



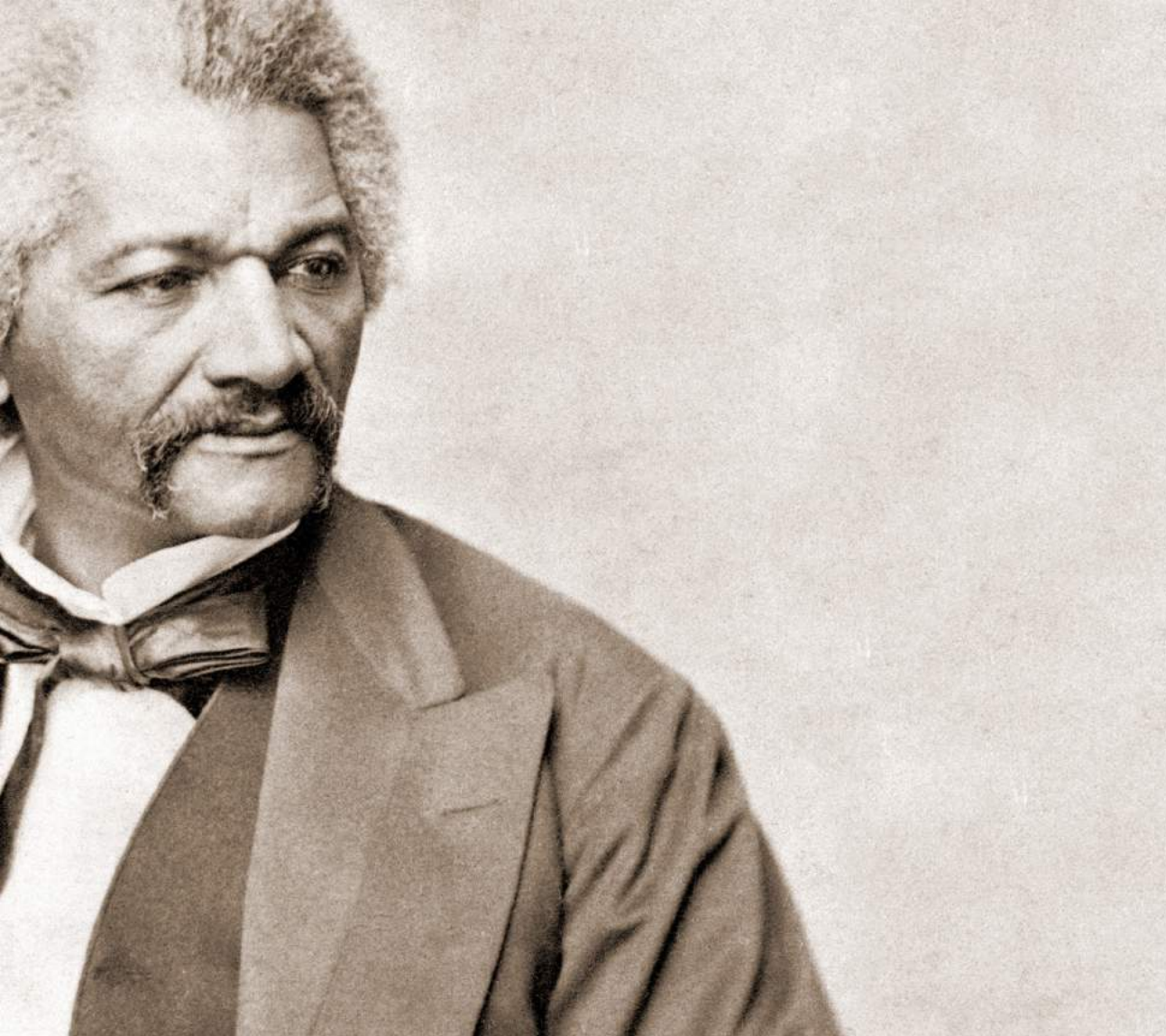
# Emancipation Bells

Concert Carillon and Amphitheater

Case for Support

Capital Campaign  
2024

[Bells.org/Emancipation](https://bells.org/emancipation)



**Frederick Douglass**  
(1818-1895)  
*Portrait, 1870*

# *The Bell of Freedom cannot be Unrung*

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring “that all persons held as slaves” within rebel states “are, and henceforward shall be free.”

Bells rang out in jubilant peal as word of the Proclamation resounded across the nation.

Before that momentous stroke of the pen, an inflection point in American history, advocates of abolition had been working tirelessly for decades – men and women who demanded justice, equality, dignity, and freedom.

**It's time their stories are tolled.**

# Join us as we build a community amphitheater and carillon in Southeast D.C. to honor the legacy of American abolitionists.

