

AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE PROJECT

Project Description

The City of Sacramento Historic Preservation Office is developing a thematic history to identify significant people, cultural history, and places associated with the African American experience in Sacramento from the city's early history through the recent past. The project completion is anticipated to be in the summer of 2023.

Project Scope

Research: History students from CSUS, volunteers from partner organizations, and the historic consultant would work collaboratively to gather secondary and primary source material about the Black experience in Sacramento.

How to participate: Submit copies of family photos, newspaper clippings, and other relevant records to assist with the research effort. More information on the project website.

Oral History Collection: In 2021, students from CSUS met with interested individuals and conducted 8 oral history interviews with community elders, informal historians, and other important individuals identified with help from community partners.

How to Participate: In an expanded effort, members of the public are now invited to record interviews with their friends and family members and submit their stories to an oral history collection that will become part of the project and create an archive of Black stories for future researchers.

Community Outreach: Community outreach and engagement is fundamental to creating a credible, successful, and fully useful product that will empower effective preservation planning efforts by the city, with support from its citizens. We have a series of public meetings planned to engage the public and gather comments and ideas for how to make the project the most impactful it can be.

How to participate: Save the date for our next public meeting that will be held on September 28th at 6pm! Details will be announced shortly on our website.

Survey Component: In late 2022, Sacramento State students will conduct property-specific research and prepare at least 15 historic property evaluations. These properties may become the first landmark properties following the project completion.

Historic Context Statement: The final organizing document would provide a foundation for the identification of significant individuals, key events, and an evaluation of places and sites associated with the African American community. The context would include the following elements:

- A direct and precise narrative explaining what aspects of history, culture, and public policy significantly shaped the physical development of Sacramento's Black cultural landscape.
- A framework for identifying and evaluating resources and important African American people and places.

- Establish tangible and intangible characteristics and patterns that are important representations of the African American experience.
- Categories of potentially significant property types.
- Historical property significance and integrity criteria.
- Appendices including the oral history and survey records associated with the project.

Project Contact

Sean de Courcy, Historic Preservation Director, Community Development Department

sdecourcy@cityofsacramento.org

(916) 662-2626 (mobile)

Project email: AAE@cityofsacramento.org

Project Website: Search “African American Experience Project Sacramento” on your internet browser or follow the link [here](#).