



MEDIA ADVISORY FOR FEBRUARY 3, 2025

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Today: Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate Kicks Off Black History Month with Special Press Conference

What: Press Conference to Launch Ashland's 2025 Black History Month Program

When: Today, Monday, February 3, 2025, at 11:00 AM

Where: Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate, 120 Sycamore Road, Lexington, KY

Who:

- Mayor Linda Gorton
- State Senator Reggie Thomas
- At-Large Councilmember James Brown
- Councilmember Liz Sheehan
- Jim Clark, Executive Director, Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate
- Dr. John Stewart, Chair, Henry Clay Memorial Foundation
- Artist Vinnie Bagwell, designer of the memorial *Breath of My Ancestors*

Why: Ashland's 2025 Black History Month theme, "**When Reason Sleeps, Brutality Walks Free,**" explores the untold stories of Black individuals who lived and labored at Ashland. The press conference will highlight:

- **Special Tour:** *When Reason Sleeps, Brutality Walks Free*—featuring contemporary art by local artists and internationally renowned British Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare CBE. Tours begin Friday, February 7, running Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 11:30 AM and 2:30 PM.
- **Free Admission Day:** Monday, February 17, courtesy of the Mayor's 250Lex Commission.
- **Open House & Research Demonstration:** Saturday, February 22, 12:00–3:00 PM, with the African American Genealogical Society of Kentucky and the County Clerk's Digital Access Project.
- **Major Announcement:** The unveiling of *Breath of My Ancestors*, a memorial honoring those enslaved at Ashland, created by acclaimed artist Vinnie Bagwell.

Press Conference Agenda:

- **Welcome & Introduction:** Jim Clark
- **Black History @ Ashland Highlights:** Jim Clark
- **Remarks:** Dr. John Stewart, Mayor Linda Gorton, Councilmember At-Large James Brown, State Senator Reggie Thomas
- **Acknowledgments:** Recognizing key figures involved in historical interpretation and funding efforts
- **Memorial Fundraising Update:** Dr. John Stewart—Goal: \$320,000; \$160,000 raised to date
- **Media Availability (11:30 AM – 12:30 PM):** One-on-one interviews, house tour, and photo opportunities

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