



HERITAGE

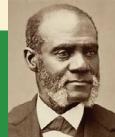
MARYLAND



TOURISM



SUMMIT & EXPO



November 14, 2025
American Legion Post #77
Easton, MD 21601



PRESENTED BY

The Alliance of Business Owners, Organizations, and Supporters

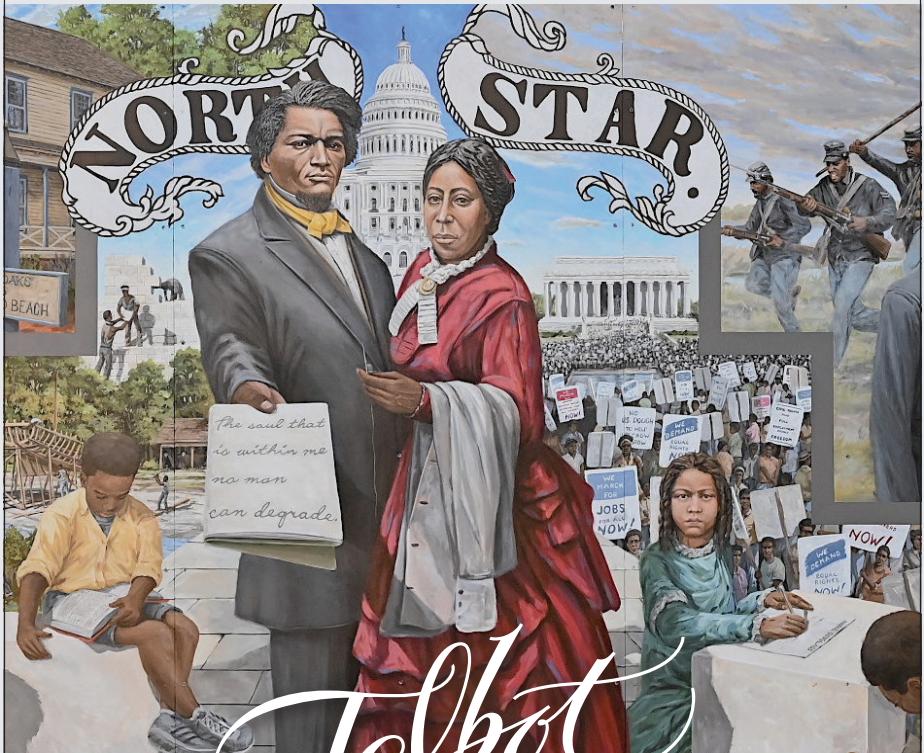
Lou Fields, Convenor

Baltimore African American Tourism Council, Inc.

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FREDERICK DOUGLASS



Talbot
COUNTY

The long journey of Frederick Douglass from enslavement to international fame as abolitionist, author, and statesman began in Talbot County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. See the Talbot County sites that formed one of the greatest 19th century Americans in four self-guided driving tours. You'll pass through picturesque towns and historic farms on the way to understanding more about this man.



Scan here for more



410-770-8000 | FrederickDouglassBirthplace.org

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208th Birthday of *Frederick Douglass* Valentines Day **GALA**

The Launch of the Fredrick Douglass
Society of African American History,
Culture & Affairs!

6:30PM

WATERFOWL BUILDING
EASTON, MD

2.14.26

Tickets are available for advance purchase at FDHill.org.
Tickets: \$110

187th Anniversary Douglass “Escape from Slavery” Tour



Frederick Douglass



“Path to Freedom” Walking Tour in the Historic Fell’s Point Waterfront.

Contact: Lou Fields | Te: 443. 983.7974 | Email: bbhtours@gmail.com

See Tour photos: www.bdxlive.biz | www.facebook.com/bbhtours

Departure Point: Fell’s Point Square @ Broadway & Thames, by the Water Taxi in Fell’s Point, Baltimore

Cost: Tour Confirmation/Reservation Fee: \$25 | Gratuity: \$25. All fees are non-refundable. Good for a year.
Per Person Fees: Adults-\$30.00, Seniors/Students \$25.00, Children under 15- \$20.00, Under 6-Free.
Tour Fee Minimum: \$75.00. Tours are by Appointment. Advance Payment by credit/debit card required.

