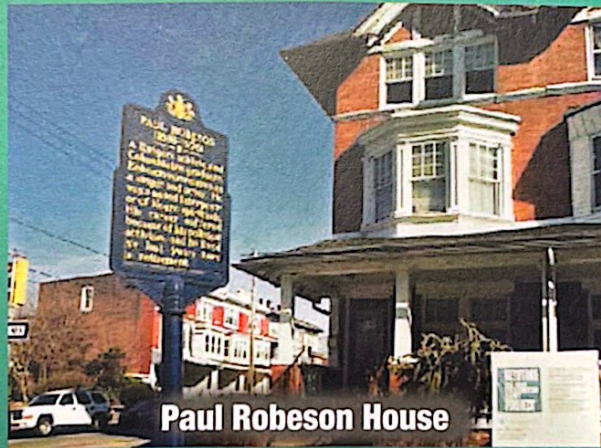


# New Freedom DISTRICT TOUR

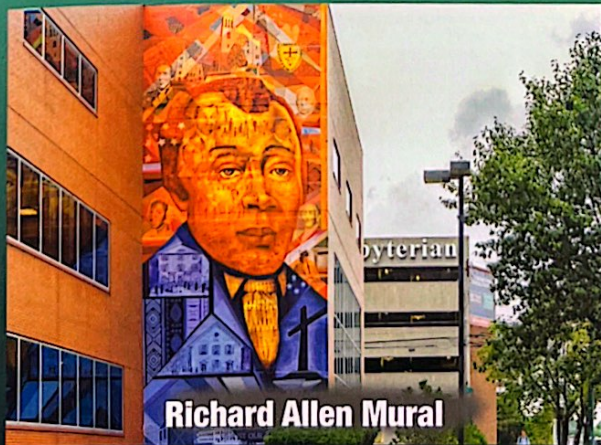
BOOKLET



Local Heroes Mural



Paul Robeson House



Richard Allen Mural

**“Honoring Our Past with A Vision For The Future”  
West Philadelphia’s New Freedom District**

Produced by the  
**NEW AFRICA CENTER  
MUSLIM AMERICAN MUSEUM**



# CONTENTS

## INTRODUCTION

### ■ PAGE ONE

1. LINCOLN HIGHWAY (Lancaster Pike) & LINCOLN FUNERAL TRAIN
2. MARY MILES AKA ROSA PARKS OF PA
3. RICHARD ALLEN MURAL
4. THE ORIGINAL BLACK BOTTOM
5. COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER ABOLITIONIST / QUAKER UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

### ■ PAGE TWO

6. TIBERINO GARDENS
7. SCRIBE VIDEO CENTER
8. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING MURAL AND STATE MARKER
9. SHELTER FOR COLORED ORPHANS
10. MOUNT PISGAH AME CHURCH / CENTENARY METHODIST CHURCH

### ■ PAGE THREE

11. LOMBARD CENTRAL CHURCH
12. DUPREE ART STUDIO
13. HERMAN WRICE MURAL
14. THE LEADER THEATRE
15. EARLY SITE OF NATION OF ISLAM TEMPLE #12

### ■ PAGE FOUR

16. NEW AFRICA CENTER
17. LOCAL HEROES MURAL
18. LAURA WHEELER WARING ART EDUCATOR
19. WARD AME CHURCH
20. FATHER DIVINE'S PEACE MISSION

### ■ PAGE FIVE

21. SARAH ALLEN NURSING HOME
22. MILLCREEK ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER / SHANAHAN CATHOLIC CLUB
23. THE SISTER CLARA MUHAMMAD SCHOOL & MUHAMMAD SQUARE PARK
24. INTERNATIONAL MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD QUBA INSTITUTE SCHOOL
25. BLANKENBURG SCHOOL YARD / AFRICAN AMERICAN GRAVE YARD

