



Museum of African American History

The Museum of African American History welcomes donations of artifacts, documents, prints, photographs, and other items of material culture that are in line with our collections scope:

The Museum of African American History collects artifacts and archival materials of New England relating to the cultural life of people of African descent and the pursuit of liberty and justice in America. The primary focus is the colonial period through the end of the 19th century. The secondary focus is the 20th century.

MAAH does not accept unsolicited objects, images, or documents without evaluating the historic significance, condition, and ownership. Please submit a completed Online Collection Donation Form describing the material you wish to donate. Your information will be treated as confidential.

If you are unable to complete the donation form, please email collections@maah.org

Can I mail or drop off a donation?

No, MAAH cannot accept unsolicited donations through the mail or in-person without a formal letter of acceptance from the museum.

Can you tell me how much my material is worth?

No, the Museum of African American History, Boston and Nantucket, as a 501(c)(3) non-profit institution, is prohibited by the IRS and the code of ethics of the American Alliance of Museums from assigning a monetary value—real or perceived—to objects proposed for donation.

However, professional appraisers will perform this service for a fee. To find a licensed appraiser in your area, contact one of the following organizations for a referral:

- American Society of Appraisers: appraisers.org
- International Society of Appraisers: isa-appraisers.org
- Appraisers Association of America: appraisersassociation.org

How are potential donations reviewed?

The Collections Committee meets quarterly to review potential donations. At this time, the Committee will determine if your object fits into the museum's mission and its collections policy. If accepted, you will be contacted by the Director of Collections to arrange to have the donated materials picked up, shipped to, or dropped off at the Museum of African American History, Boston and Nantucket.

Once the form is received, the Collections Department will contact you within 3-4 weeks, barring extenuating circumstances.



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Collections Donation Form

(please write in blue or black ink)

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Preferred Method of Contact: (check one)

_____ Phone _____ Email

I would like to donate an: (check one or more)

___ Object(s)

___ Archival Document (including books, diaries, newspapers, flyers, postcards, advertisements, catalogs, pamphlets, scrapbooks, etc.)

___ Photograph(s)

___ Painting(s) or Sculpture(s)

___ Other Object(s)

Description of object(s):

Material (what is it made of?):

Date (rough estimate):

Historical significance (how does it relate to telling the African American history of New England, ca. 1600s-1950s?):

How does it relate to MAAH's mission and exhibitions:

Ownership/Provenance:

Condition:



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Paste photographs to this document (optional):

Date: _____

Mail this document to the museum:

Museum of African American History, Boston and Nantucket
c/o Collections Department
46 Joy St
Boston, MA 02114