

RESOLUTION NUMBER 10
THE 17th ANNUAL
MARY MEACHAM FREEDOM CROSSING CELEBRATION
AFRICANS TO AMERICANS: 400 YEARS OF HISTORY

WHEREAS, on Saturday, May 4th 2019, from 12:00pm – 5:00pm, residents from the St. Louis region and beyond are invited to watch history come to life as told by three renowned St. Louis Area playwrights during the event, Africans to Americans: 400 Years of History, which consists of three plays chronicling the stories of Africans, who arrived as slaves in 1619 up until present day; and

WHEREAS, this is the seventeenth annual event held at Missouri’s first, nationally recognized Underground Railroad site, the historic Mary Meacham Freedom Crossing, which commemorates the historic significance of the site and the importance of African American history in St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, the Mariam Meacham Freedom Crossing commemorates the work of Abolitionist, Mary Meacham, a free woman of color who guided many slaves to freedom by helping them cross the Mississippi River to the free state of Illinois, and who went on to spearhead education efforts in St. Louis for men, women, and children of color; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Africans to Americans: 400 Years of History event the Mary Meacham Freedom Crossing Celebration and the St. Louis Pubic Library’s Genealogy Room are co-hosting a free workshop to help people of color trace their ancestry in America, as typical genealogical research strategies typically fail when applied to enslaved African Americans; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the plays and genealogy workshop the event will feature music, games for children, a gospel choir competition sponsored by Praise 95.1 radio, artisan goods and crafts, as well as food and drink; and

WHEREAS, the Africans to Americans: 400 Years of History is a free event sponsored by the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, National Black Tourism Network, Youth and Family Center, National Underground Railroad Network, the City of St. Louis, St. Louis Public Library, St. Charles County Parks and the Daniel Boone Home, Great Rivers Greenway, and Missouri Division of Tourism

WHEREAS, the Africans to Americans: 400 Years of History event and The Mary Meacham Celebration are great ways for people from across the region to learn about the history of the Mary Meacham Freedom Crossing site and the powerful role that people of color have played and continue to play in shaping St. Louis region.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of St. Louis Board of Aldermen encourages the residents of this City to attend and take advantage of the important educational opportunity offered by the seventeenth annual Mary Meacham Celebration and the three theatrical productions of the Africans to Americans: 400 Years of History event.

Introduced this 26th day of April 2019 by:
Honorable Lisa Middlebrook

Adopted this 26th day of January 2019 as attested by:

Terry Kennedy
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen