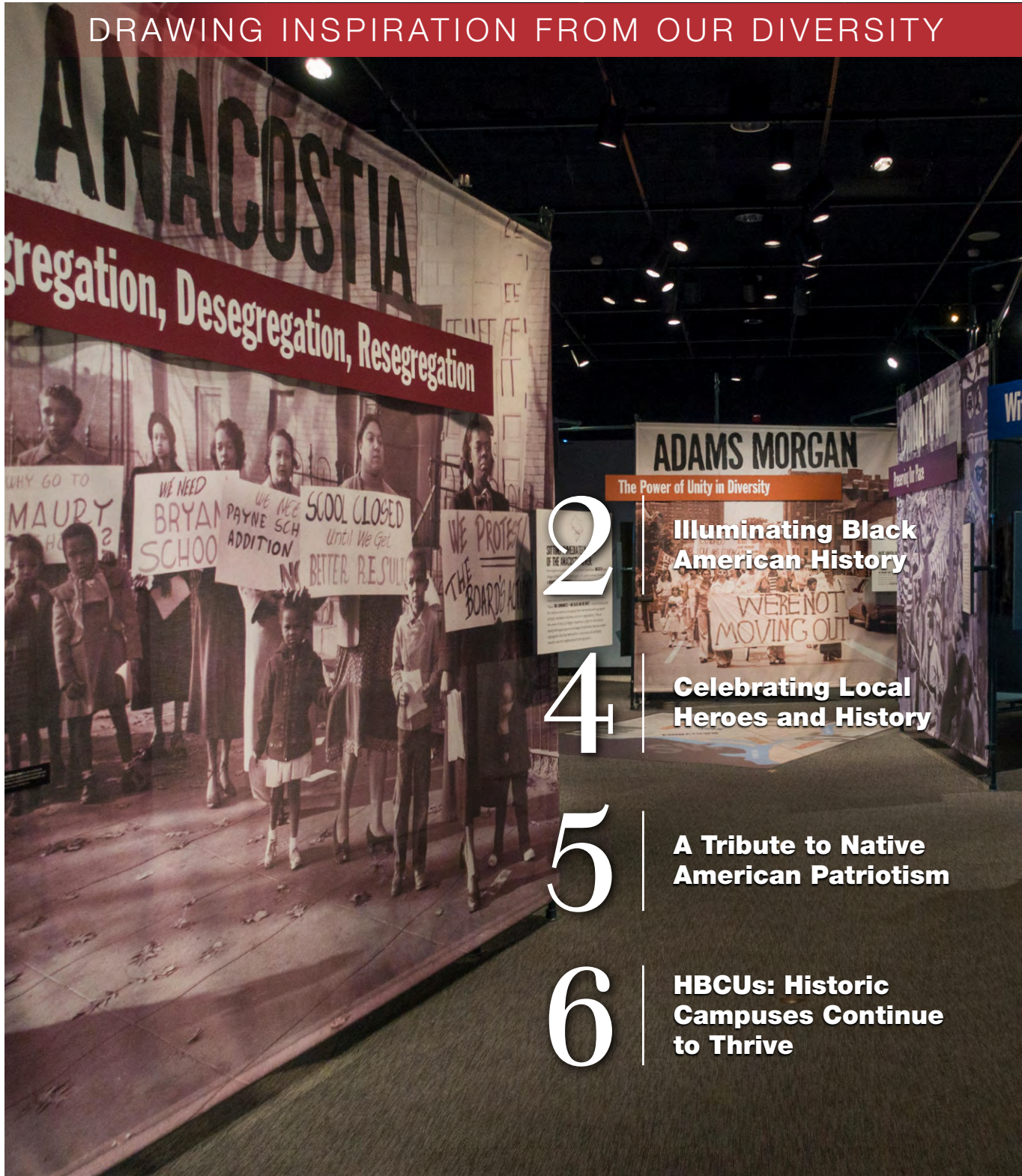


# MOMENTUM

WINTER 2021

DRAWING INSPIRATION FROM OUR DIVERSITY



2

**Illuminating Black  
American History**

4

**Celebrating Local  
Heroes and History**

5

**A Tribute to Native  
American Patriotism**

6

**HBCUs: Historic  
Campuses Continue  
to Thrive**



**Mueller**



Fewer than eight percent of the landmarks and sites on the National Register of Historic Places explore the experiences of Black Americans, Latinos, women, and other minorities. Historians, preservationists, and communities today face a broad challenge to address this “diversity deficit.” Mueller Associates is proud to have helped preserve a number of these historic properties, as well as design museums and galleries that share stories, art, and artifacts from the nation’s diverse past, create new settings to showcase the contemporary works of underrepresented artists, and support the work of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in producing future leaders.

