



Architects of Freedom: *Baltimore's Pursuit for Desegregation Field Study*

Overview

As the largest free Black community of any American city in the 1850s, Baltimore has long been at the forefront of the fight for equality and civil rights. Explore the legacy of Baltimore's African American leaders, artists, activists, and entrepreneurs in working to create a more just home in Charm City. Learn about the contributions of significant Baltimoreans such as Fredrick Douglas, Thurgood Marshall, Lillie Carroll, Billie Holiday, Zora Neale Hurston, and Isaac Myers, in building communities that sought equity and justice.

Through cultural immersion, meet with community partners in various Black neighborhoods and critically analyze how different communities work to remain intact while facing continuing struggles around issues of equity, power and privilege, and segregation. Focusing on the themes of race, school desegregation, Black entrepreneurship, and Black neighborhoods, this program considers the impact of banking inequity, gentrification, racial covenants, and redlining on the development and retention of community values and culture.

Accommodations

Shared accommodations at downtown Baltimore hotel or vacation rental.

Dining

Eating is a big part of traveling as we experience the culture through our most primal senses of smell and taste. While traveling with Nobis Project, you will experience an array of favorite foods of the region. Participants eat all meals together. Participants have breakfast provided at the hotel. Most days bag lunches are provided. Dinner is a time to unwind and discuss the day's events and will include opportunities to sample the favorite local home-style dishes together at the hotel meeting room.

Airport / Train Information

Participants are responsible for their own transportation for the duration of the program. The closest airports are Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI), Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA), and Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD). It is possible to use public transportation from some east coast cities to get to Baltimore Penn Station (BAL) via train.

Suggested Reading

- [Education as my Agenda](#) by Jo Ann Robinson
- [Afro-American Women of the South](#) by Cynthia Neverdon-Marten
- [Not in my Neighborhood](#) by Antereo Pietila
- [Brown in Baltimore](#) by Howell S. Baum

DAY ONE - MONDAY	
3:00 pm	Arrive and Check-in to Accommodations
4:00 pm	Welcome (Hopes & Fears, Creating a Safe Space, Safety) Introduction to Nobis Big Ideas Nobis Big Ideas Activity (Zoom)
5:30 pm	Stories of School Integration - Guest Speaker (at accommodations) Hear a rich oral history from an African American who lived through the era of legal segregation - or Jim Crow in Baltimore and then experienced early school integration. The presenter shares his/her reflection on where we are today, how we got here, where we need to go, and the possibilities moving forward.
6:30pm	Welcome Dinner at Accommodations
8:00 pm	Evening Activity – Movie / Games
DAY TWO – TUESDAY	
8:00 am	Breakfast at Accommodations
9:00 am	Big Ideas Activity (Story of My Name & Memories of Inclusion Timeline)
10:00 am	Depart by Chartered Bus for Fell’s Point
10:30 am	Black Heritage Walking Tour This historian-led walking tour highlights African American heritage in Baltimore’s Fell’s Point. In the years before the Civil War, enslaved and free African Americans lived, worked, launched business careers, and were sold as slaves along the waterfront in Fell’s Point. The bustling waterfront community launched the successful business careers of many African Americans, including merchant and national labor movement leader Isaac Myers who helped launch the Chesapeake Marine Railway and Dry Dock Company. Fell’s Point was also a key stop to freedom, most notably for Frederick Douglass, who later returned to build affordable houses for former slaves after the Civil War and became a business partner with Myers in the dry dock company.
12:00pm	Bagged Lunch at Fells Point
12:30 pm	Free Time (small group exploring the Inner Harbor?)
2:30 pm	Depart by Chartered Buses for Museum
3:00 pm	Turner Station History Center Tour (Introduction to Service-Learning Project) Tucked away in the southeastern corner of Baltimore County, Turner Station is where many African American workers at Bethlehem Steel and nearby factories lived with their families from the 1800s up through the present. While Bethlehem Steel built housing for white workers in Dundalk after WWI, they made no investments in housing for black workers in Turner Station. Instead, Black residents built their own homes and businesses, growing a community outside the oversight of company officials. Turner Station soon became one of the largest African American communities in Baltimore County. The mission of the Turner Station History Center is to collect, preserve, and share the history of the Turner Station community to ensure the Turner Station legacy lives on!
4:30 pm	Depart by Chartered Buses for Accommodations
5:00 pm	Group Reflection
6:00 pm	Dinner at Accommodations
8:00 pm	Evening Activity – Movie / Games
DAY THREE – WEDNESDAY	
8:00 am	Breakfast at Accommodations
9:00 am	Big Ideas Activity (Sharing Where am I From Poem)
9:45 am	Depart by Chartered Buses for History Center
10:30 am	Historic Pennsylvania Avenue Meet a business owner working to preserve the history and bring back vitality to Baltimore’s Historic Pennsylvania Avenue.
Noon	Catered Lunch at The Avenue Bakery Courtyard
1:00 pm	Depart by Chartered Buses for Accommodations
1:30 pm	Service-Learning Project
3:30 pm	Free Time
5:00 pm	Group Reflection
6:00 pm	Dinner
8:00 pm	Evening Activity – Movie / Games
DAY FOUR – THURSDAY	

