

PRESERVING AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIC PLACES: BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO OUR COMMUNITIES

Thursday, September 19, 4:00–5:30 p.m. | Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Room 209-B

PANELISTS



**National Trust for
Historic Preservation**
Save the past. Enrich the future.

Stephanie Meeks—*President, National Trust for Historic Preservation*

Under Stephanie Meeks' leadership, the National Trust works to save nationally important places and empower local preservationists and partner groups to protect historic places nationwide. Prior to joining the National Trust in 2010, Ms. Meeks served as President and CEO of Counterpart International. She also held senior executive positions, including Acting President and CEO, during her 17-year career with The Nature Conservancy, one of the world's largest conservation organizations. While there, she led the three largest capital campaigns in conservation history and helped save numerous world-class places. She holds a B.A. in English from the University of Colorado, an M.B.A. from the George Washington University, and currently serves as vice chair of the Potomac Conservancy board.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. Recipient of the National Humanities Medal, the National Trust was founded in 1949 and provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to protect the irreplaceable places that tell America's story.

Web site: www.preservationnation.org



Preserving America's Heritage

Clement A. Price, Ph.D.—*Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor of History and Founder and Director of the Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience at Rutgers University, Newark Campus; Vice Chairman, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; and Board Member, National Trust for Historic Preservation*

Clement Price is Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor of History and Director of the Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience, Rutgers University, Newark Campus. Dr. Price is the foremost authority on the history of African Americans in New Jersey by virtue of his *Freedom Not Far Distant: A Documentary History of Afro-Americans in New Jersey* and numerous other scholarly works. He is the recipient of many awards for academic achievement and public intellectual work. Dr. Price is a member of the Scholarly Advisory Committee to the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture, Chair of the Save Ellis Island Foundation, and a Trustee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He was agency lead for the National Endowment for the Humanities on President Obama's 2008 transition team, and was recently reappointed by the President as Vice Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Along with the late Giles R. Wright, he is the 1981 co-founder and co-organizer of the Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series, one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious conferences in observance of Black History Month. He is co-editor with Spencer Crew and Lonnie Bunch of the forthcoming three volume work *Slave Culture: A Documentary Collection of the Slave Narratives from the Federal Writer's Project, 1936-1938*. It will be published by ABC-Clio Greenwood in February 2014.

An independent, federal agency, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our nation's historic resources and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. It also provides a forum for influencing federal activities, programs, and policies that affect historic properties. In addition, the ACHP has a key role in carrying out the Preserve America program.

Web site: www.achp.gov



Irvin Henderson—*Chair, National Trust Community Investment Corporation*

Irvin Henderson is President of Irvin M. Henderson & Co., a consulting firm with expertise in community development finance and capital structure, collaboration and community involvement, community reinvestment and project design, and management. He has developed or assisted in the development of a substantial number of projects in affordable housing, commercial development, and enterprise development. As the Chair of the National Community Reinvestment Coalition and as a director for many state and national concerns, Mr. Henderson has consulted with and/or presented to community-based organizations and leaders, presidents, heads of state, and federal agencies on these subjects.

The National Trust Community Investment Corporation (NTCIC) makes equity investments in real estate projects nationwide that qualify for federal and state historic rehabilitation, Low-Income Housing, New Markets, and solar tax credits. NTCIC works with a wide variety of property owners including for-profit developers, nonprofit organizations, and local governments. Since 2000, NTCIC has placed more than \$583 million in gross equity and debt toward more than 85 projects with total development costs of more than \$2 billion.

Web site: www.ntcic.com



Robert G. Stanton—*Chairman Emeritus, African American Experience Fund of the National Park Foundation; Retired Director, National Park Service*

Robert Stanton is a private consultant in conservation policy, planning, and management. He is also a Senior Fellow at Texas A&M University in the Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Sciences. He was a Visiting Professor at Howard University, Department of History-Public Program and a Professor of the Practice of Conservation (McCluskey Visiting Fellow) in the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Mr. Stanton is active in professional and civic affairs and currently serves on boards of the Student Conservation Association, Inc., Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Environmental Law Institute, Grand Teton National Park Foundation, Natural Resources Council of America, Institute for the Advancement of Multicultural & Minority Medicine, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Northern Virginia Regional Park Foundation, Guest Services, Inc., the Newseum, and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration.