## ILLUMINATING BLACK AMERICAN HISTORY



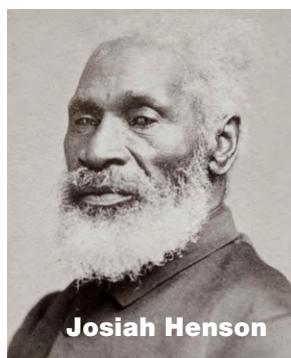
### *New Josiah Henson Visitor Center and Museum to Open*

The home to one of America’s most consequential abolitionists and authors is ready to open its doors to share his story and the story of millions of other enslaved Americans. The **Josiah Henson Museum and Park** in North Bethesda, Maryland, explores Henson’s life and achievements as well as life on a working plantation. The 3.34-acre park includes a restored early 19th-century home and a mid-19th century log house kitchen. A new 3,000-square-foot visitor center adjacent to the home features a theater that doubles as a community space, a gift shop, and a ticketing area.

and lectured widely. In 1849, Henson published his autobiography, which is believed to have informed the narrative of Harriet Beecher Stowe’s acclaimed novel, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.

Both the wood frame home—now known as the Riley-Bolton House—and the log kitchen appear on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, after extensive upgrades that include all new mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems engineered by Mueller, the structures have been restored and house numerous exhibits on the history of the property and the life of Henson.

“This is a public museum that celebrates the challenging and inspiring life of the Reverend Josiah Henson, who inspired the fictional character of Uncle Tom,” says Shirl Spicer, countywide museum manager for the Maryland-National Park & Planning



Enslaved to plantation owner Isaac Riley, Henson labored on the farm for many years until escaping with his family to Canada in 1830. He became a conductor on the Underground Railroad, helping more than 100 enslaved persons escape to freedom. As an abolitionist and Methodist preacher, he traveled



Commission, Department of Parks, Montgomery County. “This museum helps bring his autobiography to life, and describes what a life of enslavement was like in the 19th century.”

To minimize interventions (*as seen below*) that would detract from the home’s historic integrity, Mueller’s team converted an unused basement into the mechanical room, housing equipment



away from public view while allowing for ease of access and maintenance. “This was a delicate installation, as so much about the building was unknown,” says Dan Carmine, PE, LEED AP, Mueller’s project manager. “During construction, as walls were opened and more of the structure was revealed, we had to quickly redesign some of the ductwork routings. The building itself is an artifact, and preservation was a priority.”

“Our team was proud to help reveal through design the incredible stories that are inherent in these buildings and this site,” says Steve Ziger, FAIA, partner with Ziger|Snead Architects. “It’s powerful when architecture can become part of the storytelling, along with the exhibits. This property is an important reminder of the history we all share. We’re creating an environment that will inform generations.”

Ongoing archaeological excavations continue with the goal of ultimately determining where Henson may have lived on the property. More than 30,000 artifacts have already been recovered. The full story of Henson and others who lived on the site has yet to be completely told.

“ **Black history is American history, and it is our responsibility to cultivate spaces to engage with it. We must ensure that everyone has the opportunity to draw inspiration and wisdom from African American historic places.** ”

African American Cultural Heritage  
Action Fund of the National Trust  
for Historic Preservation

## CELEBRATING LOCAL HEROES AND HISTORY

New projects, such as Gallaudet University’s Freedom Garden and Memorial, the Smithsonian’s new Molina Family Latino Gallery, and many other local community museums are all important contributions to honoring the diverse legacies of the past and the nation’s rich cultural heritage.

A new memorial on the grounds of Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., will soon honor Louise Miller, whose activism on behalf of Black deaf children helped provide educational opportunities and dismantle educational segregation in the 1950s. Working with the architectural firms MASS Design Group and Ten X Ten, Mueller is supporting the **Freedom Garden and Memorial** by providing electrical and plumbing engineering services. When complete, the site will allow visitors to walk through a sensory-rich, experiential sequence with multiple “paths of discovery” highlighting themes of awareness, freedom, remembrance, and healing.



**Freedom Garden and Memorial**



The new **Molina Family Latino Gallery**, located in the National Museum of American History, is set to open in 2022 and will celebrate the U.S. Latino experience. It has been planned and designed to help the Smithsonian Institution achieve its goal of reaching “millions of diverse, intergenerational audiences.” The 4,500-square-foot gallery was designed by Quinn Evans and Mueller, with Museum Environments as the exhibit designer. The Smithsonian has identified the project to set a new standard for enhanced universal design and inclusive experiences through the use of sensory mapping and mockups, and multiple accessibility features in the finished gallery.

Other museum projects celebrating local heroes include:

#### **Anacostia Community Museum**

Mueller has completed several projects at the Anacostia Community Museum in southeast Washington, D.C. Among the many museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the Anacostia Community Museum has featured exhibitions exploring the history of Anacostia, African American art and heritage, and African culture. *(cover image)*

#### **The Banneker-Douglass Museum**

The Banneker-Douglass Museum in Annapolis, Maryland, is named for prominent Black Americans Benjamin Banneker and Frederick Douglass—both natives of Maryland. The museum is housed in the circa-1875, former Mount Moriah African Methodist Episcopal Church. Working with Quinn Evans, Mueller helped renovate the first floor of the historic structure and design a major addition to the property that supports programming in African American history and culture.