8:00 am	Breakfast at Accommodations
9:00 am	Big Ideas Activity (Power / Privilege Continuum)
10:00 am	Depart by Chartered Buses to the Museum
10:30 am	Lillie Carroll Jackson Civil Rights Museum One of the NAACP's most cherished goals was to end lynching in the United States. Galvanized by the last recorded lynching in Maryland, Lillie Carroll Jackson, Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., Juanita Jackson Mitchell, Carl Murphy, Thurgood Marshall, Margaret Carey and their many allies worked tirelessly toward ending the practice of lynching and other racial injustices in our country. At the Lillie Carroll Jackson Civil Rights Museum, discover how their journeys, from local to national victories, have changed the nation for all Americans.
Noon	Bagged Lunch
1:00 pm	Depart by Chartered Bus to Museum
1:15 pm	Maryland Center for History and Culture - Tour of Photo Exhibit Since 1844, the museum at the Maryland Center for History and Culture has amassed a collection of more than 350,000 objects, from pre-settlement times to present day, and represents nearly every aspect of Maryland history and life. The museum is home to a notable permanent exhibit: <i>Maryland's Civil Rights Era in Photographs, circa 1940-1960</i> by Paul Henderson. The early civil rights movement was an era of ardent activism and turmoil in Maryland. Paul Henderson's remarkable photographs offer a vivid glimpse into the daily lives of African Americans at this time.
2:30 pm	Free Time
4:30 pm	Service-Learning Project
5:30 pm	Group Reflection
6:30 pm	Dinner at Accommodations
8:00 pm	Evening Activity – Movie / Games
DAY FIVE - FRIDAY	
8:00 am	Breakfast at Accommodations
9:00 am	Big Ideas Activity (Dominate Narrative Gallery Walk)
10:00 am	Depart by Chartered Bus to University
10:30 am	Morgan State University Archives: Beulah M. Davis Special Collections - Presentation by Historian Many of the topics surrounding African American life in Maryland are about breaking barriers: from enslavement to civil rights, African Americans throughout Maryland sought to assert their rights as human beings and American citizens. The Beulah M. Davis Special Collections at Morgan State University holds a wealth of collections that chronicle individual and group efforts to break barriers. There are several collections that speak to equality and access to education and voting. Meet with historians and view primary documents from the collection.
11:30 am	Depart by Chartered Bus to Museum
12:00 pm	Bagged Lunch at Museum
1:00 pm	Baltimore Museum of Industry Tour The Baltimore Museum of Industry tells the story of Baltimore, a place impacted as much by the worker as the work itself. The BMI galleries recreate parts of a cannery, a garment loft from 1900, a machine shop from 1900, a print shop, a pharmacy, as well as exhibits on the food industry in Baltimore. In the Decker Gallery, the Milestone wall documents inventions and processes discovered first in Baltimore, and Maryland, including accomplishments by African Americans. Recently the museum has re-interpreted their collection to more fully showcase the significant contributions and entrepreneurial leadership of African Americans. One such example includes an exhibit highlighting The Afro-American newspaper (The AFRO), founded in 1892 by John Murphy Sr., a formerly enslaved man and Civil War veteran from Baltimore. He envisioned a newspaper that advocated for civil rights and exposed discriminatory practices, while also advertising Black-owned businesses and celebrating stories of Black excellence. The AFRO is the longest running Black-owned newspaper in the United States, and remains a 4th-generation family-owned business.
2:00 pm	Free Time
4:00 pm	Finalize Service-Learning Project
5:30 pm	Group Reflection
6:30 pm	Farewell Dinner at Accommodations
8:00 pm	Evening Activity – Movie / Games

DAY SIX – SATURDAY	
6:00 am	Breakfast at Accommodations
8:45 am	Check-out of Accommodations
9:00 am	Depart by Chartered Buses to Museum
9:30 am	Presentation of Service-Learning Project with Turner History Center
11:00 am	Final Group Reflection
12:00 pm	Program Ends