



Lancaster Chamber

April 15, 2026

Underground Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania
331-345 Locust Street
Columbia, PA 17512

Dear Members of the Board,

On behalf of the Lancaster Chamber, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the proposed Underground Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania.

Lancaster County sits at the heart of one of the most consequential chapters in American history. Columbia, along the Susquehanna River, served as a critical hub of the Underground Railroad network, where African American leaders, Quaker abolitionists, and local residents worked together to assist freedom seekers on their journey north. A museum dedicated to telling this story, with the depth and quality envisioned in this project, represents a meaningful and long overdue investment in preserving our shared history.

In addition to its historical and educational significance, this project presents a compelling economic opportunity for our region. As part of a broader network of Underground Railroad destinations in South Central Pennsylvania, the museum will help position Lancaster County as a nationally recognized hub for heritage tourism. With projections of 25,000 or more annual visitors and meaningful regional economic impact, this investment has the potential to support local businesses, drive visitation, and strengthen our local economy.

The Lancaster Chamber is committed to advancing initiatives that enhance the vitality of our community. This project reflects the values of collaboration, opportunity, and shared purpose that continue to define Lancaster County today. We believe the Underground Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania will serve as both a powerful educational resource and a lasting asset to our business and community landscape.

We appreciate the vision and leadership behind this effort and are proud to support its advancement.

Sincerely,
Heather Valudes
President & CEO
Lancaster Chamber