### ■ PAGE SIX

26. WILL SMITH MURAL
27. ED BRADLEY MURAL
28. HISTORICAL KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY HOUSE
29. STEPHEN SMITH HOME FOR THE AGED
30. FIRST AFRICAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### ■ PAGE SEVEN

31. NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUE MURAL AND STATE MARKER
32. UNDERGROUND RAILROAD MUSEUM / AMERICAN WOMEN'S HERITAGE SOCIETY
33. PAUL ROBESON HOUSE AND STATE MARKER
34. CRYSTAL BIRD FAUSET MARKER
35. HAKIMS BOOK STORE

### ■ PAGE EIGHT

36. AFRICAN CULTURAL ART FORUM
37. MALCOLM X MEMORIAL PARK
38. MUHAMMAD ALI WAY
39. ST THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
40. OVERBROOK HIGH SCHOOL



# New Freedom DISTRICT TOUR

## Introduction

The Lancaster Avenue Historic New Freedom District goes from 32nd to 48th Streets west on Lancaster Avenue and the surrounding area in West Philadelphia. The goals are to highlight and preserve the rich cultural history of African American institutions, organizations, events and individual achievements in their quest for self-determination freedom, justice & equality.

Some of the Historical Sites include: Local Hero's Mural, Belmont Mansion Underground Railroad Museum, Paul Robeson House, Dr. Martin Luther King Mural & Marker, Nation of Islam Temple #12, Stephen Smith Home, Sarah Allen Nursing Home, Blankenburg School Yard, Community Education Center, Sister Clara Muhammad School & Muhammad Park, Quba Institute, African Methodist Episcopal Church, First African Presbyterian Church and many other Murals and PA Historical Markers.

### We offer the following programs for youth and adults.

- Classroom and Auditorium Presentations • School Fairs
- Conferences • Walking and Bus Tours
- Enslaved Africans & Abolitionist Reenactment stories
- Teacher & Workforce Diversity Training workshops
- ICPIIC New Africa Center Museum tour and site visits.

### ANTICIPATED IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

These tours will highlight African American institutions, organizations, events, and individual achievements while impacting the community by instilling civic pride in our collective historic achievements, cultivating area youth to see themselves as inheritors of our past achievements and redefining the role of citizenship through education. The Lancaster Ave Historic New Freedom District Tours project will highlight African Americans' first migration to the area during the Underground Railroad, the Great Migration, and the Civil Rights Movement as well as historical events that highlight their quest for self-determination, justice, and equality. The New Freedom District Tours project will also improve student achievements, strengthening their critical thinking skills and historical knowledge. Through the New Freedom District program students will experience an increased sense of community pride and citizenship. Through exposure to information and knowledge these youth will see themselves as part of their neighborhood in a way they may never have perceived before. These programs address one of the root causes of violence, juvenile delinquency and mental illness in our community, the inferiority complex disorder.

To schedule a visit to your school or site please contact

**Abdul-Rahim Muhammad**

**610-352-0424 or email [ICPIC@RCN.COM](mailto:ICPIC@RCN.COM)**

visit our website [www.newafricacenter.com](http://www.newafricacenter.com)

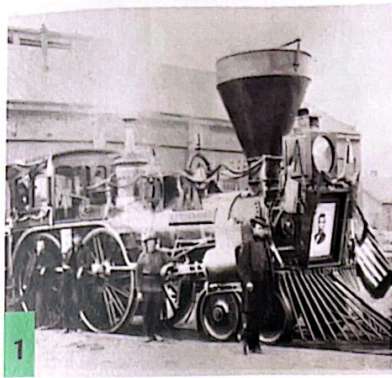
New Africa Center, 4243 Lancaster Ave, Phila. Pa 19104



Office of

**Community Empowerment and Opportunity**





## # 1 - LINCOLN HIGHWAY (Lancaster Pike) & LINCOLN FUNERAL TRAIN

### 32nd Market - Chestnut Street

Lincoln Funeral Train arrived and waited here while the President's body traveled down Market Street to Independence Hall for viewing by over 1 million people with lines stretching along Market Street from river to river.



