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**Champaign County African American Heritage Trail Launches Mobile App
for Self-Guided Exploration**

New iOS and Android app allows visitors to build personalized tours, follow curated routes, and experience local history through accessible audio narration.

Champaign, IL—Exploring more than 170 years of African American history in Champaign County is now easier than ever. The Champaign County African American Heritage Trail and the Experience Champaign-Urbana Foundation have launched a new mobile app for both Apple and Android devices that allows residents and visitors to create personalized self-guided tours or follow curated routes highlighting the people, places, and stories that shaped the community.

Designed to make the Trail more accessible and engaging, the app allows users to customize their experience based on the sites they want to visit. Whether exploring historic churches, murals, parks, public art, or landmarks on the University of Illinois campus, visitors can choose the stops that interest them most or select from suggested itineraries. The app seamlessly connects with each user's preferred mapping application, providing turn-by-turn navigation throughout the journey. The app also features audio narration at trail stops, creating a more accessible experience allowing all users to hear the stories of the Trail as they explore.

"Our vision has always been to make these important stories accessible to everyone," said Jayne DeLuce, President & CEO of the Experience Champaign-Urbana Foundation. "This app gives residents and visitors the flexibility to explore at their own pace while creating a richer, more inclusive experience that helps bring Champaign County's African American history to life."

The mobile app expands upon the growing Heritage Trail, which includes interpretive signs, public art, tours, and educational programming throughout Champaign County. Recent additions, including the Musician Tribute Wall at Skelton Park, new interpretive signage recognizing Douglass Park, the Douglass Branch Library, and the Underground Railroad in Savoy, continue to preserve and share stories that have often gone untold.



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The Champaign County African American Heritage Trail celebrates the lives, achievements, and resilience of African Americans who helped shape the region through Reconstruction, the Great Migration, the Civil Rights Movement, and into the present day. As a community-driven initiative, the Trail continues to grow through new historical research, public art, interpretive signage, educational resources, and community partnerships.

The Champaign County African American Heritage Trail app is available for free download on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Visitors can also explore trail stops, suggested routes, and additional educational resources at ccafricanamericanheritage.org.

About the Experience Champaign-Urbana Foundation

The Experience Champaign-Urbana Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, generates resources that support destination experiences for people who visit, work, and live in the greater Champaign County area. Through initiatives including the Champaign County African American Heritage Trail, the Foundation invests in projects that preserve local history, strengthen community pride, and create meaningful experiences for residents and visitors alike.