



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 9, 2018

CONTACT: Christine Araujo
The American City Coalition
857.308.3010
christine_araujo@tamcc.org

Ruth McBain
National Trust
202.588.6186
RMcBain@savingplaces.org

Roxbury Cultural District Awarded \$50,000 Grant by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as Part of \$25M Effort to Preserve Historically Significant Places Across the US that Fully Reflect the American Story

Roxbury Cultural District is one of 16 recipients of the first grant cycle with the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund

July 6, 2018 – ROXBURY CULTURAL DISTRICT (RCD) today announced that it is among the inaugural class of grantees of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's newly established African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, and was awarded \$50,000 to help preserve, interpret, and share the rich story of Boston's 20th- and 21st-century African-American community.

"The Roxbury Cultural District welcomes this very timely investment in our community and will use the funds to hire our first staff member who will help launch the district's long-term visionary and collaborative agenda of cultivating and expanding artistic, cultural, historic, and economic development throughout the community," said Napoleon Jones-Henderson, President of the Board of Directors. Marita Rivero, Executive Director of the Museum of African American History, a strong supporter, stated: "The Roxbury Cultural District is a steadfast collective voice for preserving, interpreting, and sharing Roxbury's story. This funding will increase the district's capacity to collaborate with local partners and to deepen residents' and visitors' understanding of Roxbury's story and its important role in the past, present, and future of the City of Boston."

The Action Fund is a \$25 million multi-year national initiative aimed at uplifting the largely overlooked contributions of African Americans by protecting and restoring African American historic sites and uncovering hidden stories of African Americans connected to historic sites across the nation. ROXBURY CULTURAL DISTRICT was one of 16 grantees awarded more than **\$1 million in grants** to support grassroots preservation efforts to preserve sites across the country.

ROXBURY CULTURAL DISTRICT was chosen as one of 16 grantees from a pool of over 800 applications totaling over \$90 million in requests for support, further illustrating the growing need for additional protection, preservation and restoration of spaces of social and cultural significance to the African American community.

Designated by the Massachusetts Cultural Council in 2017, the district is a collaborative effort supported by over 40 traditional and nontraditional partners including arts/culture organizations, educational institutions, community development corporations, businesses, and city/state agencies. The RCD was developed as the backbone organizational structure needed for a sustained, collaborative focus on activating and marketing the neighborhood's cultural assets in order to build physical and social connectivity between people and place, strengthen collective impact, and expand the potential economic opportunities for residents, artists, business owners, and entrepreneurs that are aligned with a vibrant cultural district.

The African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund was launched in November 2017 and is the largest preservation campaign undertaken on behalf of African American history. With a fundraising goal of \$25 million over five years, the National Trust will support projects and organizations across the country that are working to tell the nation's full history.

For a full list of grant award recipients visit savingplaces.org/2018-action-fund-grant-recipients

###

ABOUT THE ROXBURY CULTURAL DISTRICT

The Roxbury Cultural District is a state-designated cultural district in the City of Boston's Roxbury neighborhood that fosters collaboration between residents and over 40 partners. The mission of the district is to identify and recognize Roxbury's cultural assets and establish the tools, strategies, resources, and spaces that elevate the community of Roxbury as a living repository of arts and cultural expression. To learn more visit: www.roxburyculturaldistrict.org.

ABOUT THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL HERITAGE ACTION FUND

The African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund is a multi-year initiative led by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in partnership with the Ford Foundation, The JPB Foundation, the Open Society Foundations and other partners, working to make an important and lasting contribution to our cultural landscape by elevating the stories and places of African American achievement and activism. To learn more visit: www.savingplaces.org/ActionFund.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately funded nonprofit organization, works to save America's historic places. Visit <http://www.savingplaces.org>.