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June 12, 2026

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

Dear Underground Railroad Museum:

Pennsylvania is significant to the history of freedom in this country. Philadelphia served as a central location for the revolution and as the nation's first capital. In addition, Pennsylvania was central to the freedom movement for those held in bondage. It spurred the development of anti-slavery organizations and activism forming underground and clandestine networks to help freedom seekers to liberate themselves. In 2020 the Pennsylvania Committee of the International Underground Railroad Month was formed as an attachment to the National Parks Service Network to Freedom initiative. The committee of institutions, scholars, educators, curators, and cultural workers promote and facilitate events, research, and historic preservation of the Underground Railroad in Pennsylvania.

We are delighted to offer support for the plans to develop the Underground Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania in Columbia and the commitment made to tell the story of this movement across the Commonwealth. The Museum will have an impact on heritage tourism and economic development, and educational opportunities for those interested in the history of freedom. The Museum will engage, educate, and entertain with purpose, passion, and prestige shedding light on Pennsylvania's role as a vanguard for freedom. No other state in the north shared as extensive border with slaveholding south than Pennsylvania. Its southern border of the Mason-Dixon Line created a geographic divide between freedom and unfreedom. A network of Abolitionists working on both sides of the Mason-Dixon created a pathway to freedom known as the Underground Railroad. For more than 83 years from the 1780 Gradual Abolition Act to the Emancipation Proclamation, Pennsylvania served as the crossroad between slavery and freedom.

The Pennsylvania Committee for the International Underground Railroad supports the development and operation of the Underground Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania in Columbia. It promises to uphold the values of freedom while educating about the history of the network that brought so many from bondage to liberation.

Sincerely,

Pennsylvania Committee

## International Underground Railroad Month

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