

NEH Institutes Program:  
“The Search for Founding Black Mothers”:  
A Virtual Institute for 6th-12th grade Educators



Dates: July 5<sup>th</sup> - July 29<sup>th</sup> 2022  
Format: Virtual  
Application Deadline: March 1<sup>st</sup> 2022  
Stipend: \$1725



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# About the Institute

**Please note: We are no longer accepting applications! Please subscribe to the website for resources and other live stream events pertaining to the project.**

This institute, hosted by Morgan State University and held entirely virtually, endeavors to take educators who teach grades 6-12 on a 4-week interactive, interdisciplinary search through literature and multiple archives in order to reckon with curricular and historical erasures of Black women. The Search is a multi-faceted, interdisciplinary journey across the Humanities, inclusive of History, Literature, Politics, Gender Studies, Arts, Geography, Archeology, Archiving, and Digital Media storytelling. Learning about The Search will expose educators to various methods of creative inquiry, close investigation, collaboration, and knowledge curation in the classroom.

The Search for Founding Black Mothers seeks to illuminate the under-represented contributions of Black women, as individuals and their collective agency that directly shaped our nation. Black women are often called the backbone of our democracy, however their legacy and foundational contributions to America remain unexplored or omitted in K-12 textbooks, materials, and classrooms.

This institute explores the often-unknown contributions, innovations, determination, and the fearlessness of the following Founding Black Mothers: Ona Marie Judge (Staines), Mary Bowser, (Harriet) Araminta Tubman, Mary Ellen Pleasant, Isabella Baumfree (Sojourner Truth), Mary Ann Shadd Cary, Venerable Henriette DeLille, Harriett Jacobs and Louisa Matilda Jacobs, and Dr. Anna Julia Cooper.

This experience will not only allow educators to trace the connections between Founding Black Mothers and their contemporary reverberations, but also learn and apply The Search as a reflexive framework for the restoration of knowledge towards “[a more perfect union](#)”.

Morgan State University (MSU) invites 30 educators nationwide who teach grades 6th-12th to a 4-week summer institute to build educators' knowledge of the contributions of our Black Founding Mothers in literature, history, the arts, and the politics of our nation.

“Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.”



## Dates and Logistics:

As educators embark on a collective search for Founding Black Mothers, the thematic design of the institute revolves around the main concepts of The Search:

Participants must be present for all four weeks and must also submit their final project and final program evaluation in order to be stipend eligible. The Institute will be completely virtual within as the primary platform and will include a mix of virtual visits to historic sites as well as pre-recorded and live framing discussions led by distinguished scholars. All sessions will adhere to the [NEH Principles of Civility](#).



Tuesday, July 5th through Friday, July 8th

**Week 1:**

**#SinceInception**

Monday, July 11th through Friday, July 15th

**Week 2 : Abolition, The Conscience of a Nation**

Monday, July 18th through Friday, July 22nd

**Week 3 : Mapping The Search**

Monday, July 25th through Friday, July 29th

**Week 4: Schooling as a House of Resistance**

\*\*\*\*[Link to Full Schedule, Syllabus and Readings](#)\*\*\*\*



# APPLICATION INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

The NEH SUMMER INSTITUTE PROGRAM provides K-12 educators with professional development opportunities to deepen and enrich educators' understanding of a variety of topics in the humanities in order to increase their capacity for effective scholarship and teaching.

Please Note: An individual may apply to up to two NEH summer projects (NEH Landmarks Workshops, NEH Summer Seminars, or NEH Summer Institutes), but may participate in only one.

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## **ELIGIBILITY**

Seminars and Institutes for K-12 Educators Seminars and Institutes are designed for a national audience of full- or part-time K-12 educators who teach in public, charter, independent, and religiously affiliated schools, or as home schooling educators. Project directors may admit a limited number of educators who work outside the K-12 classroom and who can demonstrate that their participation will advance project goals and enhance their professional work. At least three seminar spaces and at least five institute spaces must be reserved for teachers who are new to the profession (those who have been teaching for five years or fewer). Participants must be United States citizens, residents of U.S. jurisdictions, or foreign nationals who have been residing in the United States or its territories for at least the three years immediately preceding the application deadline. U.S. citizens teaching abroad at U.S. chartered institutions are also eligible to participate. Foreign nationals teaching abroad are not eligible to participate. A participant need not have an advanced degree in order to take part in a seminar or institute. Individuals may not apply to participate in a seminar or institute whose director is a family member, who is affiliated with the same institution, who has served as an academic advisor to the applicant, or who has led a previous NEH-funded Seminar, Institute or Landmarks program attended by the applicant. In any given year an individual may apply to a maximum of two projects but may attend only one. Participants may not be delinquent in the repayment of federal debt (e.g., taxes, student loans, child support payments, and delinquent payroll taxes for household or other employees). Individuals may not apply to participate in a seminar or institute if they have been debarred or suspended by any federal department or agency. To be considered for selection, applicants must submit a complete application as indicated on the individual seminar or institute's website

