

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

The Idea of Mattering is Essential

To spark the inspiration for meaningful education, the idea of mattering is essential in that educators must matter enough to themselves, to their students, and to our communities to inform with a spirit of justice and equity. Schools should not avoid discussions about racism, sexism, and other uncomfortable realities in the classroom, particularly social ills that students witness in their daily lives and are impactful to them. A meaningful education that challenges and inspires students to be courageous in matters of justice and equity benefits our society and community. It is through an authentic exploration of the social behavior of the past, that we discover that we matter to ourselves and others. In this experience, we will explore methods to approach meaningful discussions in the classroom to insight critical thinking, effective communication, and greater understanding of social realities through stories rooted in the Underground Railroad era.

Miller is an accomplished museum professional with more than sixteen years of public history and museum experience. In addition to his role at one of the most significant national museums, Miller a historian, scholar, and storyteller, uniquely qualified to bring historical context to some of today's most provocative issues. He engages audiences, sharing monumental moments and unknown stories from our nation's past that influence and inform our world today. He takes remarkable pride in not teaching about Black history but teaching through Black history.