## # 2 - MARY MILES AKA ROSA PARKS OF PA West Chester & Philadelphia

At the West Chester and Philadelphia Depot in 1867 a Black female activist, Mary Miles on her way to what would later become Lincoln University refused to move to the segregated car of the Baltimore Central RR train. This became the Pennsylvania test case for integrating public transportation in the state.



## # 3 - RICHARD ALLEN MURAL

### 3801 Market Street

Richard Allen was a minister, educator, writer, and one of America's most active and influential Black leaders. In 1794 he founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the first independent Black denomination in the United States. He opened his first AME church in 1794 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



## # 4 - THE ORIGINAL BLACK BOTTOM UNIVERSITY AVENUE TO LANCASTER AVE.

### 32nd to 40th & Lancaster

The "Black Bottom" was the residential community that existed in the section of Philadelphia known by city planners as "Area 3, and referred to now as "University City". The Black Bottom was framed by 33rd and 40th Streets on the east and west, and Lancaster / Powelton and Curie Boulevard (University Avenue) on the north and south. The Black Bottom received its name from its location at the "bottom" of West Philadelphia. It was also a predominantly African American community; hence the name "Black" Bottom.



## # 5 - COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER ABOLITIONIST / QUAKER UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

### 3500 Lancaster Avenue

In the nineteenth century, Friends of the middle and upper socioeconomic classes left the Center City Philadelphia area and moved out toward the city's suburbs. While the wealthier Friends chose places along the mainline, such as Germantown or Haverford, the middling sorts stopped in West Philadelphia. The first meeting house on the site was erected in 1851; the present meeting house-school complex was built in 1901 for the use of the Hicksite Friends.





6

## # 6 - TIBERINO GARDENS

3819 Hamilton Street

At the Tiberino compound, mosaic tiles and sculptures punctuate a mural landscape. This temporal gallery of five painted panels will prominently place the Tiberino family's legacy as Philadelphia's "first family of art," painted by the hands of both Tiberino father and son.



7

## # 7 - SCRIBE VIDEO CENTER

3908 Lancaster Avenue

Scribe Video Center, a nonprofit organization founded by Louis Massiah in December of 1982 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, seeks to explore, develop, and advance the use of electronic media. Including video and audio, as an artistic media and as tools for progressive social change. "Scribe" is a metaphor for the use of electronic recording technologies as a modern tool to document significant contemporary concerns and events.

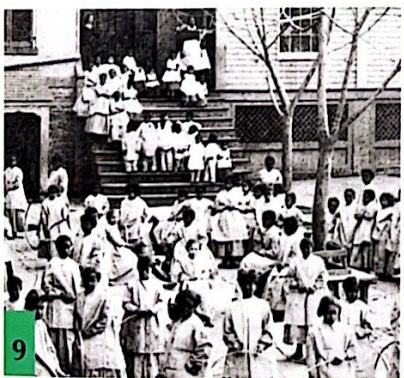


8

## # 8 - DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING MURAL AND STATE MARKER

4000 Haverford Avenue

An official State Historical Marker, mural and MLK sculpture commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King's 1965 "Freedom Now" Rally. On August 3, 1965, Dr. King addressed a crowd of 10,000 at this intersection. The historic event was part of Dr. King's "Freedom Now" tour to Philadelphia, Chicago, Cleveland and Boston in gratitude for support given to his Southern Christian Leadership Conference. King brought his message into northern Black neighborhoods, supporting local civil rights efforts and raising funds.



