ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF
AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY, INC

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February 8, 2019

Dr. Dan Filer, Chesapeake Watershed CESU
University of Maryland
Center for Environmental Science – Appalachian Laboratory
Frostburg, MD 21532

Dear Dr. Filer:

I am writing to endorse with great enthusiasm the application of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). Founded in 1915 by the Harvard-trained scholar Dr. Carter G. Woodson, known today as the Father of Black History, ASALH has for more than a century enriched the history of this nation through its steadfast commitment to illuminating the participation of people of African descent in the past and present. Thus, I believe that ASALH would contribute to the important work of the Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CHWA CESU). A strong knowledge-based national organization, ASALH is comprised primarily of scholars, who teach and study, research and publish, as well as lead and advise in the discipline of history and to a lesser extent in other disciplines. Several of our members live and teach in the Chesapeake Watershed region and have researched and published on historical subjects related to this region.

More than any other professional organization, ASALH has developed and indeed represents the largest concentration of professionally trained experts on the subject of African American History. ASALH is additionally strengthened through its numerous branches nationwide. Equally committed to the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge, the ASALH branches are comprised of professionals, who represent a significant breadth of skills and expertise (history, law, architecture, K-12 education, business, science, the arts, etc.), and also non-professionals in all walks of life. Through its vast network of expertise inside and outside the academy, ASALH is able to tap into its rich membership base by means of conferences, journal and monograph publications, workshops, teacher trainings, press events, outstanding speaker events, and collaborative partnerships with federal and nonfederal entities.

We would be deeply honored to join the CHWA-CESU network as a nonfederal partner. I do not hesitate to recommend most highly ASALH's desire to collaborate in furtherance of the CHWA-CESU mission.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham
ASALH National President

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHESAPEAKE WATERSHED COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT (CHWA CESU)

FEBRUARY 7, 2019

Expression of desire to enroll in the CESU as a new partner institution/organization.

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) requests consideration of its application to join the Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CHWA CESU) as a new nonfederal partner organization. ASALH has led in the research, publication, and dissemination of the history of African Americans for 103 years. As indicated in the organization's title "Life and History," ASALH contributes to knowledge in the discipline of history and to knowledge in many other disciplines that focus on the thought, experiences, natural and built environment, as well as the arts and material culture of persons of African descent. The ASALH leadership and Executive Council believe that the Association is uniquely suited to undertake federal grant projects, given our large collective of scholars at the local, regional, and national levels. Thus, we desire to work as a new partner in furthering research, education, and outreach in support of federal agencies.

Confirmation that the institution/organization has read the CESU agreement and agrees to support the CESU mission and goals and fulfill the roles and responsibilities of a nonfederal partner, as described in the CESU agreement.

ASALH national president Dr. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Chair of the Department of History at Harvard University and the Victor S. Thomas Professor of History and of African and African American Studies at Harvard, has thoroughly read the CESU agreement as has also Ms. Sylvia Cyrus, the executive director of ASALH. They affirm that they are knowledgeable of and committed to the mission of the CHWA CESU. Through their endorsement ASALH confirms its willingness and ability to meet the responsibilities and roles of a nonfederal partner and to support the CESU mission and goals.

Description of the institution/organization, its mission, and the primary focus of collaborative activities to be supported through the CESU in the context of the CESU mission.

Founded on September 9, 1915 in Chicago, Illinois, by the historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson, known today as the Father of Black History, ASALH is the founder of Black History Month and each year establishes the Black History theme. The federal government began to acknowledge ASALH's theme each year with a proclamation starting in the bicentennial year of 1976 with President Gerald Ford. The President of the United States has provided a proclamation ever since. ASALH is the oldest and largest organization of professionally trained scholars devoted to the study of African American history, education, and interpretation in the United States and world. ASALH is led by a president, two vice-presidents, secretary, and treasurer, along with an Executive Council of twenty-three persons. While the aforementioned leaders are elected by the ASALH membership, the Executive Director holds an appointed administrative

staff position. The location of ASALH's national headquarters is in Washington, DC. Under the mandate and requirements of the national organization, ASALH branches operate at the local level with their own elected officials. Through its branches and other activities, the Association reaches academics, independent researchers, K-12 teachers, and members of the general public.

