

FREEDMEN'S TOWN VISITOR'S CENTER

A vibrant community hub for info, resources, & programming

In Collaboration With:

Houston Public Library

African American History Research Center

Funded By:

TIRZ 14 (Design & Construction)

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (HFTC x CAMH Programming)

National Endowment for the Arts (HFTC x CAMH Programming)



Interior View



Aerial View

EQUITABLE HERITAGE TOURISM

Telling the "Story of Freedom" triggers equitable partnerships & investments for FT

Located in the heart of the Freedmen's Town's Heritage District, the Visitors Center will serve not just as a point of access and orientation, but a place to gather and celebrate stories of human freedom. Here, locals and visitors alike will experience the living history of Freedmen's Town through sight, sound, and touch. They'll engage in authentic cultural experiences in heritage, ethnicity, cuisine, crafts, art, and music.

The Visitor's Center will act as a community resource and central location to develop events, activities, and programming that celebrate the intangible cultural heritage of the district. Home to Houston Freedmen's Town Conservancy's operations, the Visitor's Center will be a demonstration of sensitive, appropriate reuse of historic resources. The Visitor's Center is a partnership space owned by the Houston Public Library but operated by the Houston Freedmen's Town Conservancy for programming, activations, and special events. The three homes will serve as a visitors' center, office, and exhibition space. The Visitor's Center will serve as a new model for development, partnerships, community engagement, and heritage tourism in Freedmen's Town.

BENEFITS & IMPACTS

- Kickstarts equitable heritage tourism opportunities
- Will be a hub for workforce opportunities in FT
- Serves as a early stage, much needed preservation resource center for the community
- Elevates FT's story to national audiences
- Orients visitors toward all opportunities to support FT
- Provides a space for community members and organizations to collaborate about the future of FT
- Tours and exhibits show the urgency for preserving the authentic Story of Freedom in FT to K-12 and all Houstonians

KEY STAKEHOLDERS / PARTNERS

Houston Freedmen's Town Conservancy
City of Houston (Various Depts.)