9

## # 9 - SHELTER FOR COLORED ORPHANS

44th Street and Haverford Avenue

Originally called the Association for the Care of Colored Orphans, Founded by Quaker women in 1822 to care for black orphans, both boys and girls. First located on the east side of 13th Street above Callowhill Street, it was attacked during an 1837 riot. Later, it added education and training in domestic work to its shelter program, and moved to 44th and Wallace Streets. Its 1862 building at this location was completed with Yarnell and Cooper and, according to an 1870 annual report, overlooked the Pennsylvania Hospital's grounds to the south. In 1915, the shelter relocated to Cheyney, Pa., adjoining what is now known as Cheyney University, and became a home for girls.



10

## # 10 - MOUNT PISGAH A.M.E. CHURCH CENTENARY METHODIST CHURCH

428 North 41 Street

Mount Pisgah African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in the home of Richard Berry at 4100 Ludlow Street, Phila, Pa in 1833. Later, they joined with Richard Allen and the Bethel Inc. A lot was purchased, and a frame structure was erected on Locust Street near 40th Street. In those days, the members, did the work, they held their regular jobs during the day and built the church in the evenings.





11

### # 11 - LOMBARD CENTRAL CHURCH

#### 42nd Powelton Avenue

Lombard Central Presbyterian Church was founded in 1844 by Stephen Gloucester and was originally the Central Colored Presbyterian Church. In 1848 the name was changed to Lombard Street Central Presbyterian Church, and shortened to Lombard Central Presbyterian in 1939. The church moved to West Philadelphia in 1939 because the congregation outgrew its original building. Stephen was one of four sons of John Gloucester who founded the First African Presbyterian Church at Girard Avenue.



12

### # 12 - THE DUPREE ART STUDIO

#### 3617 Haverford Avenue

This site was located at this address. The studio was founded by James Dupree an accomplished artist, educator, and business owner. Dupree's works are in the permanent collections of several museums, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, The African American Museum in Philadelphia, and the Schomburg Museum in Copenhagen; as well as in the private collections of the Dave Matthews Band and Singer Patti LaBelle.



13

### # 13 - HERMAN WRICE MURAL

#### 33rd & Haverford Avenue

Herman Wrice (1939-2000) was a renowned community organizer and inventor of the Wrice Process- a method of direct action, whereby neighbours directly confront street-level drug dealers in their communities. In 1988, Wrice organized Manutua Against Drugs (MAD) and led marches against drug dealers in his neighborhood. Wrice's slogan "Up With Hope, Down With Dope.", became a popular rallying cry. In 2000 David McShane created a tribute to Herrman Wrice following his death.



14

### # 14 - THE LEADER THEATRE

#### 4102-04 Lancaster Avenue

Opened on October 23, 1912, designed by architect John D. Allen for seating 1,000. Originally a legitimate house, the Leader Theatre became a movie house. By 1935 it was owned by Warner Brothers. The Theatre also prioritized obtaining first-release showings of movies with African American leads, including *Duel at Diablo* with James Garner & Sidney Poitier. In 1953 the Leader was one of only 2 theaters in the city to offer the first run of *Holiday in Harlem*. It closed in 1968 and was donated to PAL.



15

### # 15 - EARLY SITE NATION OF ISLAM TEMPLE # 12 AND STATE MARKER

#### 4218 Lancaster Avenue

Pennsylvania's first Nation of Islam Temple. Former home of the African American Muslim Community of Philadelphia during the 1950s and 1960s under the leadership of Elijah Muhammad. Malcolm X and Imam Wallace D. Muhammad were administrators and teachers here.





16

## # 16 - NEW AFRICA CENTER

4243 Lancaster Avenue

Islamic Cultural Preservation & Information Council (ICPIC) was founded in 1991, our educational and cultural programming was developed to inform and preserve our rich cultural heritage here in America. Our Center is open to all. Reservations for tours are welcomed, call 610.352.0424 or Email: icpic@rcn.com or visit us at: [www.newafricacenter.com](http://www.newafricacenter.com).



