Windrush Foundation has received a confirmed grant of £238,700 for the Emancipation 1838 project

19/07/2012

It will also celebrate those who resisted enslavement, those who fought to end it, and others who worked in Britan.

Commencing in August 2012, community conferences, workshops, and other events will include stories of key 1820s abolitionists in the Caribbean and Britain, the British Parliamentary Debates of the 1830s, the social, economic and cultural situation in the Caribbean on and soon after Emancipation Day, the situation up to and after 1865 (including the Morant Bay massacre and the debates about conditions in Jamaica, and the Caribbean as a whole).

At the time, contributors to the debates included John Bright, Charles Darwin, John Stuart Mill, Thomas Huxley, Thomas Hughes and Herbert Spencer (in support of the Caribbean Africans) and opposing them were individuals like Thomas Carlyle, Rev. Charles Kingsley, Charles Dickens, and John Ruskin.

The project will create a website, educational material and present two heritage exhibitions (temporary and touring in 2013) that tell the stories of emancipation and the legacies, using original documents, objects, and graphic panels.

The touring exhibitions will visit libraries, and other venues. Project information will be on-line, and in social media/networks. Project workers will consult with members of London’s communities, seek their support for the programmes and activities.

An understanding and appreciation of this history and heritage will assist the development of identity, and foster better race and community relations.

Sam King MBE, co-founder of the Windrush charity and a former Mayor of Southwark, said: “The HLF grant is an indication of the importance of remembering nearly one million Caribbean Africans who walked to freedom on the First of August 1838. It is about how we can learn about the past, the legacies and how we can all understand the present. Also, we wish to let our young people, especially African and Caribbean youth, know about the contributions that their ancestors made to the prosperity and well-being of Britain.”

Wesley Kerr, Chairman of Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for London, said: “We are delighted to support this project which will bring to life the great untold story of what happened after the Africans were freed from slavery in 1838. With the 175th anniversary of that momentous milestone in our history approaching, this funding also provides the perfect springboard to explore the significance of the struggles that led to and followed Emancipation, and the opportunity for people to celebrate that legacy today.”

Notes to editors

Windrush Foundation is a registered charity established in 1996 to promote good race and community relations, endeavouring to eliminate discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, and working for equality of opportunity for all. It

runs projects that particularly highlight the contribution (to heritage, the arts, public services, sport, entertainment, commerce, etc in Britain and the Commonwealth) of the African Caribbean settlers who landed at Tilbury Docks, Essex on 22 June 1948 on the ship Empire Windrush, as well as other migrants who settled in the UK afterwards.

Further information

For interviews call 07508 903 634 or email windrush.project@gmail.com.