



2025 Michigan Freedom Trail Commission Heritage Gathering

Stories of Freedom from Old Detroit

Saturday, September 6, 2025

Detroit Public Library

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Registration	
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Opening Remarks and Commission Updates	Galleria
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Remembering the Blackburns Karolyn Smartz Frost	Galleria
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Breaking Laws to Gain Freedom: Liberating Stories from Detroit Ann Eskridge	Galleria
2:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Break	
2:15 – 3:00 p.m.	<i>Base of Operations: Black Bottom as the Center of the Black Abolitionist Movement in Detroit</i> Jamon Jordan	Galleria
3:00 – 3:45 p.m.	<i>The Robert Cromwell Rescue</i> Roy Finkenbine	Galleria
3:45 – 4:00 p.m.	break	
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	<i>The Hamers: Royal Oak's Freedom Seekers</i> LaKeesha Morrison & Donald Drife	Galleria
5:00 – 5:15 p.m.	Closing Remarks and Thoughts	Galleria