17

## # 17 - LOCAL HEROES MURAL

4234 Lancaster Avenue

This mural has memorialized 9 outstanding community activist, business owners and civic leaders from the Belmont section of West Philly. These honorable men and women were pillars of our community. Lloyd Mason, Oscar Adams, Abdul Malik Muhammad, Asimah Muhammad, George L. Dunbar Sr., Sonny Martin, Leo Morris, Brenda A. Showers & Nathaniel Boyd.



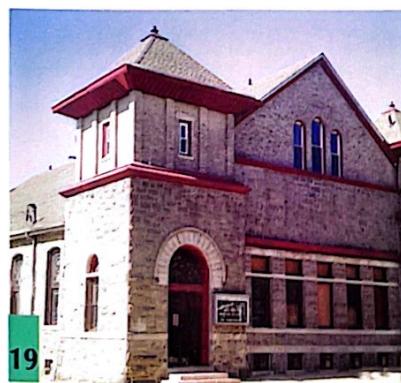
18

## # 18 - LAURA WHEELER WARING

ART EDUCATOR

765 North 43rd Street

Laura Wheeler studied art in this city and in France. She headed the Art Department, At Cheyney State College, and her works are part of the National Portrait Gallery and other major collections. Born on May 16, 1887, in Hartford, Connecticut, Laura Wheeler Waring was an African-American teacher and artist who became known for her portraits; the subjects she painted include W.E.B. Du Bois and Marian Anderson. A member of the NAACP, Waring also contributed many illustrations to its magazine, The Crisis. She died at age 60 on February 3, 1948, in Philadelphia, PA.



19

## # 19 - WARD AME CHURCH

728 North 43rd Street

The African Methodist Episcopal Church has rejected the negative theological interpretations which rendered persons of African descent second class citizens. This church was founded on the strong belief that God is God all the time and for everybody. The church was born in protest against slavery. The Mission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is to minister to the emotional, intellectual, spiritual, environmental and physical needs of all people by spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ through both word and deed.



20

## # 20 - FATHER DIVINE'S PEACE MISSION UNITED MISSION CHURCH/PA RAILROAD Y.M.C.A./2ND ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH

907 North 41st Street

Built in 1892 as a YMCA branch for the Pennsylvania Railroad, this building later became part of the Peace Mission, which was founded by Father Divine. According to Cooperman, the Peace Mission moved to Philadelphia permanently in 1942 and this building became the United Mission Church by 1951. Today it is home to a charter school.





21

### # 21 - SARAH ALLEN NURSING HOME

4035 Parrish Street

Missionary Sarah Allen (1764–1849) was one of the most famous and revered church women of her time. Beloved for establishing the first recognized charity organization for female parishioners and honored as the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church's first female missionary. She also aided runaway slaves through the famous Underground Railroad. She was also the wife of Richard Allen.



22

### # 22 - MILLCREEK ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER -SHANAHAN CATHOLICS CLUB

4624 Lancaster Avenue

This site was the home of the Millcreek Arts and Cultural Center a historic community cornerstone and Beacon of Hope, It was Millcreek's ONLY arts, cultural, historical and community run center.

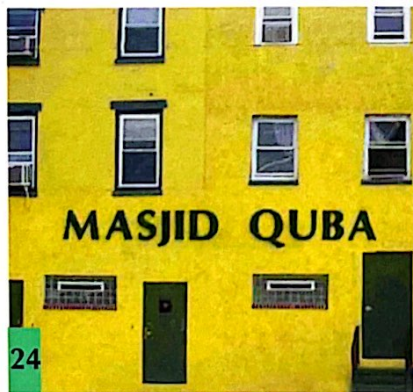


23

### # 23 - THE SISTER CLARA MUHAMMAD SCHOOL & MUHAMMAD SQUARE PARK

47th & Wyalusing Avenue

In 1918, Clara Muhammad married the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. Together, they dedicated themselves to educating their own children, risking their lives and their freedom in an era when not only was independent education illegal, but bold, independent thinking by African Americans was considered a threat. As a result of their dedication, Clara and Elijah Muhammad carved a space in American history as The Mother of Education and as the foundation of Islam in America. They opened up the first Islamic School in the nation, changing the face of freedom and education in America forever.



