

The Clotilda Memorial

Community Meeting | June 11th, 2026 | Virtual



CIVIC PROJECTS
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Welcome

Community Engagement Session 2

June 11th, 2026, 6-7:30 pm

Agenda

- Overview & Introduction (20 min)
- Activity (20 min)
- Feedback & Questions
- Wrap Up & Next Steps

Who we are - Consultant Team

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Who we are



Community Engagement Session 2

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

Where we are
in the process





What we're hearing
from you

What we're hearing...

The Clotilda Memorial should be about the

- Themes:
 - The People
 - Ancestors
 - History
- Memorial Design
 - Impact

What we're hearing

We want the memorial to:

- Humanize/Remember the survivors
- Honor/Connect with our ancestors
- Educate/Preserve history
- Evoke strong emotion and empathy



What we're hearing

The People

Who they were, What they did, and
Where they came from

What we're hearing

The People

The focus should be on the survivors, not the ship.

The memorial should speak to the humanity of every survivor.

The people on the ship had full lives before enslavement, and after.

There should be an effort to help the public understand the fear and grief of the survivors as well as their determination and resilience.



What we're hearing: The People

"These people were profound
conscious human beings."

What we're hearing: The People

"...Pay homage to the 110 in the cargo hold."

What we're hearing: The People

"Their story did not begin
with enslavement."

What we're hearing

History

Historical accuracy and acknowledgment is highly important in conveying this story, particularly given past erasure.

The memorial should be a transformative education that compels the public to remember and seek more knowledge and change.

Future generations, descendants, and the public need to know this history.



What we're hearing: History

"If you have a memory of the past and your facts are accurate, then you can teach the future generation about what went on in the past."

What we're hearing: History

"There's been so many stories that have been lost in our generation and past generations, so this is where we begin to hold those conversations that will last over the next 100 plus years."

What we're hearing: History

"[We've] been saying it for a hundred years or more... Once people acknowledge it, then the community can begin to heal."



The Clotilda Memorial

What we're hearing

Ancestors

The ancestral connection to Africa is an essential part of the story.

The memorial should honor the accomplishments of the ancestors.

The *Clotilda* survivors brought values, skills, and traditions from Africa that were shared from generation to generation.

What we're hearing: Ancestors

"African roots... and spiritual and cultural traditions... That was the heartbeat. Everything started from there."

What we're hearing: Ancestors

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



What we're hearing

Impact

The memorial must acknowledge and convey the pain & fear of the survivors.

The memorial should evoke and grapple with deep, complex emotion.

People should be moved to action by this experience.

The memorial can encourage a spirit of togetherness

What we're hearing: Impact

"The memorial can contribute to ongoing efforts to honor the history of the *Clotilda* survivors by conveying the theme that allowed for this story to persist: community togetherness."

What we're hearing: Impact

"What they had to endure
must be conveyed."



What we're hearing: Impact

"We want visitors to feel the weight of sorrow for people captured and unable to return home.

The pain of separation, homesickness and longing for loved ones they will never see again."

What we're hearing: Impact

"People should leave
wanting to change."



Feedback and Questions

Let's continue the
conversation

Message to the Artist

20 mins

What do you want the artist to know?

Think of something you want to tell the future artist of the memorial: a personal history, a point of importance, or anything else that they will need to know when designing the memorial.



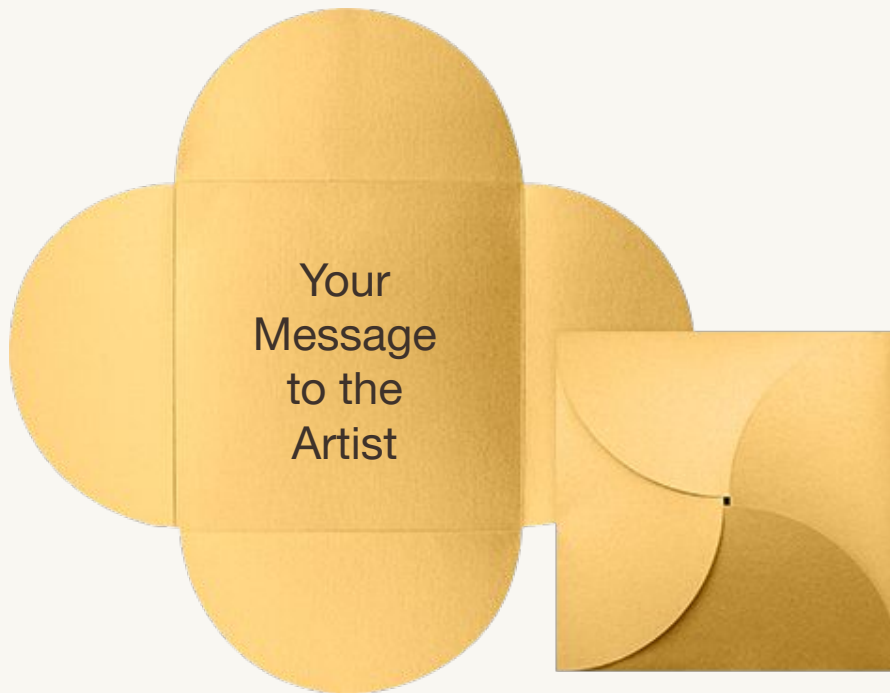
Message to the Artist

20 mins

What do you want the artist to know?

We will be transcribing your notes and will deliver them to the artist after they are selected.

Feel free to raise your hand and share aloud or type in the chat.



What resonates with you?

10 mins

**HONOR
THE
ANCESTORS**

**RESILIENT
&
DETERMINED**

**LIVING
HISTORY**

**TEACH
FUTURE
GENERATIONS**

**IT'S
ABOUT
THE
PEOPLE**

Pin and Message Swap Activity

20 mins

Take a pin, leave a note

We created 5 pins of some key ideas from community feedback.

Feel free to take a custom pin and replace it with your note in the same place. Use a push pin to attach the note to the cork board.



Next Steps

Provide your inspiration

We will also be available **tomorrow, June 5th from 1-3:30 pm at Heritage House** to record first-person inspirations, connected stories, memories and reflections surrounding the histories of the Clotilda survivors. These might be oral tellings, photos or physical objects.

Where: **Heritage House**

When: **Tomorrow, 1-3:30pm**

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Pin and Message Swap Activity

20 mins

What do you want the artist to know?

Write a note to the future artist of the memorial: a personal history, a point of importance, or anything else that they will need to know when designing the memorial.

The envelope can be closed or left open.

Take a pin, leave a note

We created 5 pins of some key ideas from community feedback.

Feel free to take a custom pin and replace it with your note in the same place. Use a push pin to attach the note to the cork board.

Wrap-up and Next Steps

Next Steps

Link to virtual workshop:

- Date: Thursday, June 11th
- Time: 5:30 p.m. CST
- Location: Online meeting (Zoom)
- For a link email us at

theclotildamemorial@gmail.com

Thank You