In order to disseminate scholarship ASALH publishes the *Journal of African American History*. Founded in 1916 as the *Journal of Negro History*, the journal is a peer-reviewed, quarterly publication that serves the scholarly community. Additionally, ASALH sponsors an annual meeting, professional-development workshops, institutes, seminars, and also co-sponsors with the American Historical Association the annual Wesley-Logan Prize for the Best Book on the African Diaspora. ASALH also co-sponsors, with the National History Day organization, the Carter G. Woodson Awards, which are earned through a competitive process by high school students for projects, papers, and/or performances relating to African American history.

The ASALH constitution identifies our organizational mission as that of promoting research, teaching, publication, and the dissemination of knowledge of people of African descent. ASALH has remained true to that mission for over a century, informing and engaging a variety of constituencies in the process. Our membership is largely comprised of faculty at colleges and universities throughout the nation as well as abroad. They are professors of different races, genders, and ethnicities, though predominantly African American in number, who work in the discipline of history and, to a lesser extent, in other disciplines. ASALH members also include graduate students in Masters and Doctoral programs. We have a sizeable group of public historians. Another organized component of ASALH is represented by librarians and information specialists in colleges and universities, as well as in local public libraries, resource centers, and other institutions. A key part since the founding of ASALH in 1915 exists at the local level in the form of branches. ASALH has 36 branches in 17 states. The branch structure crisscrosses the United States, from New York to Los Angeles, and from Detroit to Charleston. ASALH branches are composed of active and retired professionals, but also non-professionals. Members can be found in local and state government, museums, for-profit and not-for-profit enterprises, architecture, medicine, K-12 schools, the military, and in ordinary walks of life. Altogether, they represent a tapestry of community residents of varying incomes—a broad local public eager to learn and disseminate knowledge through their own sponsored programs. Branch programs feature panels on historical and contemporary issues, art exhibits, and lectures by prominent persons. Branch initiatives have led to award-winning documentary films, such as the Sarasota, Florida branch's documentary on the Tuskegee Airmen. They have sought to preserve historic sites, such as the Atlanta branch's work on Fountain Hall in Atlanta, and they have entered into meaningful collaborative work with specific park sites, such as the Paul Laurence Dunbar branch in Dayton, Ohio, through its ongoing role at the Dunbar Home National Historic Site.

The committee structure of ASALH at the national level facilitates building an effective nonfederal partnership with the CESU. The Academic Program Committee, a central element of the organization, is responsible for the presenters at the ASALH annual meeting and conference, which is held each fall. The Academic Program Committee evaluates paper and panel proposals for quality intellectual presentation and discussion. Its thorough selection process assures each year over 1000 scholars who represent wide-ranging intellectual pursuits. To accomplish this goal, the Academic Program Committee has developed a large database of historians and other

academicians who constitute a significant network of subject matter expertise, including expertise relevant to the work of the CESU. Thus, ASALH is able to identify, network with, and have access to scholars across the nation who teach, research, give public lectures, publish, and serve as principal investigators, consultants, and in other advisory capacities. Our network of expertise covers primarily, although not entirely, qualitative work regarding cultural resources framed in historical contexts. Our annual Black History themes, which serve as the basis for Black History Month, our fall conference, and yearlong activities at the nation and branch levels, speak to the mission of the CESU. For example, the 2016 theme focused on historic sites, the 2017 theme focused on education, and the 2018 theme focused on wartime and the military. With those themes, the ASALH conferences brought together an array of scholars whose work relates to the mission of the CESU. Conference panels covered such topics as historic structures, e.g., the Carter G. Woodson House, cemeteries, civil rights landmarks, Rosenwald schools, Buffalo soldiers, battlefields, military bases, etc.

