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Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia Included on UNESCO’s Network of Places of History and Memory Linked to Enslavement and the Slave Trade

BHMVA One of Only Four Places in U.S. Included on Inaugural UNESCO List

[Richmond, VA] – The Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia (BHMVA) is honored to announce its inclusion as one of the first 22 places added to UNESCO’s Network of Places of History and Memory. BHMVA is one of only four places in the U.S. included on this inaugural list from UNESCO, a specialized United Nations agency that stands for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The purpose of the network is to allow members to share their good practices in conservation, promotion, and education.

“I’m thrilled that UNESCO has recognized the Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia in their work to advance the essential memory and education of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and its victims through the creation of this new network,” said **Shakia Gullette Warren, executive director of BHMVA**. “To say we are thrilled to be selected as one of the UNESCO’s Network of Places of History and Memory linked to Enslavement and the Slave Trade is an understatement! The Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia (BHMVA) is driven by our mission to share, interpret, preserve, exhibit, and commemorate the rich history and culture of African Americans throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond. This recognition affirms we are succeeding in our efforts, and it is our call to action to continue to do this work with pride, integrity, and vigilance. To tell the historically significant and indelibly intertwined narrative of the role of Richmond, VA, and the enslaved Black bodies who were here, in the full context of the national and global fight for freedom is our honor.”

The first 22 places joining the Network of Places of History and Memory were unveiled at an event at UNESCO headquarters in Paris last week, as part of the 30th Anniversary of Organization’s flagship program called “Routes of Enslaved Peoples.” Since its creation by UNESCO in 1994, “Routes of Enslaved Peoples” has contributed to the production of innovative knowledge and education programs, the development of high-level scientific networks, and to remembering the experiences of enslaved peoples.

Earlier this year, the Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia was [designated](#) as a member of the National Park Service's African American Civil Rights Network.

About Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia

The Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia celebrates the rich culture of African American people in Virginia and shares their stories to provide a complete and more inclusive history of their contributions to the American story. The museum is part of the National Park Service (NPS) African American Civil Rights Network (AACRN) and one of the UNESCO's Network of Places of History and Memory linked to Enslavement and the Slave Trade. For more information, visit www.blackhistorymuseum.org.

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