
ADAMS MORGAN HERITAGE TRAIL PROJECT

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Adams Morgan Moving Ahead on Heritage Trail

In partnership with American University's Public History Program, members of the Adams Morgan community are implementing a heritage trail project that will be part of the citywide efforts to construct a DC Heritage Trail. The Historical Society of Washington, DC, played a central role in pairing up the needs of the Adams Morgan community with those of AU's Public History Program. The goals for this project include:

- 1) A deepened awareness of the history of the neighborhood among residents.
- 2) An additional means of attracting businesses and visitors to the neighborhood.
- 3) A way of sharing the rich history of the neighborhood with visitors that will encourage respect of the neighborhood and its residents.

Additionally, this Heritage Trail project, along with the ones underway in the U Street-Shaw and Downtown neighborhoods, will serve as neighborhood gateways to connect neighborhood histories to the city history that will be presented at the new City Museum.

The Adams Morgan Heritage Trail project involves oral history and documentary research into the community's history, identification of and research on historic sites, identification of historical photographs and other illustrative materials, and the drafting of text for historical markers that will be erected throughout the community. The project offers students in American University's Public History Program invaluable experience with both traditional historical sources and methodologies and also with public history methods, issues of community politics for historians, and committee- or team-based project work.

Long-time residents and business owners in Washington, DC's Adams Morgan community shared their neighborhood knowledge and personal memories during two "Remembering Adams Morgan" open forums on Saturday, Feb. 24 (10:00 am-1:00 pm at Goodwill Baptist Church, 1862 Kalorama Rd., NW) and Thursday, Mar. 1 (7:00 pm-9:00 pm at the Latino Economic Development Corporation, 2316 18th St., NW). The historical information obtained at these forums is being integrated with individual oral history interviews and archival materials.

Who's Involved

The Adams Morgan Heritage Trail Project is guided by neighbors from the Adams Morgan community, with advice and assistance from: Historical Society of Washington, D.C., D.C. Heritage Tourism Coalition, American University's Public History Program, and the Latino Economic Development Corporation.

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