Attendees: Teachers, educators, students, researchers, historians, tourists, officials, reunions, conventions, general public. Everyone is invited. Please review [The Narrative of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave.](#)

A young Frederick Douglass resided in Fell’s Point as a slave from 1826 until he escaped from American slavery on Monday, September 3, 1838 via the Underground Railroad. Lou Fields, President of BAATC created the Frederick Douglass Path to Freedom Walking Tour in historic Fell’s Point in February 2000. In 2001, C-SPAN covered the walking tour on their national TV network. On March 27, 2003 the City of Baltimore erected four historic markers honoring Douglass along the Path to Freedom Walking Tour route.

In 2005, the tour received acceptance into the National Park Service and the Maryland Network to Freedom Underground Railroad Program. In 2006, the Living Classrooms Foundation opened the Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Museum which is a stop on the tour.

This tour is always available daily by appointment and lasts about one hour. Tour guides lead attendees along the route where Douglass lived, worked and worshipped as well as the maritime sites and notables places in historic Fell’s Point. The tour is an excellent educational outing for students, educators, visitors, and persons interested in learning more about Baltimore’s role in immigrant, maritime, slavery, Underground Railroad and local history. The setting for the tour is in Fell’s Point, Baltimore’s original waterfront on the east side of the Inner Harbor. Fell’s Point features many unique retail shops, eateries, personalities and sights of old Baltimore.

About the Baltimore African American Tourism Council of MD, Inc.

The Council is a community-based nonprofit organization co-founded in March 1996 by the late Steven Pace and Louis C. Fields. The Council’s goals include the research, documentation, preservation, protection, and promotion of African American History, Culture and Tourism within the State of Maryland. BAATC is a one-stop shop for travel and tourism requests coming into the State of Maryland and other select cities. In year 2000, BAATC led to the establishment of Harriet Tubman Day in Maryland. My newest book titled [Freedom Seekers](#) is available. \$24.95. Orders can be placed by sending an email to bbhtours@gmail.com.

Special Group Tours: RSVP to email: bbhtours@gmail.com or call Lou Fields @ 443.983.7974.



Greetings from the Maryland General Assembly



Dear Louis and Fellow Attendees:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 Maryland Heritage Tourism Summit & Exposition! This year's theme, "Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present, Inspiring the Future," speaks to the strength of our heritage and the responsibility we share to carry it forward.

As an Eastern Shore native, I am proud that Dorchester County—the birthplace of Harriet Tubman—stands as the backdrop for this important gathering. Our soil and waterways hold the stories of courage, resilient, and freedom that continue to inspire us today.

As your representative in the Maryland General Assembly, I remain committed to preserving and uplifting African American heritage across our state. May this summit enrich, connect, and inspire you to honor the past while boldly shaping the future.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheree Sample-Hughes".

Sheree Sample-Hughes
Delegate, Maryland General Assembly

Dorchester & Wicomico Counties – Legislative District 37A



WELCOME

MARYLAND HERITAGE TOURISM SUMMIT & EXPO

*Theme: Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present,
Inspiring the Future*

Hosts: MHTSE- Co-chairs: Cheryl A. Coles, Francine Allen,
Morgan State University Student: Jazmen Wilkerson

Summit Convenor: Lou Fields, President, Baltimore African American
Tourism Council, Inc.



Lou Fields, Convenor

Thank you for attending and supporting the inaugural Maryland Heritage Tourism Summit and Business Expo. Join us in honoring the people of Maryland's Eastern Shore. Many a Easternshoreman have worn the uniform of the American Armed Forces. As we celebrate the November 11, 2025, National Veterans Day, we remember Uncle Nace *aka* Nathaniel Hopkins, a former Eastern Shore enslaved person, who served in the United States Colored Troops fighting for the Union Army's dual cause; the effort to abolish slavery and the effort to save the Union.

