



# STRATEGIC PLAN 2026 to 2028

African American Heritage Institute of Delaware

*Preserving Our Past. Inspiring Our Future. Taking Action.*



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ongoing fundraising efforts to:

- Complete capital renovation of 1043 Clifford Brown Walk
- Launch innovative oral history programming
- Preserve Delaware's African American heritage
- Catalyze action through Eastside Thrive

Since 2011, AAHI has advanced Black history education and identity development. As the designated backbone organization for Eastside Thrive, AAHI is positioned to lead lasting community transformation.



AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE INSTITUTE  
1043 CLIFFORD BROWN WALK  
WILMINGTON, DE 19801

## **NATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

Establish the nation's first Oral History Training Institute focused on African American heritage.

## **MEASURABLE IMPACT**

Produce 120 professional oral histories over three years and serve 300 individuals annually.

## **STORY TO ACTION MODEL**

Implement a structured pipeline that transforms oral histories into community action through Eastside Thrive.

## **REPLICABLE FRAMEWORK**

Develop a scalable model that can be adopted by communities nationwide.

**VISION AND IMPACT**





FIRST FLOOR LOBBY



SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY

## **PRESERVE AND EDUCATE**

Explore, document, preserve, and educate communities about Delaware's African American experience.

## **EMPOWER YOUTH IDENTITY**

Build positive identity and historical awareness among youth ages 16 to 21.

## **PREPARE FUTURE LEADERS**

Inspire young people to thrive and lead in an increasingly diverse world.

**MISSION**





# CAMPUS OVERVIEW

City transferred five parcels including:

1. 1039 Clifford Brown Walk
2. 1043 Clifford Brown Walk

**Vision:** Comprehensive Heritage and  
Community Action Campus

# 1039 CLIFFORD BROWN WALK

## The 1039 Workshop

Status: Renovation completes June 2026

Functions:

1. Pilot programming
2. Hybrid meetings
3. Oral history discussion forums
4. Community action planning

Serves as interim operational base.



# THEORY OF CHANGE



## **PRESERVE LIVED EXPERIENCE**

Oral histories serve as authentic archives that document the lived experiences, achievements, and challenges of Delaware's African American community.

## **STRENGTHEN IDENTITY AND UNDERSTANDING**

Oral storytelling reinforces cultural identity, builds pride, and deepens understanding across generations.

## **ACTIVATE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

Oral histories inspire action by informing community priorities and shaping solutions. History informs action, and action creates new history.



# ORAL HISTORY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



## Participants trained to:

- Conduct professional interviews
- Preserve and archive oral histories
- Apply oral history to education and community development

## Delivered in partnership with:

- University of Delaware
- Delaware State University
- Dept. of Education



# CURRICULUM AND DELIVERY

## Curriculum Includes:

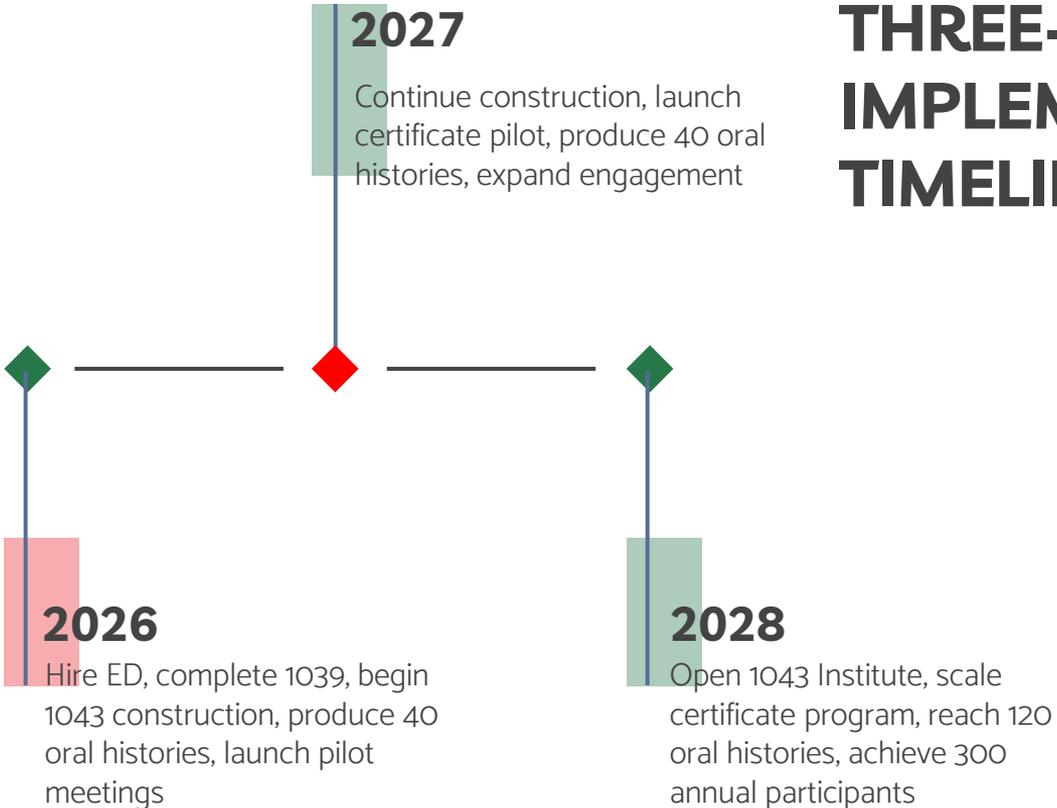
- Methodology and ethics
- Interview techniques
- Audio and video production
- Archiving and digital preservation
- Research and analysis
- Community action planning
- Supervised practicum

Hybrid delivery model

**Target:** 50 completers annually



# THREE-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE



# SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY



## DIVERSIFIED REVENUE STREAMS

AAHI will build long-term stability through multiple funding sources, including certificate program tuition, facility rental income, consulting services, and continued grants and philanthropic support.

## EARNED INCOME FROM CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

With a target of 50 participants annually at \$1,200 per participant, the certificate program is projected to generate \$60,000 in annual tuition revenue to support ongoing operations.



# RISK MITIGATION

## CONSTRUCTION DELAYS

Utilize 1039 as interim site

## FUNDRAISING SHORTFALLS

- Conservative budgeting
- Flexible cohort sizing

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RISK

- Hybrid engagement model
- Alignment with Eastside priorities

## UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP DELAYS

Launch independently while formalizing MOUs





This \$8 million investment will create a cultural anchor for Wilmington's Eastside, establish the nation's first Oral History Training Institute focused on African American heritage, and produce 120 professional oral histories connected to community action. The African American Heritage Institute is prepared to lead and respectfully requests the City of Wilmington's partnership.



# THANK YOU

Does anyone have any questions?  
We welcome your feedback and discussion.

Follow the project updates

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[www.aahide.org](http://www.aahide.org)

