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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 22, 2025

**Dedication of the Musician Tribute Wall to be Held at Skelton Park**

**Champaign, IL** — The Champaign County African American Heritage Trail and the Experience Champaign-Urbana Foundation are proud to announce the dedication of the Musician Tribute Wall at Skelton Park on **Sunday, September 28, from 4:00–6:00 p.m.** Community members, supporters, and media are invited to join this special celebration honoring the African American musicians whose talent and creativity shaped the cultural heartbeat of the region.

The Musician Tribute Wall honors the legacy of local Black musicians who found their voice and audience in the Champaign-Urbana area, and dates back to the 1890s. The wall was curated by Trail co-chairs Barbara Suggs-Mason and Angela Rivers, in collaboration with influential musician and educator Nathaniel Banks, and designed and fabricated by Taylor Studios. It features the name of the artist, the time period they performed, as well as their genre and primary instrument. This addition marks a major milestone in the transformation of Skelton Park, which adds to the sculpture from renowned artist Preston Jackson and a vibrant play space with a focus on music and art.

“This wall stands as a testament to the rhythm, soul, and artistry that has resonated through our community for generations,” said Jayne DeLuce, President & CEO, Experience Champaign-Urbana Foundation. “It is both a celebration and an invitation—to remember, to honor, and to continue creating.”

The dedication ceremony will include remarks from community leaders and a live performance by Afro D and the Global Soundwaves, inspired by the musicians commemorated.

The Musician Tribute Wall is a permanent installation along the heritage trail, a county-wide project designed to educate and inspire by sharing the often-untold stories of African Americans who shaped the community.

The transformation of Skelton Park was made possible through a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, generous contributions from the Rotary Club of Champaign, the City of Champaign, and Champaign County, as well as every commemorative brick donated to help pave the trail. For more details, visit [ccafricanamericanheritage.org/trail-stop/skelton-park](https://ccafricanamericanheritage.org/trail-stop/skelton-park).

**About the Experience Champaign-Urbana Foundation**

This 501(c)(3) organization fuels destination growth through film, talent, and events. We invest in projects like the African American Heritage Trail to amplify culture, spark economic growth, and build a vibrant, inclusive region. <https://experiencecu.org/foundation>

**About the Champaign County African American Heritage Trail**

A celebration of the lives and contributions of African Americans in the Champaign County area. The mission is to educate today’s residents and visitors about the rich cultural history of a people whose stories have been largely unrecognized, but who directly shaped the place we call home.

<https://www.ccafricanamericanheritage.org/>