

The Clotilda Memorial

Community Meeting | April 21, 2026 | Africatown, Alabama



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Welcome

Community Engagement Session 1

April 21, 2026, 5:30-7pm

Agenda

- Overview & Introduction (15 min)
- Activities
 - 1 | Reflection (15 min)
 - 2 | Commemoration (20 min)
 - 3 | Core Values (20 min)
 - 4 | Reflection (15 min)
- Wrap Up & Next Steps

Who we are - Consultant Team

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Who we are



Community Engagement Session 1

The Project

The Clotilda Memorial will honor the last African captives trafficked to the United States through the transatlantic slave trade: the *Clotilda* survivors.

It will convey dimensions of the survivors' lives and legacies—celebrating their resilient and determined spirits amidst violent dislocation, enslavement, and discrimination.

A special artist commission will engage the community founded by the *Clotilda* survivors and other enslaved people—historic Africatown and the expansive diaspora—to preserve collective memory and offer public space for healing.*

*Subject to Community Feedback

Overview

- This project is part of a continuum
- This project offers opportunities to integrate with existing efforts/network
- These sessions are intended to create a framework for artists to respond to

Overview

This project is:

- An artist commission
- There is funding in place to hire artist (by end of 2026)
- The fabrication is set for 2027
- The funds must be spent on this project

What is a memorial?

A memorial is any *object, place, or ceremony* designed to preserve the memory of a person, group, or historical event.

This can range from physical structures like monuments, statues, and plaques to intangible tributes like memorial services, holidays, or ceremonies.

Why do memorials exist?

All around the world, people are compelled to take special actions for personal, spiritual, traditional, and honorary reasons

The design of objects and spaces help facilitate that human need

What can a memorial be?

It can engage your senses

It can interact with nature

It can be created with natural or
man-made materials

It almost always evokes contemplation and emotion

Where we are in the
process



What we're hearing
from you

Let's continue the
conversation

Reflection

Individual activity (10 minutes)

**How do you want someone to feel
when they experience
the memorial?**

Quotes from the Audience

"The weight of sorrow for people captured and unable to return home"

"Empathy for the 110 but encouragement for the community they founded."

"Remember that human beings have value and should not have their spirits or their labor exploited."

Commemoration

Small group activity (20 minutes)

Think about how the memorial could be used as a place of commemoration—what are some ways that you might consider?

Identify which of these resonate and add to the blank cards as needed.

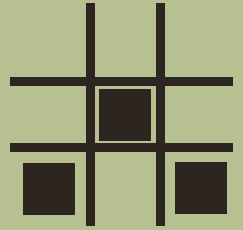
Commemoration

Small group activity (20 minutes)

- **A Place for Intergenerational Dialogue**
- **A Place to Share Stories**
- **Community Advocacy**
- **Connect with Past, Present, and Future**
- **Education**
- **Gather**
- **Hold Ceremonies**
- **Honor Ancestors**
- **Process Grief**
- **Reflect**
- **Remembrance**

Core Values / Themes

Small group activity (20 minutes)



What are some themes and collective values that are important to share with an artist before they create a proposal?

Place a core value/theme in the center of the grid and add complementing themes around the edges.

Core Values / Themes

Small group activity (20 minutes)

- **Acknowledging the Past**
- **African Roots**
- **Ancestral Memory**
- **Collective Healing**
- **Dignity**
- **Historical Accuracy**
- **Hope for the Future**
- **Mutual Care and Respect**
- **Recognition**
- **Separation and Loss**
- **Spiritual and Cultural**
- **Survival and Resilience**
- **Traditions**

Reflection

Individual activity (15 minutes)

How can the memorial contribute to ongoing efforts to honor the history of the *Clotilda* survivors?

Quotes from the Audience

"Sharing the truth, resilience and determination of the Africans who made this place their home."

"Make sure that the story is correct and true."

"...by conveying the theme that allowed for this story to persist: collectivity, community togetherness."

Thank You

The Clotilda Memorial

Next Steps

Link to virtual workshop:

- **Date: Tuesday, April 28th**
- **Time: 5:30 p.m. CST**
- **Location: Online meeting (Zoom)**
- **For a link email us at**
theclotildamemorial@gmail.com