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To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Merchants Association of Columbia, I am pleased to offer this letter of strong support for the Underground Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania and its proposed new museum in Columbia.

The Merchants Association represents a broad cross-section of Columbia's business, hospitality, and property-owning community, all of whom are deeply invested in the preservation, interpretation, and celebration of our town's unique history. Columbia's role in the Underground Railroad is both nationally significant and locally foundational, and the proposed museum represents an important opportunity to tell that story in a way that is accessible, educational, and enduring.

We are enthusiastic about partnering with the Underground Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania as this project moves forward. The Merchants Association views this museum not only as a cultural and historical asset, but as a meaningful catalyst for downtown vitality, heritage tourism, and community pride. A well-designed and thoughtfully curated museum will attract visitors, support local businesses, and strengthen Columbia's identity as a place where history is preserved and shared responsibly.

Our organization is committed to collaborating in tangible ways, including coordinated marketing efforts, visitor outreach, special events, and integration into broader downtown initiatives. We believe this partnership will help ensure the museum's success while reinforcing the economic and educational benefits for the community as a whole.

The Merchants Association of Columbia fully supports the Underground Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania's vision for a new museum in Columbia and looks forward to working together to bring this important project to fruition. We respectfully encourage funders, partners, and public officials to give this proposal their strongest consideration.

Please feel free to contact us should additional information or clarification be helpful.

Sincerely,

Don Murphy  
President

Merchants Association of Columbia