Today we gather in the hometown of Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman and travel paths where Henry Highland Garnet, Jr., Samuel Green, William Still, Gloria Richardson, Sam Ringgold Ward, Evelyn Townsend, Dr. Kay McElvey, John Crieghton, Anna Murray, Dr. William Hyche, Charles and Jeanette Chipman, Dr. Ron Managua Karen-na, and Dr. Earl Richardson all traveled.

Today in Maryland, we have the nation's only African American Governor; we have Senator Angela Alsobrooks, the first African American to be elected to the United States Senate from the State of Maryland; we have the nation's largest number of African Americans serving in a state legislature. The only remaining question is: Are Maryland's political and business leaders & their organizations working with their members, ready to take leadership, and work together to create more wealth creation and business opportunities for people of color? Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Parity are not dead and cannot be eradicated by any one person, not even the President of the United States. This is our Project 2026. *Let's Win Back The House*

Special thanks to Dr. Robert L. Wallace, Commander William Griffin, our sponsors, supporters, speakers, vendors, awardees, staff, our student interns, volunteers, and our co-chairs Cheryl A. Coles and Francine Allen. *Note: The second Summit will be held in Annapolis on Thursday, January 15, 2026*

Onward & Upward!

Lou Fields

www.atasteofsoul.biz / www.bdxlive.biz

atasteofsoul443@gmail.com | Tel: 443.983.7974

*(on the cover, l-r, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Gloria Richardson,
Henry Highland Garnet, Jr.)*

SCHEDULE



Presented by the Alliance of Business Owners, Organization & Supporters

Friday, November 14, 2025 | 1–5PM

American Legion Post #77, 102 Glenwood Avenue, Easton, MD

** Event is free and open to the public.*

1:00pm

- **Welcome** Summit Co-chairs: Cheryl A. Coles, NSU Alum; Francine Allen, JHU alum, US Marines
- **Invocation** Chaplain, Victor Middleton, American Legion Post #77
- **Greetings** William Griffin, Commander Post # 77, US Army (Ret)
- **Welcome to the Shore** Cassandra VanHooser, Talbot County Tourism; Kristen Goller, Talbot County Tourism
- **Presentations**.....Mary Handley, Office of Comptroller Brooke Lierman

1:30pm

- **Introduction of Speaker**.....Kendrick Tilghman
- **Speaker: Dr. Robert L. Wallace, CEO, BithGroup Global Technologies**
- **Q&A**
- **Presentation**.....Lou Fields, Maryland Friends of Freedom Awards

2:30pm

- **Panel Discussion-1: Establishing the Eastern Shore Black Chamber of Commerce**

Dr. Robert L. Wallace, BithGroup Global Technologies
Kendrick Tilghman, CEO, 5 Star Enterprises, former President,
Greater Baltimore Black Chamber of Commerce (GBBCC)
Moderator: Lou Fields, leader founder/1st President, GBBCC

- **Panel Discussion-2: Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present, Inspiring the Future**

Maya Davis, Program Director, Riverdale Plantation
Dr. Clara Small, Professor of African American Studies, Salisbury State University (Ret)

John Queen, Director, Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation
Moderator: Jazmen Wilkerson, Morgan State University, '26

- **4:00pm Reflections from the Awardees**

- **4:30pm Closing Remarks:** Dr. Dale Green

- **6pm-8pm Booths on the Ground Roundup**, American Legion Post #77

*Door Prizes: MD Tourism Coalition, Nanci & Richie S.
Music courtesy of DJ 5 Star / Photography by Hynson's Photo Service*

*connect * convene * collaborate*



presents

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ADVOCACY DAY

at

MARYLAND HOUSE of DELEGATES

Thursday, January 15, 2026 • 2:00 - 6:00pm

Delegation Room 170
6 Bladen St
Annapolis, MD 21401

PROJECT 2026: WBTH

Fmi: thealliance443@gmail.com

Lou Fields: 443-983-7974

*organize * strategize * mobilize*

Maryland "Friend of Freedom" Awardees, cont'd

(from page 11)

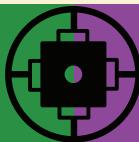
Lisa Green is a dedicated leader, faith-driven visionary, and co-founder of the

Harriet Tubman Freedom Center, where she plays an instrumental role in shaping the organization's mission to educate, inspire, and empower through history, culture, and community engagement.

