

Stopping Stones, an endeavor of the Engagement Arts Fund, is a national place-based public art strategy that recruits local partners to honor the memories of enslaved individuals in the locations where they were held and bring their stories alive by installing brass and stone micro monuments and supporting multivocal installation ceremonies that catalyze local movements for reparative justice, racial healing, and greater equity.



STOPPING STONES
MEMORIALS FOR
RACIAL HEALING



10 million enslaved Americans were victims of the most shameful institution in American history. Each one of them was somebody's son, daughter, wife, husband, brother, sister, or friend, many of them torn from their homes and families. Their harrowing journeys, cruel existence, and courageous survival, as well as their uncompensated contributions to our culture and economy are woven into the fabric of our nation. We cannot understand slavery and its continued impact without understanding the lives and stories of those who experienced enslavement.

Inspired by the Stolpersteine Memorials honoring victims of the Nazi regime in Europe, and believing that each page of history has the power to ignite change, Stopping Stones foster nuanced engagement with America's collective history and current systems that perpetuate racial injustice and inequality, enriching the American narrative by bringing to light the diverse, complex stories of enslaved individuals. Each memorial serves as a poignant reminder of their contributions, resilience, and humanity as well as a call to action to address the ongoing consequences of discrimination and injustice.



Since our launch in 2020, Stopping Stones has worked with local partners to install over 40 memorials in eight states. Stopping Stones are nationally-branded but locally delivered public art installations that drive community engagement to advance reparative change and investments in equity and justice. Installation ceremonies promote reflection, action, and collaboration and allow local partners engaged in racial healing work to identify other partners and volunteers in their area. Each monument serves as a permanent call to witness this history and advance toward a more equitable future.

With your support, we're poised to build on the momentum from our pilot phase to expand the reach and impact of Stopping Stones:

- **Educational:** Increase awareness of the significant contributions made by enslaved Americans and the lasting impact of slavery on contemporary society.
- **Healing:** Facilitate racial healing through communal remembrance and acknowledgment of past and continued injustices.
- **Action-Oriented:** Inspire and mobilize community involvement and action towards racial equity and reparative investments.

