

# Artifacts, Heritage, and History of African American Culture

## The Strong National Museum of Play

**Contact:**

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The Strong is the nation's museum of play! The museum owns and cares for the world's most comprehensive collection of toys, dolls, board games, video games, books, documents, and other historical materials related to play.

Discover two floors of dynamic, interactive exhibit spaces as you journey into the world of superheroes, stroll down Sesame Street, challenge friends on modern and classic arcade games, shop in a mini Wegmans store, explore Upstate New York's only year-round indoor butterfly garden, visit the National Toy Hall of Fame, and so much more!

Plan an exclusive tour that includes a viewing of The Strong's collection of black history dolls such as an 1800s-era African American cloth doll, the Sara Lee Creech Doll, and dolls made by Shindana Toys (1968–1983)—a community-owned company dedicated to making and marketing toys that “young black children can positively relate to and that foster love among children of all races.” Discover other highlights from The Strong's collections, including an original Super Soaker water gun designed by NASA engineer Lonnie Johnson and an early video game cartridge prototype from electronic game pioneer and the founder of the first African American-owned game development business Gerald “Jerry” Lawson.

## AKWAABA's Underground Railroad Sites and Tours

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Take a step back in time as AKWAABA's guides and reenactors share facts about the Underground Railroad's history in Rochester.

Take your group on the Riverwalk Underground Railroad tour. AKWAABA's tour guide will meet your group in front of the Rochester Riverside Hotel, 120 Main St. East—the site of Austin Steward's general store. Steward was the first African American businessman in what was then known as Rochesterville. The walking tour continues with stops to learn about important historical places and moments, such as the telegram that affected the life of Frederick Douglass, the Talman Block of Buildings which housed the office of Frederick Douglass and the meeting place for the Ladies Anti-Slavery Society, how the “freedom seekers” used the Erie Canal to reach Rochester, and more. The tour ends at the Riverside Hotel with a historical presentation and a viewing of the Austin Steward murals.

Groups may also inquire about AKWAABA's Underground Railroad River Stroll tour that includes a trip to Rochester's “Let's Have Tea” sculpture of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass, a stop at Rochester's Frederick Douglass monument, a visit to the Douglass family plot, and more.

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**the strong**  
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PLAY

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## National Susan B. Anthony Museum and House

**Contact:**  
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Visit the National Susan B. Anthony Museum and House to explore the home of the legendary American civil rights leader, which she maintained for 40 years while a political activist, and the site of her famous arrest for voting in 1872. The home was also headquarters of the National American Woman Suffrage Association when she served as its president. Anthony remained in the house until her death in 1906, following her “Failure is Impossible” speech in Baltimore. The museum is also a short walk to the famous “Let’s Have Tea” statue of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass in Rochester’s Madison Square Park. For an enhanced visit, schedule the “Principles & Politics, Conflicts & Compromises” lecture to uncover how the fight for black male suffrage and women’s suffrage intersected and diverged.

## George Eastman Museum

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The George Eastman Museum is the world’s oldest photography museum and one of the largest film archives in the United States, located on the historic Rochester estate of entrepreneur and philanthropist George Eastman, the pioneer of popular photography. Tour Eastman’s home and learn about his friendship with Booker T. Washington and his philanthropy of black colleges. Or enjoy a curator-led tour of the photograph collection of Frederick Douglass that was recently discovered in a scrap book in Rochester’s Rundel Library and discover how the George Eastman Museum helped to identify and restore it. Additional tour packages are available.

## Genesee Country Village & Museum

**Contact:**  
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Genesee Country Village & Museum brings the history of New York State and America in the 19th century to life through interactive programs, events, and exhibits. This unique living history experience provides meaningful insights into the origins of regional customs, traditions, social values, and the evolution of our contemporary lifestyles. Engaging, group-friendly experiences explore Western New York’s connection to abolition and black history through food, fashion, culture, and tours of historic buildings. Add lunch and/or a self-guided walk around the village to your visit. A guided trolley tour is available for those who cannot walk the expansive grounds.

## Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery’s Abolitionists and the Underground Railroad Tour

**Contact:**  
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Frederick Douglass and many other Rochester citizens kept the “freedom seekers” moving northward through their secret network. Enjoy a 60- to 90-minute guided walking tour of historic Mount Hope Cemetery, a site on the National Underground Network to Freedom. Visit the resting places of Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony, advocates for equality and social justice. A guided tram tour is available for those who cannot walk the cemetery terrain.

Mount Hope Cemetery is on the National Register of Historic Places and received National Underground Network to Freedom status in 2010.

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