



Commerce Connects

DAS Perspectives Series: Ohio Historical Underground Railroad Trail

Join your colleagues for the first *DAS Perspectives Series* event of the year! In recognition of Black History Month, DAS Director Kathleen C. Madden will welcome experts who will discuss the new [Ohio Historical Underground Railroad Trail](#) at noon on Tuesday, Feb. 27 in the Rhodes Tower Lobby Hearing Room.

The Ohio Historical Underground Railroad Trail contains 15 stops throughout the state, highlighting Ohio's legacy and involvement with the historic network, and the people who assisted others to freedom from slavery.

Speakers are Megan Wood, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the [Ohio History Connection](#); Todd E. Ware, President of the [Gant Foundation](#); and Leianne Neff Heppner, President and Chief Executive Officer of the [Summit County Historical Society of Akron](#).



The Gant Foundation operates the Nelson T. Gant House in Zanesville, one of the trail stops. Gant was a former enslaved man whose entrepreneurial endeavors led him to become one of the wealthiest people in the United States.

Heppner will talk about the [John Brown House](#) in Akron, another house on the trail. Brown was a famed abolitionist. Historians view Brown as the first U.S. citizen committed to absolute racial equality.

The [trail was launched](#) by the Ohio Department of Development and Tourism Ohio in September, which was designated International Underground Railroad Month by Governor Mike DeWine.

The DAS Perspectives Series features state agency leaders and subject-matter experts from across state government discussing topics related to diversity and highlighting programs or initiatives of partner agencies.

If you are unable to attend in person, the event will be livestreamed at <https://www.ohiochannel.org/live/ohio-department-of-administrative-services>.

It will also be recorded and available via the DAS Video Library at <https://www.ohiochannel.org/collections/ohio-department-of-administrative-services>.