Key Messages

- 10 Million Names seeks to recover the names and restore information to families of the estimated 10 million men, women, and children of African descent who were enslaved in America prior to emancipation.

- Before the mid-twentieth century, data about enslaved people of African descent and their descendants was often deliberately obscured or altered, or simply unrecorded in the first place.

- Large, vetted datasets for other groups of European origins—*Mayflower* descendants, American Revolution soldiers—have existed for many years. While there is significant data about enslaved people on the internet, there isn't one large, authoritative database people can search to locate traces of their ancestors.

- Because of the systematic denial of family history under slavery, most existing record sets pertaining to enslaved people are vastly incomplete.

- Many African American preserved their family histories and heritage through writing, storytelling, and other practices, some of which harkened back to their African heritage.

- Oral history is essential for a complete understanding of African American family history and genealogy.

- 10 Million Names will involve genealogists and historians working together to tell family stories and to place these stories in historical context.

- 10 Million Names will leverage both individual family stories and materials as well as large-scale datasets of information about enslaved ancestors.

- Reversing the typical approach used by genealogists, and borrowing from the historian's toolkit, the project will start with original source material, stretching from the 1500s through 1865.

- 10 Million Names is welcoming individuals to upload family history information to our website to contribute to the project's ultimate goal. Our website will provide free acess to records and educational resources relevant to African American family history research.

- 10 Million Names is a collaborative project that will leverage a network of professional genealogists, historians, cultural and educational institutions.

- All the data collected by 10 Million Names will be free and available to the public.