**A concert-grade grand carillon of 52 bells** across four octaves will rise from a wooded knoll in Southeast D.C., joining the family of carillons in the District (Washington National Cathedral, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Netherlands Carillon, et al.) as the first of its kind east of the Anacostia River at a scale that's more approachable and accessible to audience and artists alike.

This new carillon, **ring of 12 swinging peal bells**, amphitheater, and garden will stand in commemoration of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, with each of the bells named in honor of an abolitionist who worked to end slavery in America. The bells will keep the voices of abolitionists and the spirit of freedom alive and ringing.

## What is a carillon?

A carillon is a musical instrument of bells. Typically housed in a purpose-built bell tower or belfry, a carillon consists of at least 23 harmonically-tuned bells operated by an intricate system of internal clappers or external hammers. Much like an organist, a carillonist can create chords, harmonies, and melodies on their instrument – sending elegant tunes wafting across the rooftops.

**Lydia Maria Child**  
(1802-1880)  
*Portrait*





Set in a wooded park adjacent to the Bridge District, the structure's New Formalist architecture shelters, engages, and inspires.

Carillon Bell Chamber



Peal Bell Chamber

Carillonist and Clavier Room



Change Ringing Room

The Great Emancipator



Performing Arts Space

Observation Deck



Community Amphitheater

*O'Brien & Keane Architecture is leading the design of the space, with support from Royal Eijsbouts and John Taylor & Co. bell foundries.*

# Your support will allow us to foster local arts and community and:

- \* **Build the Emancipation Bells carillon**, comprising 52 concert-pitch bells across 4 octaves with a fully-chromatic keyboard range: F, G, B<sup>b</sup>, C4 to C8, and an additional ring of 12 swinging peal bells.
- \* **Curate a season of performances** throughout the temperate months (spring to autumn) with weekly concerts that are free and open to everyone.
- \* **Fund annual scholarships** for area residents to study at the North American Carillon School and to continue their education, practice, and recitals in D.C.
- \* **Offer grants for local composers** to write music for the instrument and to enable guest artist collaborations with other musicians and ensembles.
- \* **Inspire the next generation of community leaders** by showcasing the histories and stories of prominent abolitionists and civil rights activists.
- \* **Provide a welcoming and accessible space** for community performances, lectures, outdoor classes, and weddings, even when the carillon is not in use.

*Sept. 22*

*Jan. 1*

*April 16*

*June 19*

## 'The Great Emancipator'

An additional single bell on the grounds will be tolled at moments of distinct importance.

Hung separately from the carillon and supported by an allegorical figure in bronze, this bell will be sounded during special programming on four occasions annually:

- The date the Proclamation was announced
- The date the Proclamation took effect
- D.C. Emancipation Day
- Juneteenth

The National Bell Festival, together  
with our partners and donors, has  
pledged to raise \$2 million to bring the  
Emancipation Bells carillon, garden,  
and amphitheater to life.

Show your support by helping us make it ring.

# Leadership Gifts

**Be the cornerstone.**  
Bring the Emancipation Bells to life.

**\$750,000**

## **Presenting Sponsor**

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Your name or company cast in bronze on the The Great Emancipator, the single bell suspended from the center of the structure and sounded 4x annually.

Copy of the maquette (edition No. 1 of 2 cast in bronze), a small-scale model sculpted to visualize the full-scale figure that will crown the carillon and hold The Great Emancipator (pending final artistic and architectural designs). Includes an invitation to meet the sculptor in his or her studio.

Opportunity to speak at both the public unveiling of the sculpture and from the podium during the first public recital.

Your name or company included in a prominent byline accompanying all fundraising campaign publicity.

Private reception and performance for up to 100 guests before the carillon is opened to the public.

**\$500,000**

## **Performance Series Sponsor**

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Your name or company engraved on both the clavier (the carillon keyboard) and the practice instrument.

Opportunity to speak from the podium during the first public carillon recital, along with your name or company printed at the top of each recital program during the first full performance season (spring through autumn).

Your name or company included in a prominent byline accompanying all fundraising campaign publicity.

Private reception and performance for up to 80 guests before the carillon is opened to the public.

**\$450,000**

## **Amphitheater & Grounds Sponsor**

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Naming rights to the amphitheater surrounding the carillon, with your name engraved in stone in a prominent position.

Your name or company included in a prominent byline accompanying all fundraising campaign publicity, along with two full-page ads in the National Bell Festival guide for two years.

Private reception and performance for up to 80 guests before the carillon is opened to the public.

# Leadership Gifts

**Be the cornerstone.**  
Bring the Emancipation Bells to life.

\$350,000

## Peal Bells Sponsor

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Your name or company cast in bronze on the back of all 12 'Ring of Allies' swinging peal bells.