24

### # 24 - INTERNATIONAL MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD / QUBA INSTITUTE SCHOOL

47th & Lancaster Avenue

In the 1940s when Quba, Inc. (formerly the International Muslim Brotherhood) was founded, Imam Nasir Ahmed and a handful of determined followers left the anonymity and security of a secluded agrarian community (Addenu Allah Universal Arabic Association) of Sunni Muslims that had been formed by Professor Muhammad Ezzaldeen in New Jersey to start the International Muslim Brotherhood in Philadelphia. They put their own meager contributions together and opened their first official masjid on Christian St. in South Philadelphia in 1949, relocating to Lancaster Avenue in the 1950s. Thus began the 73 year journey of the Quba, Inc.



25

### # 25 - BLANKENBURG SCHOOL YARD / and the AFRICAN AMERICAN GRAVE YARD

46 & Merion Avenue

Olive Cemetery was an African American Cemetery located at Girard & Belmont Avenue. It was established February 1849. In 1923 remains were removed and interred at the Eden Cemetery. Frederick Douglas on several occasions has spoken here.





## # 26 - WILL SMITH MURAL

### 4545 West Girard Avenue

Born Willard Carroll Smith II on September 25, 1968, in Philadelphia. He grew up in West Philly's Wynnefield neighborhood. He attended Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary school and Overbrook High School. The multi-talented rapper, songwriter, comedian, actor, producer, philanthropist, Grammy Award winner, and family man has proven to the world that you really can have it all. Smith's work over his 30 year career continues to serve as an inspiration to generations. The city honors Smith with this 65 ft. mural in West Philly.



## # 27 - ED BRADLEY MURAL

### 949 Belmont Avenue

Edward Rudolph Bradley Jr. (June 22, 1941 – Nov. 9, 2006) was an American broadcast journalist and news anchor. He was best known for his 26 years of reporting on 60 Minutes and CBS News. Ed Bradley was a Philadelphia native raised in West Philadelphia. Bradley launched into journalism at Philadelphia's WDAS radio station, after starting out as a Philadelphia public school teacher and administrator following his graduation from local HBCU Cheyney University.



## # 28 - HISTORICAL KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY HOUSE

### 1007 Belmont Avenue

Philadelphia's first national African American private home used for the Philadelphia National Delta Eta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi was founded in 1911, with many chapters established in many cities across the United States. Fraternity Houses independent of a college or University was not uncommon among Black Fraternities or Sororities.



## # 29 - STEPHEN SMITH HOME FOR AGED

### 1050 Belmont Avenue

Stephen Smith (1795-1873) was born enslaved in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. At 21 he purchased his freedom for \$50 and soon joined the abolitionist cause. In 1830 Smith became the chairman of the African American abolitionist group in Columbia, PA., while developing a very successful lumber business. In 1835, his business was destroyed by vandals, afterwards Smith moved to Philadelphia where he again entered the lumber, coal, and real estate business. "Smith was the richest black man in America" said abolitionist Frederick Douglass. As an Underground Railroad agent & Abolitionist, he also used his money to create education programs, libraries, and schools for free blacks. He helped build churches and facilities to aid poor children, and he founded the first home for aged African Americans.



## # 30 - FIRST AFRICAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### 4159 West Girard Avenue

Historic Black Church FAPC is one of Philadelphia's oldest black churches. Today it is still a scene of vibrant worship! In 1807, First African Presbyterian Church was organized in Philadelphia. Along with being the first in the U.S. this church has a rich and complex history, which it builds upon as it charts a new course in worship.