He also serves as a distinguished Associate of the Roundtable Associates, Inc.; Chair, National Council, National Parks Conservation Association; and Chairman Emeritus (and Co-founder) of the Trustees of the African American Experience Fund of the National Park Foundation.

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Mr. Stanton grew up in Mosier Valley, one of the oldest communities in Texas founded by African Americans shortly after the Civil War.

Established in 2001, the African American Experience Fund (AAEF) focuses on celebrating and preserving African American history. AAEF's mission is to connect all Americans to the role of African Americans in the country's history by raising funds and establishing partnerships that support the development and awareness of innovative educational, volunteer, and community engagement programs at national parks and national historic sites that celebrate and tell the story of African American history and culture.

Web site: www.aaexperience.org



Sonja Sohn—*Founder and CEO of ReWired for Change; Actress and Community Advocate*

Sonja Sohn was born and raised in the South, primarily in Newport News, Virginia, to an African American father and Korean mother who met in Korea just after the Korean War. After high school, Ms. Sohn found herself pursuing a career in the arts in New York City. After dabbling in fine arts as a painter, she became one of the pioneers in the spoken word scene in New York in the '90s, which eventually led to a Warner Bros/Coalition/Arthrob recording contract in London where she launched an album, under the name, "Fini Dolo." Ms. Sohn's slam poetry led her directly into a career as an actor when she landed the lead female role in the 1998 film, "SLAM," which she also co-wrote. She went on to appear in various films, such as "Shaft" and "Bringing Out The Dead." It would be on the small screen, however, where she would achieve the zenith of her acting career, earning widespread acclaim for her starring role as Detective Kima Greggs on the HBO series, "The Wire."

In 2008, Ms. Sohn was inspired to start the nonprofit organization, ReWired for Change. That year, she and her colleagues from "The Wire" devoted their efforts to working with National Urban League President Marc Morial to empower and educate voters on the importance of their vote across Virginia, North Carolina, and in Philadelphia. It was during this time that

she witnessed the impact she and the rest of “The Wire” cast had on community members who were living in impoverished neighborhoods.

ReWired for Change uses space at the historic American Brewery in Baltimore, Maryland, so Ms. Sohn has seen firsthand the work of the federal historic tax credit (HTC). The Brewery stands as one of the most visible examples of the HTC’s ability to transform a place and therefore a community. Developers agree that without the HTC, the American Brewery could not have been revitalized.

Throughout her career, Ms. Sohn has demonstrated her ability to fuse together her entertainment expertise with a passion for redirecting the lives of the nation’s most endangered populations. With ReWired for Change, she continues to develop the ultimate vehicle for what she believes to be her life’s purpose: to educate, uplift, empower, and unite the marginalized and underserved populations of the world.

Web site: www.rewiredforchange.org



David A. Morgan—*Vice President, Federal Government Affairs, American Express Company*

David Morgan works closely with the tax department and senior executives as he represents the American Express Company before the Administration and Congress on a broad portfolio of issues that affect American Express, centered on taxes and trade. Mr. Morgan also coordinates on behalf of American Express with relevant trade associations and other corporate offices, and manages its efforts to monitor and shape changing tax rules in major international markets.

Mr. Morgan received a B.S. from Cornell University, a J.D. from Harvard University Law School, and a Master of Laws in Taxation from Georgetown University Law Center. He was admitted to the Bar in New York (1997) and the District of Columbia (1998) and is a member of the tax section of the American Bar Association and the National Bar Association.

American Express is a global services company, providing customers with access to products, insights, and experiences that enrich lives and build business success. It offers a broad array of payment, expense management, and travel solutions for consumers, small businesses, mid-size companies, and large corporations. As the company has grown and evolved, sometimes reinventing its business outright, it has never strayed from the customer-service ethos and values on which the company was built—service, integrity, and trust.

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For information on historic preservation and African American Communities, visit the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s exhibit booth (#223) on the conference floor.