Your name or company included in a prominent byline accompanying all fundraising campaign publicity, along with two full-page ads in the National Bell Festival guide for two years.

Naming rights to the resident youth change ringing club at the tower.

\$250,000

## Matching Sponsor

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Your name or company cast in bronze on the back of the Bourdon, the carillon's heaviest abolitionist bell, named in honor of Frederick Douglass.

Your name or company included in a prominent byline accompanying all fundraising campaign publicity, along with one full-page ad on the inside cover and on the back cover of the National Bell Festival guide for two years.

Private reception and performance for up to 60 guests before the carillon is opened to the public.

\$150,000

## Educational Materials Sponsor

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Your name or company included as a notation at the bottom of every abolitionist biography on Bells.org (totaling 64 webpages).

Your name or company included in a prominent byline printed on a teacher guidebook, meant to help students grapple with the history of enslaved people and the abolitionists who fought to end it, produced in collaboration with National History Day and distributed to educators nationwide.

One full-page ad in the National Bell Festival guide for one year.

### All leadership gifts receive:

Invitation to the foundry to see the bells being cast and a private hardhat tour of the bell tower construction site.

Early access with up to seven guests to the "meet the bells" reception before installation in the tower.

VIP invitation to the groundbreaking ceremony.

Reserved premium seating at the first public carillon recital and recognition from the podium.

Dedicated email blast, press release, and article on Bells.org with social sharing.





**Sojourner Truth**  
(c. 1797-1883)  
*Portrait*

## Celebrate the voices that reverberate across the centuries.

### **52 Carillon Bells**

*East Tower*  
Sub-Bourdon: 2,072 lbs.

Featuring prominent Black abolitionists including:

Frederick Douglass  
Charlotte Forten Grimké  
Lewis and Harriet Hayden  
John Mercer Langston  
Mary Ann Shadd  
William Still  
Harriet Tubman  
Sojourner Truth  
*...and more!*

### **12 Peal Bells**

*West Tower*  
Tenor: 730 lbs.

Featuring allies and champions of abolition including:

William Lloyd Garrison  
Lydia Maria Child  
Karl Daniel Adolph Douai  
Ottawa Chief Kinjeino  
People of Oberlin, Ohio  
Mary Grew  
Theodore Dwight Weld  
Benjamin Lay  
*...and more!*

*Sponsor a Bell*

from \$500 – \$20,000  
**Individual Bell Sponsor**

**Want to honor someone who contributed substantially to the Emancipation movement?**

Consider sponsoring an individual bell and adding your name in bronze opposite an individual from history. Get in touch to explore our list of Emancipation heroes and to discuss giving and naming opportunities.

Visit [Bells.org/Abolitionists](https://bells.org/Abolitionists) to learn more.



*A message from the  
Congresswoman*

## Eleanor Holmes Norton

District of Columbia

Abolitionists represent the best of who we are as Americans. In the years leading up to Emancipation, they advocated tirelessly for the dignity and equality of all people – freedoms affirmed in our Declaration of Independence, but which were then, as now, left not fully realized.

This new carillon will not only be the first of its kind east of the Anacostia River, but it will also be the first of its kind in our nation. It will be a gathering place to celebrate community, enjoy the beautiful sound of music on bells, and reflect on our shared history.

I believe it is important to keep the voices of abolitionists alive, voices that still have resonance today. As we approach the 160th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, we must ensure the stories of these heroes are preserved and celebrated for generations to come.

Why? Because their work is not done. Our work is not done. I am reminded of a quote attributed to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

This matters.

Let’s not stay silent.

**Let’s let freedom ring.**





# We are on a mission to celebrate and restore bells in America.

The **National Bell Festival** rings in the New Year with community events across the United States and across the world. We also work throughout the year to restore historic bells and bell towers to their former thundering glory.

Our work supports the United Nations' Global Goal No. 11 for Sustainable Development: Protecting the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage, and is led by an all-volunteer team of campanologists and bell enthusiasts.

## **National Bell Festival**

### *Board of Directors*

Paul Ashe, *Director*  
Aimee Aryal  
Robert Bannister  
Rebecca Jorgenson Sundquist  
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Camden Miller  
Linda Onorevole  
Jason Solounias  
Benjamin Sunderlin

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### *Campaign Cabinet Members*

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Linda Harris  
Keyonna Jones  
Cheriss May  
Kamilah Mitchell  
Bruce Purnell

## **Historians**

Louise W. Knight  
Manisha Sinha  
Margaret Washington

## **Architect**

O'Brien & Keane

## **Bell Foundries**

Royal Eijsbouts  
John Taylor & Co.

## **Questions and Support**

National Bell Festival  
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