31

### # 31 - NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUE MURAL AND STATE MARKER

#### 44th & Parkside Avenue

44th and Parkside Ballpark was home to the Philadelphia Stars of the Negro Leagues from 1936-52. Now at the corner of Belmont and Parkside Avenues, near to where the ballpark was located, is a wonderful remembrance of it. Included are a large mural featuring scenes from the ballpark, a statue of an unnamed Stars player, as well as an historical marker which describes the significance of the site. It is a well done tribute to a ballpark and team that most people either have forgotten or never knew about.

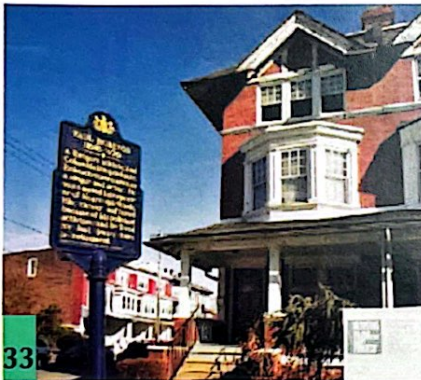


32

### # 32 - UNDERGROUND RAILROAD MUSEUM /AMERICAN WOMEN'S HERITAGE SOCIETY

#### 2000 Belmont Mansion Drive

The American Women's Heritage Society was founded in November 1986 to maintain and restore Belmont Mansion, an 18th century house in Fairmount Park in Philadelphia, PA. The Society is the first organization to operate Belmont Mansion primarily as a historic site. The Society is the only African-American Women's organization to administer a historic mansion in Fairmount Park.... reopened in the summer of 2007 as The Underground Railroad Museum at Belmont Mansion.



33

### # 33 - PAUL ROBESON HOUSE

#### 4951 Walnut Street

The Paul Robeson House was the home of internationally renowned American bass-baritone concert singer, actor of film and stage, All-American and professional athlete, writer, multilingual orator, human rights activist, and lawyer Paul Robeson, who lived here from 1966 until 1976. Located in West Philadelphia, the House produces, presents and promotes travelling lectures, concerts and exhibits.

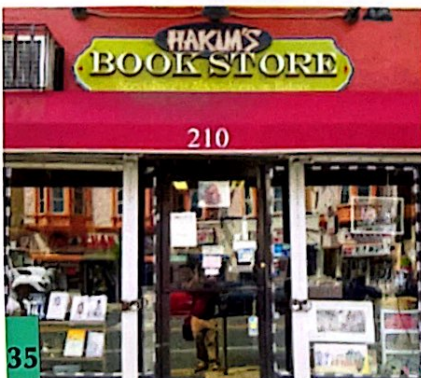


34

### # 34 - CRYSTAL BIRD FAUSET MARKER

#### 5403 Vine Street

Crystal Bird Fauset (1894-1965) was the first African American woman elected to a state legislature in the U.S. Fauset was a graduate of Cheyney State Teachers College,. She won her seat in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1938. She later served as a Civil Defense Race Relations Advisor under President Franklin D. Roosevelt.



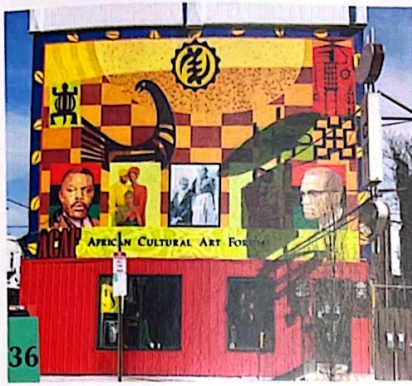
35

### # 35 - HAKIMS BOOK STORE

#### 210 South 52nd Street

Philadelphia's First and Oldest African American Owned Bookstore was founded by Dawud Hakim. Family owned and operated for 61 years that specialize in books on African American history, children's books, religion, natural and holistic health and Afro-Centric gift items.





