



# BACF Commonwealth Connections Project

Learn more  
about Black  
people's history!

From 16th Century to the present day

Activities for young people

Through community activities this project will:

- Enable African and Caribbean young people of Bedford to learn about Black people's history and Commonwealth connections of the British Empire, Africa and the Caribbean Islands dating from the 16th century.
- Encourage young people to take an active part in community life, by learning about their own and other peoples heritage.
- Help a wider range of people learn about the diverse heritage of the people of Bedford.
- Document what is learnt for conservation and inclusion in public archives.

Cecil Higgins Art Gallery &  
Bedford Museum



LOTTERY FUNDED

Volunteers from the Commonwealth countries needed as participants (not Africans or Caribbeans)  
Please contact: Dr Mrs Pamela Bernard, Executive Manager, Bedford African & Caribbean Forum on

Tel: **01234 363925** | Mobile: **07531303364**

Email [p.bernard@bedfordafricanandcaribbeanforum.org.uk](mailto:p.bernard@bedfordafricanandcaribbeanforum.org.uk)

[www.bedfordafricanandcaribbeanforum.org.uk](http://www.bedfordafricanandcaribbeanforum.org.uk)

Our project begins: **Saturday 16th, July 2011**

There are activities throughout August 2011, (every Saturday 12.30 – 3.30pm) and thereafter on alternate Saturdays between 12.30 – 3.30pm. Highlights include:

## Black History Month

**Saturday 8th, October 2011**

Join in the celebrations, this year is a Caribbean theme

## Bedford Library

**March 2012 (Saturdays) (Trustee Adrian White)**

Trace your family tree with Sally Heard

## Bedford Museum

**April 2012 (Saturdays) (Trustee Omosefe Ize-Iyamu)**

Various workshops including oral history recording & transcribing with Carmela Semeraro

## Bridging the gap

**April 2012 (Saturdays & Thursdays)**

Young people visit Bedford Queens Park Senior Citizens group. Includes social meeting & refreshments

## Oral history interviews

**May 2012 (Saturdays & Thursdays)**

Activities for participants of all ages

## Bedford River Festival

**Saturday 21st / Sunday 22nd, July 2012**

Project participants parade & steel band

Our project ends: **Sunday 22nd, July 2012.**

- We are working in partnership with Bedford Borough Libraries, The Cecil Higgins Art Gallery & Bedford Museum and the Bedford Caribbean Senior Citizens Association.
- Bedford Library staff will help young people and volunteers to get started in genealogical research, and trace their family tree.
- The staff of the Cecil Higgins Art Gallery & Bedford Museum will work with the young people, providing new-found skills to interview the Elders within the communities and document their work.
- There will be meetings between the young people and members of the Bedford Caribbean Senior Citizens Association, to help bridge the Inter-generation gap.
- The volunteers from the wider population of Bedford who are not of African or Caribbean origin will be active participants contributing details of their culture and heritage to the project.

To get involved or become a participant as a volunteer please contact:  
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