

National Civil War Museum Advisory Council Member

<u>Member Contact</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Location</u>
Christopher R. Shires, Director of Education, Exhibits & Programs	The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center	Cincinnati, OH
<p>Christopher R. Shires is the Director of Exhibits, Education, and Programs at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center where he oversees new exhibit initiatives, a dynamic education and interpretation department, and a robust schedule of lectures and public programs. Chris came to the Freedom Center in the capacity of Interpretive Services Manager where he was in charge of developing the interpretive plan for the 150,000 square foot facility that opened in 2004. Chris received his B.A. in history from Marshall University and his M.A. in history with a graduate certificate in museum studies from the University of Missouri, St. Louis. Chris is a member of the AASLH Educators and Interpreters Committee.</p>		
<p>The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center is located on the banks of the Ohio River, the very river that once symbolized the boundary between slavery and freedom for many. The Freedom Center, which opened in 2004, has welcomed over 800,000 visitors from all 50 states and 20 nations.</p>		
<p>The Freedom Center inspires today's freedom movements through exhibits, programs, research and interactive experiences, promoting collaborative learning and open dialogue. Our mission addresses the needs of our community, the nation and the world: "We reveal stories about freedom's heroes, past and present, challenging and inspiring everyone to take courageous steps for freedom today," while providing forums for inclusive dialogue and encouraging every individual to take a journey that advances freedom and personal growth.</p>		
<p>The mission of the Freedom Center is anchored in the history of the United States and, in particular, the stories of the Underground Railroad, which not only brings to life the denial of freedom that slavery represented, but also the heroism of those who overcame it through timeless values of courage, cooperation and perseverance. The Freedom Center is made up of three (3) buildings, which symbolize those cornerstones of freedom. The Freedom Center stands as a reminder that the fight for freedom continues to this very day, in the United States and around the world, and that it involves all of us.</p>		
<p>For more information, visit www.freedomcenter.org</p>		