

Research Project Description: Black History Walking Tour of Downtown Johnson City

Issue Date: March 22, 2023

Completion Date: December 1, 2023

Send Submissions To: Brenda Whitson, info@visitjohnsoncitytn.com

Summary:

The Johnson City Convention & Visitors Bureau (JCCVB), in collaboration with Langston Education and Arts Development, Inc. (LEAD), seeks to enter into a contract with an independent scholar to conduct comprehensive research regarding the history of African Americans in downtown Johnson City, Tennessee. The researcher is to utilize local and digital primary and secondary sources to develop a walking tour of the downtown area for visitors and residents alike.

JCCVB and LEAD will award a contract for the work to be performed once project funding is secured.

Overview:

Langston Education and Arts Development, Inc. (LEAD) is a private, 501-c (3) not-for-profit associated with the Langston Centre, a former African American high school and currently a multicultural institution in Johnson City, Tennessee. LEAD’s mission is to “preserve the integrity, legacy, and historical value of Langston High School campus for the posterity and enhancement of the community. LEAD is committed to providing responsive educational and multi-cultural opportunities designed to bring diverse groups of people together in a safe learning environment.” Learn more at: www.leadlhs.org.

The Johnson City Convention & Visitors Bureau (JCCVB) is a full-service marketing destination organization located right in the heart of Downtown Johnson City. Its mission is to preserve, protect and promote the historic, natural, and cultural resources of the area for tourism purposes. Learn more at: www.visitjohnsoncitytn.com.

The Heritage Alliance of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia is a 501c3 non-profit dedicated to the preservation of the architectural, historical, and cultural heritage of our region and to providing educational experiences related to history and heritage for a wide range of audiences. Learn more at: www.heritageall.org.

Scope of Work:

The project shall include but not be limited to:

1. Conducting preliminary research on:
 - a. The availability, scope, and content of existing information regarding the history of Johnson City's Black community.
 2. Eight to ten sites significant to local Black history that can be incorporated into a general walking tour less than 1 mile in length.
 3. A proposed walking route throughout the downtown area that reflects a cohesive historical narrative and includes a variety of sites.
 4. Text for signage pertinent to each tour "stop," including primary sources and images, as well as historical facts (in terms of important people, places, events, and themes.), and a connection to the core narrative of the tour.
 5. References to other successful models of similar walking tours.
2. Work with LEAD/JCCVB to determine research questions, sources, and objectives of main research
3. Utilize local and digital primary and secondary sources to compile factual information on the activities, contributions, and cultural and societal factors surrounding Black history in Johnson City
4. Understand that the compiled information will be used by LEAD and JCCVB in developing preservation and public history initiatives that incorporate and/or highlight the local Black history. This project will serve as a foundation for future research and preservation efforts.
5. Agree to submit monthly written updates in order to track project progress.
6. All work is to be conducted within approximately eight (8) calendar months; the project is to be completed by December 1, 2023.

Qualifications:

The following qualifications are required:

1. Experience conducting and completing high-level scholarly research, demonstrated via publication record or advanced education, including a BA, MA, or PhD in a relevant field.
2. Knowledge of and experience working in the historical subject areas of local history, public history, social and cultural history, Black Studies, or other related subject.
3. Strong research skills, including experience working with archives.
4. Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
5. Strong organization and ability to work within prescribed timeframes and meet deadlines.

Guidelines for Submission:

Individuals wishing to be considered for this project should submit the following materials:

1. Cover letter (or letter of interest)
2. Either a résumé, CV, or statement of qualifications, including list of previous research experience and publications
3. Names and contact information of three references who can attest to quality of work performed within the past five years.
4. Statement of disclosure of any actual or potential conflict that may impact ability to perform the duties of the contract within the prescribed timeframe and to the best interests of LEAD and JCCVB.

All responses should be submitted to Brenda Whitson at info@visitjohnsoncitytn.com. Please, no phone calls.

Compensation: \$5,000.00

Submissions must be received by **April 10, 2023**