



**AFRICAN AMERICAN  
MUSEUM IN PHILADELPHIA**

## **Trailblazers to Freedom Traveling Trunks**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What are the Trailblazers to Freedom Traveling Trunks?**

The Trailblazers to Freedom Traveling Trunks are traveling extensions of our core exhibit, ***Audacious Freedom: African Americans in Philadelphia 1776-1876***. In addition to video presentations pulled directly from this exhibit and introductions from a lively narrator, each trunk features replica documents, artifacts and clothing representing the personal, professional, and sometimes political lives of Philadelphia's African American community during the time between the Revolutionary War and the end of Reconstruction.

#### **How many trunks are there?**

Two. **Trunk One** features Octavius Valentine Catto and Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, social activists living during the Civil War Era.

**Trunk Two** features Alice of Dunks Ferry and James Forten, individuals who lived and worked on and near the water during the Colonial, Revolutionary War and Early National Eras.

#### **Who can borrow the trunks?**

Anyone who will be using the trunk with a group for educational purposes. This includes public, parochial, charter and other schools, as well as libraries, family reunions, community development organizations, afterschool programs, businesses and more.

#### **How much does it cost to rent a trunk?**

Thanks to generous funding from Comcast, the trunks are sent to schools within the School District of Philadelphia for up to two (2) weeks for FREE. Other interested parties will be charged based on the cost of moving the trunk(s) to and from your location. Please call 215-574-0380 x.225 for more details.

#### **How big are the trunks and are they difficult to move?**

**Trunk One** measures 42" tall, 41" wide and 31" deep. It rests on 4 wheels, 2 of which swivel. This trunk is heavy and it is NOT recommended that you try to lift it. We work with licensed, bonded and insured movers to deliver and pick up the trunk – please leave the heavy lifting to them! Rolling it is just fine.

**Trunk Two** measures 32.5" tall, 31" wide, and 25" deep. This trunk rests on 4 wheels, all of which swivel. While smaller and lighter than our first trunk, we ask that you leave any lifting of the trunk to our licensed, bonded and insured movers, for your safety!

## **How long can we keep a trunk?**

Generally speaking, we lend trunks out for up to 2 weeks at a time. If you are interested in getting a trunk for a shorter or longer period, we may be able to accommodate your request, depending upon our current trunk schedule.

## **What do we need to get one of the trunks?**

In order to book a trunk, please first make sure that your facility has the following:

- Doors wide enough for your desired trunk to fit through. Trunk Two fits through most standard doorways. Trunk One is wider and requires double doors or an extra-wide doorway. (See measurements above.)
- A secure location in which to store the trunk when not in use.
- A ramp or elevator with which you can safely transport the trunk between spaces where it will be used and stored.
- Someone who will be responsible for the safety of the trunk

Good to go? Please reach out to our Group Sales Coordinator at 215-574-0380 x.225 or to discuss your potential use of the trunk or trunks.

## **How do we know what to do with the trunk once we get it?**

Once you express an interest in the trunk, we will invite you in for one of our Traveling Trunk previews. Someone from the Education and Public Programming department will open up the trunk for your exploration, share with you the Educator Guide and Technical Reference Guide, orient you to all trunk features, and offer suggestions for use with your group.

## **What if we run into a problem with the trunk?**

If you are having trouble with the technology of the trunk, first check the Technical Reference Guide to see if your issue is addressed there. If it is not, or if this does not solve your problem, please call our Education and Public Programming Department at 215-574-0380 x. 222. We will work with you to find a solution as quickly as possible.

## **What if damage occurs to the trunk or we lose an item?**

The trunks are delivered with a checklist of items that were in the trunk when it left the museum and that should be returned with the trunk when you are finished with it. This list is double checked against all items in the trunk before it leaves the museum and again when it returns. When you unpack and repack the trunk, you should check the items against this list as well.

If we receive the trunk and an item is missing, don't worry – chances are it's still in your classroom and we can make arrangements to get it back!

However, if an item is truly lost, you will be responsible for the cost of replacing it. Likewise, if the trunk is returned with damage (beyond normal wear and tear) – such as graffiti or broken pieces – you will be responsible for reimbursing the museum for the cost of repair.

## **How can we provide feedback or suggestions about the trunks?**

After you return the trunk, you will receive a survey. Please return this survey as soon as you are able, while your reflections are fresh in your mind.

Did your group do something creative or exciting with the trunk? Feel free to send us pictures, video, artwork or anything else you've worked on – we'd love to know and it may just end up in a future newsletter!

**For more information or to book a trunk for your organization, contact**

**Cassandra Murray  
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