

# Mass Humanities Reading Frederick Douglass Together Summer Fellowship- Frederick Douglass in Massachusetts

## Program Scope:

Mass Humanities is seeking qualified candidates to synthesize research on the life of Frederick Douglass in Massachusetts. The research will be used by Mass Humanities to support the forthcoming launch of ReadingFredrickDouglassTogether.org, a website and national resource for readings and his life. Mass Humanities believes Douglass' words belong in public spaces and has supported readings in town squares, community centers, churches, museums, libraries, and parks.

## Timeline:

Research to commence June 1, 2023 and end with deliverables submitted August 30.

**March 1<sup>st</sup> – April 21<sup>st</sup>** Proposals accepted and interviews to occur on a rolling basis.

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** Fellowship awarded

**June 1 – July 31** Work begins with twice monthly check-ins with Mass Humanities to address challenges, track progress and timelines

**August 30<sup>th</sup>** Final work submitted

## About Mass Humanities:

Mass Humanities is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. We create opportunities for the people of Massachusetts to transform their lives and build a more equitable commonwealth through the humanities.

## Background on the project:

Each year Mass Humanities supports public readings and discussions in Massachusetts of Frederick Douglass's famous Fourth of July address, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" through the Reading Frederick Douglass Together grant. Each community considers the meaning of the speech in the past and its resonances in the present. Mass Humanities recognizes that the shared reading tradition began prior to the establishment of our grant opportunity. Mass Humanities believes in fostering robust civic engagement and champions opportunities for all communities in Massachusetts to reinvigorate our democracy by telling, sharing, and reimagining the diverse stories and ideas of our Commonwealth—together. As a part of our work to advance new ideas

about historical texts, and connect neighbors in meaningful conversations about what it means to be a free and equitable society, Mass Humanities will create a resource website. The Reading Frederick Douglass Together Fellow will synthesize existing research and potentially discover additional information to create a comprehensive account of the historical presence of Frederick Douglass in Massachusetts; places he lived and visited, individuals and organizations that supported his work throughout the Commonwealth, and the impact of his time in the Commonwealth on his work and life. Drawing these connections will add to and amplify the stories that shape Massachusetts and the United States.

### **Project Funding:**

The fellowship is made possible with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities under the initiative *A More Perfect Union*.

### **Requirements:**

The ideal candidate will:

- Have education and/ or experience in history, African American studies, American studies, archives or other related fields
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of ethical scholarly research practice
- Demonstrate ability to synthesize information
- Demonstrate ability to work independently
- Communicate information effectively
- Exhibit accuracy, attention to detail, consistency, and ability to meet multiple deadlines

### **Benefits**

- \$4,000 stipend to be paid (80% at the time of appointment. Remaining 20% upon completion)
- Expansion of professional networks
- Contribution to a national website that will be a resources schools, organizations and individuals.

### **Proposal**

We look forward to reviewing your proposal. Interested candidates should submit a proposal (written, video or presentation format) responding to the following.

- What previous experiences qualify you for undertaking this research?
- How does this research align with your personal and professional goals?
- Explain research plan from start to finish, including methodology, timelines, and indicators for completion.
- What do you envision as a deliverable at the completion of the fellowship?

**Proposal format:**

Candidates can choose their preferred proposal format, using the following guidance for length.

Written: 1 to 2 pages single-spaced

Video: 4 to 6min

Slide Presentation: 12-18 slides

**Required Supplemental material:**

- Two research work samples and/or links to published work
- Resume or CV
- 1 to 2 references

Submit the document to [jobs@masshumanities.org](mailto:jobs@masshumanities.org) with a subject line: RDFT Fellow.