

For Immediate Release
Monday August 2, 2021

Contact: Deborah Buchanan
(301)774-4066
sssm.contact@gmail.com



HUMANITIES TRUCK FELLOWSHIP GRANT AWARDED

Sandy Spring, MD - On Friday July 30, 2021, the Sandy Spring Slave Museum & African Art Gallery (SSSM), Inc., Board of Directors, in partnership with American University (AU), announced the receipt of a \$10,000 Humanities Truck Fellowship Grant.

The Humanities Truck is a fully customized delivery truck that serves as an experimental mobile platform for collecting, exhibiting, preserving, and expanding dialogue around the humanities. Using the truck, we seek to mobilize the humanities and democratize the sharing and production of knowledge by bringing together scholars at American University with community residents across Washington, D.C. Together we can collect, create, interpret, and curate stories that can return to the communities they originated from and circulate throughout the metropolitan region.

The truck's custom-design creates a unique space for facilitating participatory, cultural, and educational experiences in the humanities. It has the capacity to function as a recording studio, workshop and maker space, and exhibit and performance venue. People can engage with the truck's interior and exterior spaces. The exterior features powerful speakers, an all-weather flat screen television, and brackets for attaching a 120" roll-down movie screen for showing films. The magnetized exterior wall of the truck can serve as an exhibition space or also be used to facilitate workshops. The interior of the truck is sound-insulated, equipped with air-conditioning, a second flat screen tv, and ceiling speakers. It is modular and flexible as tables and shelving can be easily added and moved. The space can function as a recording studio for doing oral histories, a digitization station, a workshop space, or a pop-up exhibit gallery.

The Humanities Truck will provide an interdisciplinary platform designed to facilitate collaborative community-based research, scholarship, and exhibitions. The Humanities Truck Fellowship Program provides a year, September 1, 2021-August 31, 2022, for the SSSM to use the truck to foster community relationship with Sharp Street United Methodist Church, which has been an integral part of the Sandy Spring African American Heritage Area since its founding in 1822. The SSSM will work in collaboration with American University Anthropologist, Dr. Rachel Watkins, advanced Ph.D. students, and MA students to engage in a collaborative process to build

a year-long project that includes Sharp Street United Methodist Church, in every phase of the project research, documentation and interpretation of the rich history and evolution of the church.

The Humanities Truck is a project through American University, made possible with funding from the Henry Luce Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Sandy Spring Slave Museum & African Art Gallery, Inc.
www.sandyspringslavemuseum.org

PO Box 13, Sandy Spring, MD 20860