

## **Proposal for Research Project Investigating the Historic Connections between the Corporation of London and the Transatlantic Trade in Enslaved African People (TTEAP)**

The Project will:

1. Identify all Lord Mayors, Sheriffs, Aldermen, Common Councillors of the Corporation of London who had a direct financial connection to the TTEAP across 1640 to 1807 (the period in which Britain was active in the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people) by crosschecking names of Lord Mayors, Sheriffs, Aldermen, and Common Councillors against the list of confirmed traders in enslaved African people collated as part of the *Register of British Slave Traders* project.
2. Identify all Lord Mayors, Sheriffs, Aldermen, Common Councillors of the Corporation of London who promoted the TTEAP across 1640 to 1807
3. Identify legacies and donations from those in [1] and [2] to the City's Cash across 1640 to 1807
4. Track any institutional investments by funds managed by the Corporation of London into joint-stock trading companies active in the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people
5. Provide evidence of the connections between donations and legacies from those in [1] and [2] to the funds that later facilitated the purchase of open spaces now managed by the Corporation of London
6. Document connections between those in [1] and [2] to material culture (paintings, sculpture, silver etc.) in Corporation of London collections.

The work could commence in January 2025 and draft conclusions will be offered to the Board by the end of July 2025. It will be completed in dialogue with a related study commissioned by the City Bridge Foundation.

### **Leadership and competence**

This work will be completed solely by Professor William Pettigrew who will act as a consultant to the Corporation of London and will work part time on this project alongside his other commitments. As Principal Investigator for and Editor of the *Register of British Slave Traders* project, is a leading historian of British slave traders, slave trading corporations, investment, and merchant philanthropy in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. He has led similar research projects for several other foundations (including Oxbridge colleges, City of London livery companies, *Trust for London*, hospital foundations, and the *City Bridge Foundation* as well as private sector and arts organisations). This work has focussed on writing reports summarising each organisation's connection to the history of the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people for non-experts and framing this research in an accessible, credible, and sensitive fashion for diverse audiences and according to each organisation's requirements. In every case, this work has helped each organisation deepen its commitment to Equity,

Diversity, and Inclusion through expert and transparent engagement with history. Professor Pettigrew has broad expertise and experience in/of completing research projects of this kind, writing reports, and communicating the results to stakeholders from all backgrounds.

### Course of Work and Budget

- Identification of relevant materials at the London Archives to finalise lists of Lord Mayors, Sheriffs, Aldermen, and Common Councillors and establish relevant financial and administrative records [2 days]
- Generating and crosschecking these lists of Lord Mayors, Sheriffs, Aldermen, and Common Councillors against lists of names from the *Register of British Slave Traders* database, which establishes direct financial links between individuals and the TTEAP [9 days]
- Establishing which Lord Mayors, Sheriffs, Aldermen, and Common Councillors promoted the TTEAP through cross-checking of names against administrative records of the Corporation of London, parliamentary records, petitions, and Board of Trade minutes [various archives, 5 days]
- Checking financial records for evidence of institutional investment by the Corporation of London in joint-stock trading companies active in the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people (note: these may have been held in the personal name/s of corporation officials) [3 days]
- Recording any benefactions and donations from the list of Lord Mayors, Sheriffs, Alderman, and Common Councillors to the City's Cash who were either/and financially connected to or promoted the TTEAP [4 days]
- Provide evidence of the connections between donations and legacies from confirmed traders in enslaved African people to the funds that facilitated the purchase of open spaces now managed by the Corporation of London (based on research completed for Trust for London). [2 days]
- Document connections between confirmed traders in enslaved African people who were also members of the Corporation of London to material culture (paintings, sculpture, silver, and other material culture in Corporation of London collections. [3 days]
- Writing project report [7 days]

This report will contain:

- An executive summary of the research findings
- A summary of relevant background history on the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people and the established connections between philanthropy and investment in the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people, with a focus on the City of London
- A tabulated list of Lord Mayors, Sheriffs, Alderman, and Common Councillors who had a direct financial connection with the TTEAP and/or promoted TTEAP listing also any donations and legacies to the City's Cash, listing donor, year, and amount.

- A list of any institutional investments by the Corporation of London in the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people.
  - A directory Lord Mayors, Sheriffs, Alderman, and Common Councillors with especially significant financial connections to or promotions of the TTEAP explaining their connection to and role in the history of the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people.
  - A section on connections between the research and schools and open spaces managed by the Corporation of London
  - An inventory of material culture owned by the Corporation of London and connected to the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people
  - A bibliography
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- Submission of draft report to the Emma Markiewicz for initial feedback and preparation and delivery of a presentation of research findings to the Senior Leadership Team at the Corporation of London [1 day]
  - Promotion of work and findings within the Corporation of London through briefings to staff/members [2 days]
  - Promotion of work and findings through briefings with headteachers/governors/students at schools managed by the Corporation of London [3 days]
  - Promotion of work and findings within the Corporation through preparation and delivery of walking tour of the City of London to place research findings into their spatial contexts [1 day]
  - Responding to queries and suggestions from the Corporation of London and making any alterations to final report [1 day]

### **Budget**

Forty-three days at £800 per day.

Total projected cost: £34,400

**Professor William A. Pettigrew, FRHS, 27 September 2024**