



# ASALH

ASSOCIATION *for the* STUDY of AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE and HISTORY



**June 2017  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The Founders of Black History Coming to Cincinnati**

*102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting and Conference of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History Runs Sept. 27-Oct. 1, 2017*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the founders of Black History, will convene its 102nd annual meeting and conference Sept. 27-Oct. 1 at the Hilton Netherlands Plaza Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio.

More than one thousand educators, historians, students and others who have a passion for African American history and culture are coming from across the country to attend this conference. For more than a century, ASALH's scholarly sessions, professional workshops, and other presentations have served to analyze and illuminate the contributions of people of African descent to the world.

The conference in Cincinnati focuses on ASALH's theme for 2017--"The Crisis in Black Education." Speakers and presenters will discuss this topic from historical and contemporary perspectives. The conference program will feature outstanding authors, educators, and community activists, including scholar and social critic Jelani Cobb, noted author and political scientist Michael C. Dawson, the renowned filmmaker Stanley Nelson, and the legendary advocate for children and families Marian Wright Edelman, founder and head of the Children's Defense Fund.

"ASALH believes that to refuse to acknowledge the education of black people as a crisis belittles the importance of the many past and present efforts to confront and combat the problem," states ASALH's National President Dr. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Professor of History and African American Studies at Harvard University.

"Our 102nd annual meeting in Cincinnati provides a historic occasion for K-12 teachers, university students and professors, and ASALH branch members of all ages and walks of life to gather and explore a wide array of issues on African American history and culture," said Higginbotham. Within the state of Ohio, Wilberforce University was established in 1856 to train black teachers and became the first institution of higher learning for blacks in the United States.

"Cincinnati is a city rich in African American history and culture and serves as the perfect location for this year's ASALH conference," said Higginbotham. "The city played a major role in the abolition of slavery. The crisis in black education began with slavery and its laws that denied black men, women, and children in bondage the right to learn to read or write."

Many fugitive slaves used the Ohio River at Cincinnati to escape to the North. Cincinnati had numerous stations on the Underground Railroad.

ASALH invites you to its inspiring program of more than 200 sessions, as well as a Film Festival with several of the filmmakers expected to attend. Another exciting highlight is the Black History Bus tours of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Harriet Beecher Stowe House, the Black Brigade Crossing Monument and other historic sites.

The Cincinnati Local Arrangements Committee for the conference is chaired by Eric Jackson and coordinated by Chris Miller. Volunteer efforts for the conference are coordinated by Dhana Donaldson.

To learn more about the 102nd ASALH annual meeting and conference, visit [asalh.org](http://asalh.org).

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