In addition to our ability to harness expertise of a high quality for the CESU mission, ASALH is able to co-sponsor and organize seminars, workshops and training programs for the purpose of promoting historic preservation and interpretation to government entities, states and local governments, and the general public. In 2019, the ASALH theme focuses on the many forms of black migration, forced and voluntary. We will pay special attention to both antebellum slavery and to twentieth century urbanization through a number of public events. ASALH has established a 400th Commemorative Committee, which is a clearing-house for expertise and events related to 1619 and the first arrival of Africans to the Virginia colony. As recently as February 1, 2019, ASALH launched Black History Month with a stellar panel at the National Press Club. The panel included: Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Harvard History Department; Brent Leggs, National Trust for Historic Preservation; Spencer J. Crew, George Mason University; Roger Fairfax, Jr., George Washington Law School; and Gloria Browne-Marshall, John Jay College of Law and chair of the ASALH 400th Commemorative Committee.

ASALH has long valued its collaboration with not-for-profit entities, e.g., educational institutions, public and private libraries, schools, community organizations, and government agencies, such as park sites. Indeed, many of these entities are represented by groups that are institutional members of ASALH. The ASALH leadership, its committees, and branches have directed an enormous amount of expertise to not-for-profit entities, including local, state, and federal agencies. Our current activities reflect the diverse ways that ASALH can be particularly beneficial in regard to identifying, developing, and promoting knowledge of cultural resources through collaborative activities to be supported through the CESU in the context of the CESU mission.

Each year in the ASALH national conference, Professors LaVonne Neal (Northern Illinois University) and Alicia Moore (Southwestern University), both highly regarded experts in culturally responsive teaching methods, lead the Teachers' Workshop under the auspices of the School Superintendent of the conference host city. The targeted attendees are the city's public and charter school teachers at the secondary-school level. The workshop equips the teachers with the needed pedagogical tools to incorporate the annual African American history theme into their state's educational standards during Black History Month. In 2018, ASALH entered into collaborative partnerships with the Banneker-Douglass Museum in Annapolis, the Firelight Film

Company, the National Park Service, the Maryland Commission for African American History and Culture, the National Trust for Historic Preservation's African American Action Fund, and the Vietnam War commemoration. We also have a longtime partnership with the Kiamsha Youth Empowerment Program. Through this organization, secondary-school students play a leadership role in the "Youth Day" event of the ASALH annual conference as well as participate in other activities sponsored by ASALH and the National Park Service during occasions of the commemoration of Dr. Carter G. Woodson and the Woodson Home National Historic Site. ASALH seeks to carry out appropriate conservation, interpretation, and historic preservation projects that will instill in youth a work ethic and a sense of public service.

Finally, ASALH enjoys a longstanding relationship with the National Park Service, for which we have played several roles over the years, e.g., from helping to coordinate conferences, as in the case of conferences for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, providing interpretive frameworks and assessment metrics for the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site, featuring fascinating NPS-sponsored plenaries and panels at the ASALH national conferences, and executing tasks under the Master Cooperative Agreement of 2017. The projects and activities undertaken by the ASALH-NPS Master Cooperative Agreement are mutually beneficial in the promotion, facilitation, and improvement of the general public's understanding of natural, cultural, recreational, and other aspects of African American History in areas such as national parks, National Historic landmarks, state and local parks, and other historic sites.

A list of and brief description of the staff or faculty with expertise in disciplines and subject areas of relevance to federal land management, environmental, and research agencies (do not submit CVs). For academic institutions, include a description of student demographics and the institution's status as a minority-serving institution (e.g., as defined by the U.S. Department of Education).

ASALH has more than 1800 members who are university faculty members nationwide, specializing in themes related to African and African American history. These individuals are engaged in various research activities in fields that would be beneficial to CESU member organizations and could be contracted to serve as historical consultants and interpretive-programming experts of CESU members' projects.

The ASALH National Heritage Sites Research Committee, co-chaired by Bettye Gardner and Barbara Spencer Dunn, was formed in 2018, in order to draw upon the networks and contacts afforded by the aforementioned membership base. The committee carries out the objectives of the task agreements under the ASALH-NPS Master Cooperative Agreement with specific respect to obtaining the researchers and Principal Investigators (PI) for the tasks. The Committee provides expertise through its extensive network of historians and other scholars in the social sciences and humanities disciplines. In this way ASALH also fulfills its own mission to promote and disseminate research and to interpret and preserve sites of African American history and culture.