Alex Green is a passion-

ate historical interpreter, cultural educator, and founder of the Harriet Tubman Freedom Center and Harriet Tubman Tours on Maryland's Eastern Shore. With more than a decade dedicated to researching and presenting the life and legacy of Harriet Tubman.

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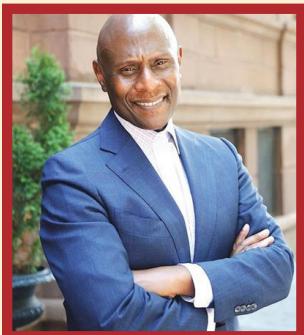
Lou Fields | Author, Historian

Kreative Artisan Threads | Letropier D. Coles

Reginald Lewis Museum | Kali Dodson



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Robert L. Wallace

Robert L. Wallace is an internationally-known entrepreneur, author, speaker and consultant. With more than 40 years of business experience spanning engineering, energy and IT, Bob blends decades of research with practical real-world advice to educate and inspire entrepreneurs and executives worldwide.

His rags-to-riches story began in the Baltimore projects amidst poverty and racial segregation, before overcoming obstacles to establish three

companies: BITHGROUP Technologies, Bithenergy, and through RobertWallace.com, EntreTeach.

Now, he shares his innovative strategies for success with other corporate and community leaders through his growing library of books and other content, and through his energetic keynote presentations and training workshops. Wallace earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics at the University of Pennsylvania, and his MBA from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College, where he began his research on the characteristics of successful entrepreneurs. He was also awarded a Doctorate of Humane Letters (Honorary) from Sojourner-Douglass College.

Bob is a passionate community leader and devoted church elder who believes in the intersection of spirituality and business. He's written six books on wealth creation, strategic partnerships, business spirituality, emerging markets and entrepreneurship. His books address the challenges faced by women, people of color, and entrepreneurs of all stripes from domestic and global emerging markets. Bob tells the story of these amazing people with an insightful approach that makes his writing equally compelling to large corporations with an "intrapreneurial" spirit. Politically, he also made history when he became the first independent candidate for Mayor of Baltimore to earn a spot on the ballot in 2020. Garnering close to 50,000 votes, Mr. Wallace has built a coalition that will forever change the political terrain of Baltimore City.

When he's not researching, mentoring or presenting to other business leaders, Bob enjoys spending time with his wife of 44 years, their five children and ten grandchildren.

HONOREES



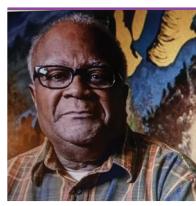
Maryland "Friend of Freedom" Awardees



Tarence Bailey

The 5X great nephew of Frederick Douglass was the pivotal force behind creating the Douglass Mural in Easton, Talbot County, MD. Mr. Bailey is available for lectures and presentations. He can be reached at tarencebailey70@gmail.com.

Jan's professional mileage extends through her role as Principal of Water 2 Wine Consulting Group, where she equips non-profit executives and small business owners with the tools to build capacity, secure funding, and achieve sustainability.



Bill Jarmon



Tonet Ross Cuffee

Tonet Ross Cuffee, a proud descendant of Harriet Ross Tubman, carries forward her great-aunt's legacy through leadership, advocacy, and storytelling.

She has represented the Ross-Tubman family at major events, including the 2024 Maryland National Guard ceremony recognizing Tubman as a one-star general.

Beyond public speaking, Tonet serves as a 2GEN Coordinator and ROMA Implementer at Delmarva Community Services. Through her work and voice, she emphasizes that "The Underground Railroad is still under construction" ensuring Harriet Tubman's story is not only remembered but lived out in action.



