselves to document, interpret, and share with the public the history of the Underground Railroad.

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan proclaimed the first International Underground Railroad Month in September 2019. OTD, Michigan Freedom Trail Commission, and the National Park Service’s Network to Freedom (NTF) program are working to expand International Underground Railroad Month to multiple states, Canada, and the Caribbean.

Goals for International Underground Railroad Month 2020:

- Build upon Maryland’s initiative of being the most powerful Underground Railroad storytelling destination in the world.
- Inspire the public to travel to Underground Railroad locations to learn the history associated with individual sites and experience the mosaic of community, regional, and national stories.
- Commit to making International Underground Railroad Month an annual event.

How You Can Participate:

- Develop trip suggestions/tourism opportunities to promote Underground Railroad sites in your region/county and share them with OTD.
- Develop programs--either on site or virtually--to commemorate and educate about the Underground Railroad.
- Participate in OTD’s social media campaign for International Underground Railroad Month. Full social media campaign tool kit will be released at the beginning of August.
- If your site is in the NPS’s Network to Freedom, participate in the NTF passport program.
- Identify and share web-based content (video, virtual tours. etc.) that explores Underground Railroad content at your site/region/county with OTD.
- Identify and research the Underground Railroad stories in your community. Contact Heather Ersts, OTD Partnership and Outreach Manager, for information about nominating your Underground Railroad story for the National Park Service’s Network to Freedom.

For more information, to receive updates, and to share content, contact Heather Ersts, Maryland Office of Tourism Partnership and Outreach Manager at hersts@visitmaryland.org.