

# Archived Information

## Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) FY 2007 Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program – New Awards by Grant Number as of 9/30/2007–

### NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FREEDOM CENTER (Cincinnati, Ohio)

#### National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

**Grant:** P345A070002  
**Start:** 10/01/2007  
**End:** 09/30/2010  
**Funding:** \$ 989,100  
**Program:** Underground Railroad  
Educational and Cultural  
Program

The 2007 grant award from FIPSE to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center (FC) will be used to further and support the FC's mission to reveal stories about the Underground Railroad and freedom's heroes, past and present, challenging and inspiring everyone to take courageous steps for freedom today.

Specifically, with the grant we will implement a robust schedule of special speakers, events, programs, community forums, and changing exhibits. The grant monies will help us continue this mission and take us to the necessary next steps, as requested from our guests, our educator-supporters, and our student visitors.

Our exhibits consist of six permanent experiences and two changing galleries. Resources from the grant will be used to help maintain our permanent exhibit experiences while we use money from the Kettering Foundation to create technological enhancements to improve children experiences in the exhibit spaces. These enhancements will allow young visitors to better absorb the FC's often more mature, complex content. In addition, the FC has a menu of exciting and educational changing exhibits planned for 2008. These exhibits will explore themes such as Lincoln, Ghanaian Kente cloth, the history of Black U.S. Marshalls, the life of John Parker, and courageous Americans who have chosen to tell the truth.

To enhance our exhibit experiences, the FC has scheduled an enriching calendar of public programs and activities. These programs will include a Major Voices Author Series, the Theodore M. Berry Distinguished Lecture Series. Scheduled speakers include such important voices as Michael Eric Dyson in February, Doris Kearns Goodwin in March, Eric Foner in October, and a host of other important authors such as Saidiya Hartman and Professor John Powell. Grant funding will be allocated to ensure that these programs are properly promoted. Grant funds will also be used to manage the Center's highly-visited Web site, which serves an important role in itself to inform and educate our virtual visitors. For our younger visitors and families, multi-generational programming is scheduled. These programs will be built around the FC's core themes of courage, cooperation, and perseverance. In addition, the FC will continue to grow and support its current

Historical, Contemporary, and International satellite Freedom Stations (currently 62 stations) and host the National Underground Railroad Freedom Conference.

Important to note as well is that the grant funds will be used toward services specifically for our annual base of 50,000 visiting school children coming from cities all across the country. For them we have developed a series of tour experiences specifically crafted to meet Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky state standards. The majority of these students are led by trained Exhibit Interpreters who first undergo a rigorous seventeen-week training period. Our goal is to expand these services beyond the walls of the FC in 2008 through distance learning experiences, educational podcasts, outreach programs, Webquests, and Web-based curriculum. Teachers will continue to be supported through professional development in the form of teacher institutes and classroom learning as well as through the use of our Teacher Resource Center. In addition to our school programs, the FC offers a variety of interpretive options including a team of talented Historic Re-Enactors, adult and children audio tours and guided highlight and thematic tours led by Exhibit Interpreters and Links, Inc. Youth Docents, a high school program sponsored by the Links, Inc.

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## NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY (New York, New York)

### Revolution! - The Influence of the American Revolution on the Underground Railroad

**Grant:** P345A070001  
**Start:** 10/01/2007  
**End:** 09/30/2010  
**Funding:** \$ 989,100  
Underground Railroad  
**Program:** Educational and Cultural Program

The New-York Historical Society (N-YHS) is developing a major new exhibition and education initiative entitled "Revolution!" which continues the efforts of our landmark exhibitions "Slavery in New York" (2005) and "New York Divided: Slavery and the Civil War" (2006) to examine the "contagion of freedom" that buttressed the Underground Railroad. The project shows how revolutions in America, France, and Haiti uniquely defined notions of freedom, equality, and human rights, and in fact played a key role in the abolition of slavery in the United States by serving as a foundation for the rhetoric and activism of abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, David Walker, David Ruggles, Henry Highland Garnet, James McCune Smith, and many other key figures in the Underground Railroad. A vital element of this story to be explored deeply is the link between the forces of liberation unleashed in the 18th century and the violent response to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, which triggered a boom in Underground Railroad activity.

Featuring an array of riveting authentic materials - many on public display for the first time - we will tell a compelling story for a broad and diverse audience of all ages. As is done in conjunction with all major exhibitions at N-YHS, we will produce for "Revolution!" a series of relevant public programs and educational activities, including curriculum materials and onsite Museum-educator-led tours and programs, for educators and students through the college and post-graduate level. A comprehensive exhibition Web site with links to likeminded institutions, as well as a traveling version of the show, will extend the life of the exhibition and reach an enormous and diverse local, national, and international audience.

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