Jan Desper Peters

For nearly two decades, Jan Desper Peters has been behind the wheel of High Ground Transportation Services, Inc., steering one of Maryland's most respected minority-owned transportation toward consistent growth, impact, and integrity. As CEO, she has built Higher Ground into a trusted partner for major infrastructure projects like the Frederick Douglass Tunnel.

Mr. Bill Jarmon is a multi-faceted, very talented, exceptionally astute man who values education and strives to educate the public on all levels. Bill taught at North Dorchester Middle and Junior Senior High School, where in 1966, he became the first black teacher at the school. Bill was also the first black teacher at Seabrook Elementary School in Prince Georges County.

Bill volunteers with the Dorchester County Historical Society, the Harriet Tubman Museum, and other local institutions because he firmly believes that through education culture can be preserved. He is a true educator at heart!



Alex & Lisa Green

(continued on pg 8)

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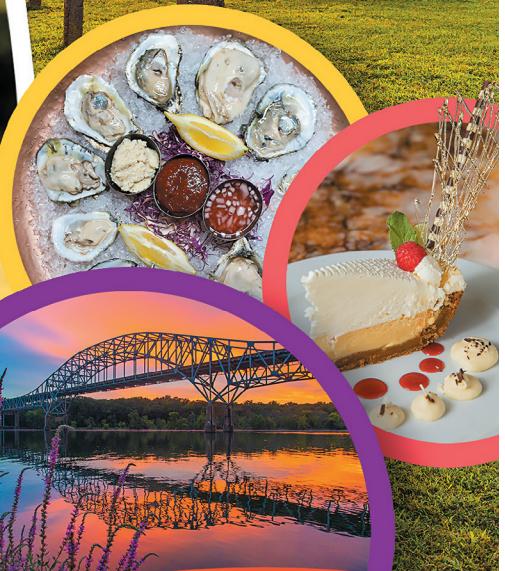
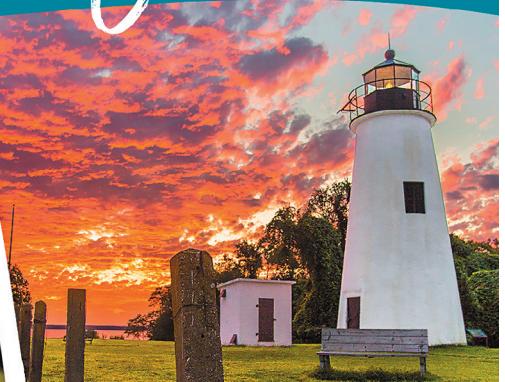
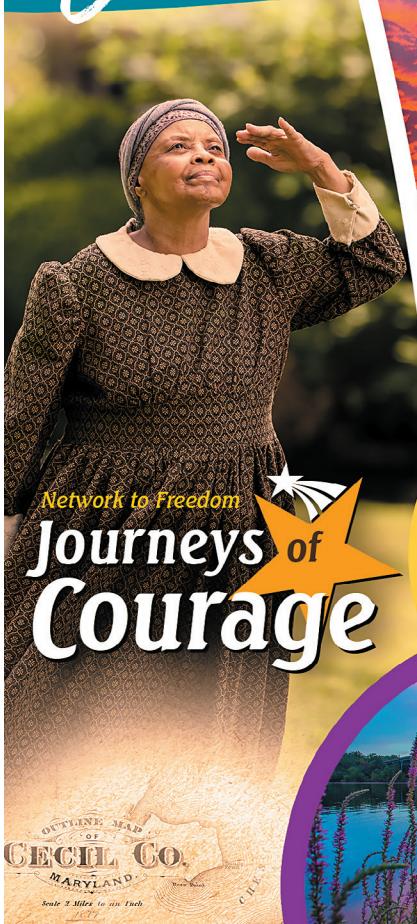
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- Take My Hand Mural
- The Stanley Institute
- The Underground Railroad Visitor Center
- The Brodess Farm, her childhood home
- The Bucktown General Store



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Harry W. Holt, Jr.
hholt@bithgroup.com
410 962-1188 ext. 43

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Jordan Wallace
jordan@bithenergy.com
410 962-1188

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