

Press Release

The Union Foundation is pleased to make the following announcement:

Historic Preservation Fund Awards Grant

Union Baptist Cemetery, the oldest Black-owned Cemetery in Ohio, will soon be the recipients of a \$400,000.00 grant that is funded through the African American Civil Rights of the 20th Century Grant Program and the Historic Preservation Fund. The grant will be administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

Established in 1864 as a private cemetery serving African Americans, this urban cemetery, was one of the only places where African Americans could be buried in the City of Cincinnati. Union Baptist Cemetery, owned by the oldest Black Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Union Baptist Church, is host to approximately 16 acres of land. This cemetery serves as a final resting place for many notable historical figures. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The awarded grant is for preservation and stabilization planning services for structures and objects within the cemetery. It will be used specifically for the restoration of the exterior of the almost 70-year old cemetery building, repair of monuments and headstones, and restoration of fencing. The grant will also fund the preparation and amendment for the National Register of Historic Places designation, to include the cemetery's importance to the African American Civil Rights Movement.

Coordination of the Cemetery Master Plan will be by Union Baptist Church and the Union Foundation's Planning and Design Committee with support from the Cincinnati Preservation Association, The Ohio History Connection Preservation, and the City of Cincinnati Office of the Urban Conservator.

The National Park Service awarded \$14 million across the county for similar projects. Deputy Director David Vela stated, "these grants will fund important projects that document, interpret, and preserve sites that tell the stories of the African American experience in the pursuit of civil rights."

For more information, please contact the Union Foundation, 405 W. Seventh Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45203, (513) 852-1639 or visit the website www.theunionfoundation.org

For questions about the African American Civil Rights grant program, please contact the National Park Service at STLPG@nps.gov or at 202-354-2020.