The Co-chairs of the committee have much experience in working in cooperation with various local, state, and federal groups. Dr. Bettye Gardner, Professor Emerita of Coppin State

University, taught in the Department of History and served as Chair of the Department of History, Geography and Global Studies, and as Dean of the Division of Arts and Sciences. Her publications have focused on Baltimore's pre-Civil War African American community. She is the Chair of ASALH's Woodson Home Committee, Co-chair of its National Historic Sites Research Committee, and a former national president of ASALH. She was also a federal Commissioner of the Mary McLeod Bethune House. Barbara Spencer Dunn, ASALH Vice-president for Membership, was appointed by the Governor of the State of Maryland (2014 – 2017) to serve as a Commissioner on the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC). She serves at present on MCAAHC's 50th Anniversary Planning Committee, which has been tasked with writing the history of the Commission's founder, the historian Dr. Benjamin Quarles. As the first Director of Membership Services for ASALH in 2003 and the present Chair of the ASALH National Membership Committee, Barbara Spencer Dunn has forged many of ASALH's collaborative partnerships. Notable in 2018 was ASALH's partnership with the MCAAHC, which resulted in a three-month training series in March, April, and May in Annapolis for teachers and others entitled "Teacher Training that Inspires." In addition, Barbara Dunn serves as Co-chair of the Woodson Home Committee with Chair Bettye Gardner. Their combined leadership of the Woodson Home Committee, along with their related work with President Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham on the Woodson Home, has strengthened the relationship between the NPS and ASALH.

As the founding Co-chairs of the National Heritage Sites Research Committee, Bettye Gardner and Barbara Spencer Dunn selected a first-rate group of ASALH scholars/historians/experts to support the process regarding ASALH's present and future task agreements with the National Park Service as part of the Master Cooperative Agreement between the NPS and ASALH. The National Heritage Sites Research Committee works closely with ASALH's Project Manager to announce projects provided by the NPS. Additionally, the Committee identifies and evaluates scholars who are known content specialists. Such scholars interested in applying to work on a specific project are required to provide a detailed explanation of their method for completing the scope of work designated in the task-agreement announcement. The Committee members review the applicants through a rigorous vetting process that results in the selection of the Principal Investigator for the project advertised.

The National Heritage Sites Research Committee consists of ASALH members who have expertise in African American History, Public History, Architectural History and the social sciences and humanities disciplines. In addition to the Committee's Co-chairs, they include the following selected list:

1. **Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham**, ASALH National President, is Chair of the History Department of Harvard University and the Victor S. Thomas Professor of History at Harvard. A prize-winning author, she has published on many aspects of the African American experience and has received numerous awards, the most outstanding being the National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama in 2015.

2. **Dr. Lionel Kimble,** ASALH Vice-president for Programs**,** is an Associate Professor of History at Chicago State University. His research interests focus on African American workers and civil rights during the Great Depression, New Deal, and World War II

eras. Kimble has worked on grant-funded projects with the National Park Service site in Springfield, Illinois. In 2017 he served as lead historian on the NPS Illinois Freedom Project. Since 2018 he has been serving as the lead historian on a planning grant for the NPS project, "The Long Road to Freedom: The African American Experience along Route 66."

3. **Dr. Elizabeth Clark-Lewis** is the director of Howard University's Public History program, in which she offers courses on museums and archives, oral history, historic preservation, and a seminar in the field. She has also taught students about genealogical research, family history and genealogy, and courses on related themes. She has published books and articles on these subjects. Her work has been supported by numerous research grants from the National Park Service, the National Endowment for the Arts, D.C. Arts and Humanities Council, several private and corporate foundations, the state of Virginia, WETA Channel 26 [PBS], and Howard University.

4. **Dr. Cheryl Renée Gooch** is an academic leader, professor and published scholar in African American History. She has more than 20 years of experience in research and has served as a consultant for a variety of museum exhibits. She has also been involved in higher education, federal/state government, and community development/nonprofit sectors.

5. **Professor Dale Glenwood Green** is the Chair of the Historic Preservation Program and an Assistant Professor of Architecture in the School of Architecture + Planning at Morgan State University. Chair of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, Green is distinguished for his contributions in preservation education. Green's teaching and research explores the essence of context, resulting in engaging, inspirational, and evocative historic built and natural environments that embody, rather than simply contain, the stories being told. Green is also a Historical Architect, in accordance with the *Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualification Standards* (36 CFR 61), LEED Accredited Professional. Acknowledged for his professional work in historic preservation, Green has dedicated his career to preserving and reinvigorating historic places, through comprehensive research and creative, sensitive design interventions, while showing great respect for the original architects' and builders' intentions. Green was honored as the recipient of two 2012 Maryland preservation awards (the Education and Community Engagement Award and the Preservation Partnerships for Project Excellence Award).

6. **Dr. Jarvis Givens** is an assistant professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) and the Suzanne Young Murray Assistant Professor at the Radcliffe Institute of Harvard University. Having earned his Ph.D. in African Diaspora Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, he is an interdisciplinary historian, whose research falls at the intersection of the history of American education, 19th and 20th century African American history, and critical theories of race and schooling. His book *Schooling in Forbidden Fields: Carter G. Woodson and the Demands of Black Education is* forthcoming from Harvard University Press.

7. **Dr. Ida Jones** is a historian and University Archivist at Morgan State University. She previously served as an assistant curator of manuscripts at Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, and she is the author of several books on African American history with a focus on Washington, DC. She currently serves as a Commissioner for the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site.

8. **Dr. Lopez Matthews, Jr.**, is the Digital Production Librarian for the Howard University Libraries and the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. He is the author of several books, his most recent publication being *Howard University in the World Wars: Men and Women Serving the Nation* (2018). The book explores the history of the army training program for African Americans, which was launched by Howard University during World War 1, and the Reserve Officer Training program organized by the university during the interwar years. Many of the famed Tuskegee Airmen of World War II were trained first at Howard University.

9. **Dr. Janet Sims-Woo**d is a historian and retired librarian. She served as the Assistant Chief Librarian in the Reference/Reader Services Department at the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University. She is the author of *Dorothy Porter Wesley at Howard University: Building a Legacy of Black History.* She has also taught at the University of Maryland in the Afro-American Studies Department and currently teaches at Prince George's Community College in Largo, MD.

10. **Dr. Gabrielle Tayac** served for 18 years as the first historian and curator at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. She presently serves as the Director, Legacy Collections, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors on Indigenous Women and Girls Leadership. She is a member of the Piscataway Nation from Southern Maryland. She has researched and written extensively on the history of Native Americans.

Description or list of past research, technical assistance, and educational services supported through federal financial assistance awards that are of relevance to federal land management, environmental, and research agencies that will be engaged in CESU activities.

ASALH has worked with the National Park Service for a number of years. In conjunction with NPS, ASALH conducted projects and programs that resulted in expanding the knowledge and information available in the areas of historical education, historic preservation, and cultural resources management through projects such as Administrative Histories, Historic Resource Studies, Special History Studies, National Register and National Historic Landmark theme studies and nominations, HABS/HAER/HALS documentation, National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom nominations, bibliographic and historiographic essays, and other kinds of historical research,

In addition, the scholarly contributions of individual ASALH members have been influential. For example, Dr. Bettye Collier Thomas played a critical role in establishing the Black Women's Archives at the Bethune site and continues to serve as a Commissioner of the Bethune Council National Historic Site. Dr. Pero Dagbovie conducted research and wrote the Historic Resource Study for the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site. Dr. Dagbovie serves on the Woodson Committee and was involved in responding to the Long-range Interpretive Plan of the Woodson Home (see below). He is also the editor of ASALH's *Journal of African American History*. The *Journal's* Editorial Board is an equally rich resource for identifying scholarly expertise.

