

**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release:**

March 31, 2009

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**RENDELL ADMINISTRATION HELPING COMMUNITIES DISCOVER  
BLACK CULTURAL ROOTS IN PA**

***Grants Will Finance Research, Documentation and Preservation Projects***

**Harrisburg, PA** – In preparation for a year-long focus on black history in Pennsylvania, historical societies, museums, community organizations and local governments are encouraged to apply for grants from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to research, document and preserve the memory of local people and events.

The grants are funded through the National Park Service’s Preserve America Program. “We all accept the importance of studying American history and recognize that Pennsylvania has played a key role in the development of our nation,” said PHMC Executive Director Barbara Franco. “That story is incomplete if we do not include the African-American experience in Pennsylvania. These grants offer the opportunity to tell a richer and more accurate story and make this information available to the public.”

Grant funds could be used for enhancing museum exhibits and collections care; preserving history through community-based resource surveys and preparing nominations to the National Register of Historic Places; conducting educational and public programs such as walking and driving tours, developing a curriculum for grades K-12; conserving archival documents; researching and publishing books and articles; creating interpretive signage, and recording oral histories.

Grants will be awarded up to \$15,000 with a dollar-for-dollar match. Grants of \$5,000 or less do not require matching funds.

“Through the 2010 theme, Black History in Pennsylvania: Communities in Common, the commission and its partners demonstrate a deeper commitment to preserving and interpreting black heritage at the state and local level,” Franco said. “We encourage communities across the state to join and contribute to this important effort.”

Additional information on the PHMC Black History grant is available from Carol Lee at 717-783-9918 or [calee@state.pa.us](mailto:calee@state.pa.us); or Kenneth C. Wolensky at 717-772-0921 or [kwolensky@state.pa.us](mailto:kwolensky@state.pa.us).