

# AFRICAN BURYING GROUND PROJECT TIMELINE

2003 – 2010

- **REDISCOVERY - October 2003** - Remains of 13 individuals were discovered under Chestnut Street (between Court and State Streets) during construction of infrastructure upgrades in the area; eight burials were exhumed and all were determined to be of African ancestry.
- **COMMITTEE APPOINTED - August 2004** - The City Council appointed the African Burying Ground Committee to determine a proper way to honor those buried at Chestnut Street.
- **OUTREACH TO ABUTTERS - September 2004 to May 2005** - The Committee met with project abutters to determine an appropriate and workable site configuration for a memorial at Chestnut Street, which included removal of all on street parking, the creation of a travel way for two-way traffic, and the closure of Chestnut Street at the Court Street end.
- **CITY COUNCIL APPROVES CONCEPTUAL DESIGN - April 2005** – The City Council voted to accept the African Burying Ground Committee’s recommended site configuration for a memorial on Chestnut Street. Further, the Council voted to refer the proposed plan to the Traffic and Safety Committee for a hearing and a report back, and authorize the City Manager to commence development of more detailed plans.
- **CITY TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMITTEE ENDORSES CONCEPTUAL PLAN - June 2005** – The Traffic and Safety Committee voted to advise the City Council that they found no impact on traffic or safety and that the site configuration be approved.
- **CITY SELECTS PROJECT DESIGN TEAM - April 2007** – The City contracted with Roberta Woodburn, of Woodburn & Company Landscape Architecture to work on a project design with the African Burying Ground Committee.
- **PUBLIC FORUMS HELD - April/May 2007** – The African Burying Ground Committee held two well-attended public forums to solicit public input for the memorial design.
- **CITY SELECTS ARTIST VIA NATIONAL SEARCH - September 2007 to June 2008** – The City conducted a national search for an artist specializing in outdoor public art to join the design team and complete work with the African Burying Ground Committee on the project design. The African Burying Ground Committee selected Jerome Meadows of Meadowlark Studios in Savannah, Georgia in June 2008.
- **PROJECT DESIGN PROGRESSES - July 2008 to October 2008** – The African Burying Ground Committee held design meetings with the design team and City staff to develop the desired design for the memorial.
- **OUTREACH TO ABUTTERS - October 8, 2008** – The African Burying Ground Committee met with project abutters to explain the design concept and solicit feedback; the design was well received by abutters.
- **CITY COUNCIL APPROVES DESIGN - October 20, 2008** – The African Burying Ground Committee presented its recommended design to the City Council and received its consensus approval prior to moving forward with final design.
- **ADDITIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK CARRIED OUT - November 2008** – As part of finalizing project design, the City - in cooperation with the project Archaeologist and State Archaeologist - undertook test trenching activities on Chestnut Street. This led to the location of additional remains at depths in conflict with planned memorial components and some project redesign followed.
- **DEVELOPMENT OF FUNDRAISING PLAN BEGINS - January 2009** – The Committee began working with members of the community on fundraising efforts.
- **AFRICAN BURYING GROUND TRUST ESTABLISHED - September 20, 2010** – The African Burying Ground Committee made a presentation to the City Council about the project status and requested the Council adopt the African Burying Ground Trust as a vehicle to collect donations for the project’s construction and future maintenance.
- **CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO APPROPRIATE FUNDING - December 20, 2010** – The Portsmouth City Council voted unanimously to provide \$100,000 in Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) funding for construction of the African Burying Ground Memorial Park.