**Molina Family Latino Gallery**

#### **Historic London Town Museum**

A Colonial seaport village founded in 1683 in Edgewater, Maryland, London Town is a Site of Memory as part of the UNESCO Slave Route Project. Mueller assisted Quinn Evans in designing a new visitor center for the museum, uniquely housed in a decommissioned underground wastewater treatment plant.

#### **Paul R. Jones Collection of African American Art**

Constructed in 1898, Mechanical Hall is set on the University of Delaware's Newark campus. Originally a classroom building and machine shop, the historic structure now houses the Paul R. Jones Collection of African American Art. Mueller supported Ziger|Snead Architects in designing the renovation, which was carefully engineered to support conservation efforts and the protection of this major collection.

## **ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND INCLUSION**

**“Museums are a vital part of how we tell the stories of who we are, who we’ve been, and how we will live together. They maintain our cultural heritage and teach us about all the ways we are different and the same. Reflecting the diversity of that heritage is a critical part of museums’ work. We cannot claim to be truly essential to society if we are not accessible to all.”**

The American Alliance of Museums



**The Banneker-Douglass Museum**



# A TRIBUTE TO NATIVE AMERICAN PATRIOTISM



## *New Native American Veterans Memorial Now Open*

Photo by Alan Karchmer for NMAI, courtesy of the National Museum of the American Indian

On November 11, 2020, the Smithsonian Institution officially unveiled the new **National Native American Veterans Memorial** on the grounds of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. The memorial honors the many American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian men and women who have served in the U.S. military, a tradition that includes every military conflict since the Revolutionary War. Today, there are approximately 21,000 Native American active duty service members and more than 183,000 veterans.

Designed by Harvey Pratt, a Cheyenne and Arapaho artist and Vietnam War veteran, the memorial, entitled “Warriors’ Circle of Honor,” features a 12-foot-tall stainless steel circle set atop a carved stone drum. Water flows continuously from the center of the drum, and a fire can be lit at the circle’s base for ceremonial occasions.

Mueller supported the design team, including Pratt, the Oklahoma City-based firm of Butzer Architects and Urbanism, and Quinn Evans, with electrical and plumbing services for the memorial. Among the most challenging aspects of the project was meeting the requirement to complete it by Veterans Day 2020. The project was designed with accessibility and inclusion in mind, honoring traditions from a broad array of native cultures.

“It was an exceptional project,” says Alyson Steele, FAIA, LEED AP, executive vice president with Quinn Evans. “Everyone cared deeply about this project and we were anxious to see it open to the public. The Native American community had waited long enough.”

“ **This tribute to Native heroes recognizes for the first time on a national scale the enduring and distinguished service of Native Americans in every branch of the U.S. military.** ”

The National Museum of the American Indian



# HBCUs: HISTORIC CAMPUSES CONTINUE TO THRIVE



There are 104 operating historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) across the country, offering a proud tradition of higher education for Black Americans. “HBCUs have educated people endowed with confidence, who are culturally competent and well-prepared academically to shape a new society and a new world,” says Dr. David Wilson, president of Morgan State University. For more than 50 years, Mueller has proudly supported the contributions of HBCUs such as Morgan State University, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and Bowie State University, to name a few. HBCUs are leading the way in focusing on the future by constructing state-of-the-art new facilities that support dynamic instruction in business, health, the arts and sciences, and student services.

## **Morgan State University**

Mueller has been engineering building systems for new construction and renovation projects at Morgan State for 20 years. Recently completed projects include the new 139,000-square-foot Tyler Hall, which opened in 2020 and houses student services, completed with GWWO, Teeple Architects, and KPN Architects; and the LEED® Gold, 135,000-square-foot Earl C. Graves School of Business and Management, designed by Ayers Saint Gross with Kohn Pedersen Fox and KPN Architects. *(top left image)*

## **University of Maryland Eastern Shore**

Mueller's work at this historic campus dates to the 1960s. The new 120,000-square-foot Pharmacy and Health Professionals Building, designed by Ayers Saint Gross, consolidates the university's pharmacy programs into a single building to fulfill a long-standing goal tied to accreditation. Another recent project is the new 166,000-square-foot, LEED Gold Engineering & Aviation Science Complex, designed by Hord Coplan Macht and Perkins + Will. *(bottom right image)*

## **Bowie State University**

Over the past decade, Mueller has completed numerous projects at Bowie State, including the LEED Platinum Center for Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Nursing, which opened in 2017, and the new Communication Arts and Humanities Building, slated to open by 2025, both designed by Perkins + Will. *(top right image)*

## **Virginia State University**

The new 175,000-square-foot Academic Commons Building, designed by EYP, will connect specialized spaces for the Health, Physical Education and Recreation, Military Science, and ROTC departments with classrooms, media laboratories, broadcast production labs, language and literature labs, a blackbox theater, and art, ceramic labs, and studios, among others.

“HBCUs have a long, impressive history of developing Black students into world-class leaders, including the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, W.E.B. DuBois, Earl C. Graves, and Oprah Winfrey.”

Dr. David Wilson, President, Morgan State University