FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Auburn Historic and Cultural Sites Commission and NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center Partner to Launch Harriet's Lantern Trail

Immersive Outdoor Exhibit "Shines a Light" on Historical Spots, Exhibits, Cultural Heritage

AUBURN, NY – The New York State Equal Rights Heritage Center and the City of Auburn have launched "Harriet's Lantern Trail," an interactive outdoor wayfinding exhibit. Explorers can search for and find rare and interesting facts about the City of Auburn's historical spots, exhibits, and pronounced cultural heritage while navigating the trail.

Each stop on the lantern trail reveals a little piece of history from that very spot in an immersive way (via QR code). Not only is Harriet Tubman herself featured, but participants will also hear from Frances Seward, Theodore Case, and many more historically important figures.

How It Works

- Begin Harriet's Lantern Trail at the Equal Rights Heritage Center, and explore each lantern stop on the trail by following her map. You may also jump onto the trail at any point where a lantern is found.
- Look for the Lantern QR code outside each destination. Simply scan the QR code "lantern" and prepare to be transported back in time.
- Snap a picture of the destination as it appears today, and continue onto the next stop.
- Collect something cool: finish the trail, and photograph each of the stops to win a prize. Head over to the Equal Rights Heritage Center during regular hours and present to the front desk.

Exhibit QR code example

"What makes this experience so much fun is the ability to 'connect the dots' of sites throughout the city," said Courtney Rae Kasper, Visitor Experience Manager, NYS Equal Heritage Rights Center. "And right now, it's a ***safe***, ***outdoor activity*** for families, and an engaging experience for all ages. Plus, if the visitor stops at every location and captures each destination on their smartphones, they can return to the Center for a prize."

BYOD ("Bring your own device"): Built as a progressive web app, Harriet's Lantern allows explorers to jump right onto the digital trail quickly, and easily. No waiting to download a large app or a large amount of content, it is all ready to go.

Initial Stops on Harriet's Lantern Trail

- NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center
- Willard Memorial Chapel
- Market Street Park
- Auburn Public Theater
- Seward House Museum
- Seymour Library
- Case Research Laboratory
- Schweinfurth Art Center
- Fort Hill Cemetery
- Harriet Tubman Home, Inc./Harriet Tubman National Historical Park

Harriet's Lantern Trail is officially open to the public and is supported by a Market New York grant from I LOVE NY/New York State's Division of Tourism as a part of the Regional Economic Development Council initiative. More information is available online at visitauburnny.com, or visit the Auburn Visitor and Equal Rights Heritage Center, 25 South St., Auburn, NY 13021. Open Tuesday - Saturday: 10 AM–5 PM, and closed Sunday & Monday

The NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center and the City of Auburn partnered with creative and technology firm, and certified B Corp, TGW Studio (Rochester, NY) to realize the project.

For more information on Harriet's Lantern Trail or any of these destinations, contact Courtney Rae Kasper at 315.258.9820 or courtney@auburndowntown.org.