



# Brandeis University

The Heller School for Social Policy and Management

Date: September 5, 2019

Dear Iris,

Please accept this letter of my sincerest appreciation for our long standing collaboration. Over the years your contributions to our nonprofit, The Robbins House, Inc. have advanced our overall mission.

You have enhanced our ability to tell more balanced and essential African American history. That history is too often overlooked or not known. That is what makes your dogged pursuit for details and history admirable. Through your professionalism and knowledge you have raised awareness about lesser known women in history, such as Edmonia Highgate, whose stories enhance our understanding of a longer civil rights struggle.

You use your time wisely, taking every opportunity to dig deep into electronic and hardcopy files. Whether it is while you are attending conferences, preparing class syllabi, or organizing a tour, you take every spare minute to dig into the files for more information.

The list of the ways in which you have been invaluable to our organization is long. For example you helped us:

- Learn how to research state archives
- Investigate historic story lines
- Prepare and present in-depth panel discussion on 19<sup>th</sup> century history
- Connect historic stories to contemporary social justice issues
- Reveal the outcome of the nation's first legal challenge to the first Civil Rights Act of 1866

For all of this and so much more, *Thank You!*

Sincerely,

*Maria*

Maria Madison, ScD  
Associate Dean, The Heller School  
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