### # 36 - AFRICAN CULTURAL ART FORUM 221 South 52nd Street

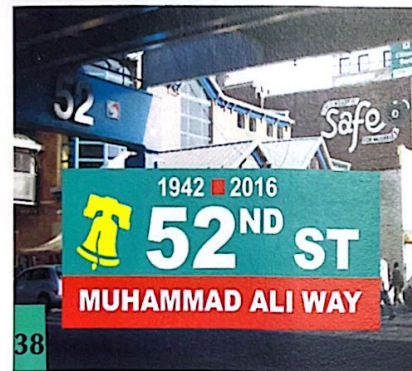
Community Service/Nonprofit, Arts & Crafts: ACAF was established in 1969 by two brothers with one vision. Their product line includes Incense, Shea Butter, Scented Shea Butter, Sea Moss, All natural peppermint body wash & shampoo, Coconut Oil, Black Soap, Jewelry, African Art, Paintings, Carvings and Sculptures. Premium Coffee from the OKU valley of Cameroon, West Africa.



### # 37 - MALCOLM X MEMORIAL PARK

#### 52nd & Pine Street

Malcolm X Memorial Park (formerly known as Black Oak Park) is a six-acre site in West Philadelphia, extending west from 51st Street to 52nd Street and north from Larchwood Avenue to Pine Street. Home to more than 100 towering oaks, two elaborate children play areas, and dozens of comfortable benches and tables for relaxing and meeting. Malcolm X Park is a hub of activity for the diverse West Philadelphia neighborhood. The city passed an ordinance to rename the six-acres of land Malcolm X Memorial Park in 1993.



### # 38 - MUHAMMAD ALI WAY

#### 52nd & Parkside to 52nd & Woodland Avenue

Ali was the greatest heavy boxer of all times, a philanthropist, and civil rights activist. He lived on 72nd Street in the Green Hill Farms section of Philadelphia in the early 1970's. Ali was a frequent visitor of 52nd Street. He would go to Mr. Silk's 3rd Base Lounge, Big George's Restaurant and Foo Foo's Steak Shop.

The 400 Year Coalition & the City held the 52nd Street Re-Naming Ceremony on Juneteenth Day, Saturday, June 22, 2019, in Philadelphia Pennsylvania.



### # 39 - ST THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

#### 6361 Lancaster Avenue

Originally established as the African Church, The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas was founded in 1792. The original African Church was an outgrowth of the Free African Society, a mutual aid organization established in 1787 by Absalom Jones, Richard Allen and others. Many in the congregation because of discrimination followed, Absalom Jones and Richard Allen, in a historic walkout from St. George's Methodist Church. The Reverend Absalom Jones became the first Episcopal priest of African American descent and the first rector of St. Thomas' Church.

The original church was constructed at 5th & Adelphi St in Philadelphia, now St. James Place, and dedicated on July 17, 1794.



### # 40 - OVERBROOK HIGH SCHOOL

#### 5898 Lancaster Avenue

Landmark Philadelphia public high school of Wilt Chamberlain, Will Smith and America's first Black astronaut. It was added to the National Landmark registry in 1986.





**ISLAMIC CULTURAL PRESERVATION AND INFORMATION COUNCIL**

## OUR MISSION

Founded in 1991, ICPIC New Africa Center is a 501c3 non-profit educational/cultural organization registered with the state of PA and the IRS. Our ICPIC New Africa Center offer programs and services in the Delaware Valley Tri-State area. Our primary purpose is to preserve the African American rich cultural heritage and legacy to pass on to future generations and to foster intergroup respect, tolerance and multicultural understanding. ICPIC is dedicated to the community development and revitalization of our neighborhoods.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**NEW AFRICA CENTER**  
**MUSLIM AMERICAN MUSEUM**  
4243 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19104  
**610.352.0424**  
WEB SITE: [www.newafricacenter.com](http://www.newafricacenter.com)  
E.Mail: [icpic@rcn.com](mailto:icpic@rcn.com)

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