The hosting institution may admit a limited number of educators who work outside the K-12 classroom and who can demonstrate that participation will advance project goals and enhance their professional work. At least three seminar spaces and five institute spaces must be reserved for educators s who are new to the profession (those who have been teaching for five years or less)

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

A selection committee of educators will read and evaluate all properly completed applications. Special consideration is given to the likelihood that an applicant will benefit professionally and personally from the institute experience. It is important, therefore, to address each of the following factors in the application essay:

1. your professional background;
2. your intellectual interest in Founding Black Mothers;
3. your special perspectives, skills, or experiences that would contribute to the institute; and
4. how the experience would enhance your teaching or school service

Five Institute spaces will be reserved for educators who are new to the profession (those who have been teaching for five years or less). Additionally, preference is given to applicants who would significantly contribute to the diversity of the institute, broadly defined.

If selected in the first round, Applicants might be asked to participate in a brief focus group interview to determine final selection for the institute. Focus groups interviews will be conducted by a panel of educators.

### **STIPEND, TENURE, AND CONDITIONS OF AWARD/ Participant Expectations**

Educators selected to participate will receive a \$1,725 stipend. Stipends are intended to help cover expenses that enable educators to participate in the Summer Institute. This may include paying for daycare coverage for children, purchasing necessary technology (i.e., a WiFi hotspot, a camera and/or microphone) to participate in live virtual sessions, books, and ordinary living expenses. Stipends are taxable.

Applicants who accept an offer to participate are expected to remain during the entire period (four weeks) of the program and to participate in its work on a full-time basis.

Participants must also submit their final project and final program evaluation in order to receive the full stipend.

Project applicants who accept an offer to participate are expected to remain during the entire period of the program and to participate in its work on a full-time basis. If a participant is obliged through special circumstances to depart before the end of the program, it shall be the recipient institution's responsibility to see that only a pro rate share of the stipend is received or that the appropriate pro rate share of the stipend is returned if the participant has already received the full stipend.

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A completed application consists of the following items:

- Résumé or short biography, detailing your educational qualifications and professional experience.

Be sure the résumé provides the name, title, phone number, and email address of one professional reference.

- An application essay (no longer than two double-spaced pages), which should address your professional background; interest in Founding Black Mothers; special perspectives, skills, or experiences that would contribute to the institute; and how the experience would enhance your teaching or school service.

- Completed Google Form

\*Reminder: Applicants should submit all application materials directly to the project Google Form linked above, as applications sent to the NEH will not be reviewed.

Questions should be directed only to [foundingblackmothers@gmail.com](mailto:foundingblackmothers@gmail.com)

**Application Notification Timeline:**

Your full application consists of three elements: (1) résumé/biography, (2) application essay, and (3) completed Google Form.

The deadline for submission of all materials is Tuesday, March 1, 2022 by 5:00pm EST for the time zone of your residence.

Please submit your résumé/biography and application essay either as a Word or PDF document via email to [foundingblackmothers@gmail.com](mailto:foundingblackmothers@gmail.com). Please do not send links to Google Docs and please do not send application materials in the mail. Your Google form will be submitted automatically when you click the “submit” button. Please do not send application materials to the NEH. Application materials sent to the NEH will not be reviewed.

All applicants will be notified of their status (selected, wait listed, declined) on Friday, March 25, 2022. Selected applicants will have until Friday, April 8, 2022 to accept or decline the offer.

Once you have accepted an offer to attend any NEH-supported Summer Program (NEH Landmarks program, NEH Summer Seminar, or NEH Summer Institute), you may not withdraw in order to accept an offer from another program.

#### QUESTIONS:

For questions please email: [foundingblackmothers@gmail.com](mailto:foundingblackmothers@gmail.com)





# **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT**

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT:** Endowment programs do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or age. For further information, write to the Equal Opportunity Officer, National Endowment for the Humanities, 400 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024. TDD: 202-606-8282 (this is a special telephone device for the Deaf).