

# Association for the Study of African American Life and History 102nd Annual Meeting & Conference

September 27- October 1, 2017  
Hilton Cincinnati • Netherland Plaza Hotel  
Cincinnati, Ohio



The theme for 2017 “The Crisis in Black Education”, focuses on the crucial role of education in the history of African Americans. ASALH’s founder Carter G. Woodson once wrote that “if you teach the Negro that he has accomplished as much good as any other race he will aspire to equality and justice without regard to race.” Woodson understood well the implications associated with the denial of access to knowledge, and he called attention to the crisis that resulted from persistently imposed racial barriers to equal education. The crisis in black education first began in the days of slavery when it was unlawful for slaves to learn to read and write. In pre-Civil War northern cities, free Black people were forced as children to walk long distances past white schools on their way to the one school relegated solely to them. Whether by laws, policies, or practices, racially separated schools remained the norm in America from the late nineteenth century well into our own time.

Throughout the last quarter of the twentieth century and continuing today, the crisis in African American education has grown significantly in urban neighborhoods where public schools lack resources, endure overcrowding, exhibit a racial achievement gap, and confront policies that fail to deliver substantive opportunities. The touted benefits of education remain elusive to many Black people of all ages. Tragically, some poorly performing schools serve as pipelines to prison for youths.

Yet, African American history is rich in centuries-old efforts of resistance to this crisis: the slaves' surreptitious endeavors to learn; the rise of Black colleges and universities after the Civil War; unrelenting battles in the courts; the African American history movement; the freedom schools of the 1960s; and local community-based academic and mentorship programs that inspire a love of learning and thirst for achievement. Addressing the crisis in Black education should be considered one of the most important goals in America's past, present, and future.

Deadlines for submission of proposals are as follows: Early Bird submission deadline for individual papers and organized panels is April 15th. After this date, all individual and panel submissions will be accepted until the deadline of April 30th. All proposals must be submitted electronically to ASALH through the All Academic online system. Use this link to submit a proposal. For complete panels submitted by April 15th, day and time preferences will be given on the basis of first come, first served.

A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document will be posted for submission requirements for the various kinds of sessions. Audio\Visual: Only panel proposal submitters will receive complimentary audio/visual equipment on a first-come, first-served basis. For full details, visit: <https://asalh100.org/presenter-info-call-for-papers/>.

Established on September 9, 1915 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, we are the Founders of Black History Month and carry forth the work of our founder, the Father of Black History. We continue his legacy of speaking a fundamental truth to the world that African people everywhere are makers of history and co-workers in what W. E. B. Du Bois called, "The Kingdom of Culture." ASALH's mission is to create and disseminate knowledge about Black History, to be, in short, the nexus between the Ivory Tower and the global public. We labor in the service of Blacks and all humanity. This the mission and vision of ASALH is to promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community; and to be the premier Black Heritage learned society with a strong network of national and international branches and partners whose diverse and inclusive membership will continue the Woodson legacy.

ASALH is head-quartered in Washington, D.C., temporarily on the campus of Howard University. The Association operates as local, state, and international branches promoting greater knowledge of African American history through a program of education, research, and publishing.