With the purchase of the Woodson Home from ASALH by the National Park Service in 2006, an official partnership between the two organizations led to the establishment of the Woodson Home Committee, under Bettye Gardner as Chair and Barbara Spencer Dunn as Co-chair. The Woodson Home Committee serves as the official representative of ASALH in its collaboration with the NPS in regard to the site. For more than a decade the Committee has collaborated closely with the NPS through the process of developing the General Management Plan, the Historic Resource Study, the Long-range Interpretive Plan, and other aspects of the restoration of the Woodson Home Site. Members of the Committee, involved in this process, serve as content specialists. They include: museum leader, Dr. John Fleming; archaeological consultant Dr. Cheryl LaRoche; and historians Dr. Elizabeth Clarke Lewis, Dr. Cheryl Gooch, Dr. June Patton, Dr. Lopez Matthews, and Dr. Pero Dagbovie. The Committee members shared their specific comments and corrections at the Long-range Interpretive Planning Meetings of the NPS, held in West Virginia on January 27-28, 2016. They emphasized the need to incorporate the interpretive themes identified earlier in the General Management Plan (January 2012) into the 2016 planning. As a result of their insightful comments regarding the General Management Plan and the Long-range Interpretive Plan, the work of this ASALH Committee was recognized as an essential component of NPS's ability to tell the African American story at other African American sites. Afterward the National Park Service convened meetings to discuss bringing ASALH scholars more closely into the work of NPS. The Master Cooperative Agreement was designed to tap the extensive resources, namely the content specialists in our membership.

Description or list of current formal agreements and informal relationships with federal agencies that are of relevance to federal land management, environmental, and research agencies that will be engaged in CESU activities.

At present ASALH has provided Principal Investigators (PI's) for three NPS task agreements. The National Heritage Sites Research Committee was involved in the vetting and selection of the Principal Investigators. The three task agreements are:

1. Acadia National Park. This agreement provides for a Historic Resource Study of the Job Corps Program at Acadia National Park from 1966-1969, placing it in the larger context of the Job Corps nationally.
2. Carter G. Woodson Home NHL update. The task agreement provides updated documentation for the Carter G. Woodson Home as a National Historic Landmark. In the ensuing decades since the original landmark status was granted, new research and the

discovery of new primary-source documentation make it necessary to update the Woodson Site's historical significance and its connection to Dr. Woodson's contributions to the advancement of scholarship and civil rights.

3. Cowpens National Park. The task agreement provides for research and publication of new information on African Americans, Native Americans and Women's roles in the Battle of Cowpens. The Project will incorporate the perspectives of underrepresented communities and populations in the Southern campaign of the American Revolution at the Cowpens National Battlefield.

Confirmation of the institution's/organization's willingness to accept a limited overhead rate of 17.5% and cost items to which the rate is applicable for activities conducted through the CESU, including research, technical assistance, and educational services (this overhead rate applies to the entire institution/organization for CESU activities).

President Higginbotham supports this application and acknowledges ASALH's willingness to accept a limited overhead rate of 17.5% and cost items to which the rate is applicable for activities conducted through the CESU, including research, technical assistance, and educational services (this overhead rate applying to the entire organization for CESU activities).

Designation of a technical representative (with full contact information – name, title, full address, phone, fax, email) to serve on the CESU steering committee, participate in CESU annual/semi-annual partner meetings, and facilitate internal and external communication, promotion, and response to CESU correspondence and administrative actions (e.g., announcements, new member applications, processing agreements/amendments, five-year reviews).

A designated ASALH representative will participate in the CESU annual/semiannual partner meetings and fulfil the responsibility of facilitating internal and external communication, promoting and responding to CESU correspondence and administrative actions. Please note the following representatives and their contact information:

Dr. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham
Department of History
Robinson Hall
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138
617-495-2504
ebhiggin@fas.harvard.edu

Ms. Sylvia Cyrus
Executive Director, ASALH
301 Rhode Island Ave., NW
Suite 2204,
Washington, DC 20001
scyrus@asalh.org

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom
4068 Golden Hill Road
Church Creek, Maryland 21622

February 4, 2019

Daniel M. Filer, M.B.A., Ed.D.
Chesapeake Watershed CESU Research Coordinator
National Capital Region - Resource Stewardship & Science
National Park Service
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science - Appalachian Laboratory
301 Braddock Road - Room 304
Frostburg, MD 21532

Dear Mr. Filer:

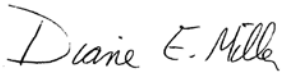
On behalf of the National Park Service, National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom (NTF) Program, it is my pleasure to submit this letter of support for the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). I believe they would make a strong partner in the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units program.

The NTF has worked on a variety of projects with ASALH since 2011. These have included Underground Railroad conferences, a grand opening event for the new Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park, research projects, and managing competitive sub-grants for preservation, interpretation and research projects by NTF partners. In 2015, we entered into a master cooperative agreement with ASALH. We have had a number of Task Agreements for various projects under this agreement.

We have found ASALH to be an invaluable partner. We have established a productive working relationship. Executive Director Sylvia Cyrus and her staff have consistently met deadlines and obligations. Ms. Cyrus has been proactive in addressing any potential issues before they could impact our projects. ASALH has been flexible in working with us to accomplish the projects to everyone's satisfaction. We have never had any problems with accounting for project funds. ASALH has always been able to provide information that we have requested.

Beyond the tangible results of the projects undertaken through our cooperative agreements, ASALH has been a valuable partner on other ways. They are a membership organization with chapters around the country, and as such, are a network of scholars and supporters of African American history. Working with ASALH has allowed the NTF to reach more people and raise awareness of our program. This has helped us to expand our constituency for preserving the heritage of the Underground Railroad.

Sincerely,



Diane Miller
National Program Manager

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 6, 2019

Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham
President
Association for the Study of African American Life and History
Howard Center
2225 Georgia Avenue, NW
Suite 331
Washington, DC 20059

Dear President Higginbotham:

I write in support of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)'s application to join the Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystems studies Units (CW CESU). As you know, I am currently working with ASALH through a separate cooperative agreement with the National Park Service (NPS). I believe ASALH's participation in the CW CESU will greatly benefit the members by providing access to specialists and expertise that is not currently available to federal partners in the network. ASALH's mission to promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture, and its strong network of national and international branches and partners provide NPS and other federal partners many opportunities to collaborate on research that will have mutual benefits.

In addition, I can vouch for the professionalism and responsiveness of the ASALH staff and committee chairs that I have worked with on the ongoing study of the Carter G. Woodson National Historic Site in Washington, DC.

Should you need additional information, feel free to contact me at (202) 619-7180 or at Kathryn_Smith@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Kathryn G. Smith
National Historic Landmark & National Register Coordinator

Cc: Chesapeake Watershed CESU Research Coordinator

5608 Dogue Run Drive
Fairfax Station. VA 22039
February 8. 2019

Dr. Dan Filer
Chesapeake Watershed CESU
University System of Maryland Center
for Environmental Science
Appalachian Laboratory
301 Braddock Road
Frostburg, MD 21532

Dear Dr. Filer:

I am very pleased to support the application of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History(ASALH) for enrollment as a partner with the Chesapeake Watershed CESU.Over the course of my 35-year career with the National Park Service and continued involvement in conservation and historic preservation programs, I have been privileged to work closely with ASALH officers,staff and members.ASALH has been and continues to be an outstanding partner in supporting the mission of the National Park Service and other organizations in the preservation of the Nation's rich and diverse natural and cultural heritage resources. Through its officers, staff and members, ASALH's contributions have been particularly effective and impactful in the areas of scholarly research,publications, technical assistance, special studies,seminars, conferences,and representation on a wide range of boards and commissions. I must further emphasize that ASALH's active support of engaging wider audiences and OUR youth in resource stewardship is highly commendable.

Respectfully, I ask your favorable consideration of ASALH's application.I am confident that as a CESU partner you will find ASALH to be a tremendous resource of expertise and cooperation in furthering the mission, goals, and objectives of the CESU National Network.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert Stanton
Former Director
National Park Service
703-656-6847(c)

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