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The ***Aya Symposium*** is a multidisciplinary exploration of freedom colonies in Texas, as well as other Black settlements founded by formerly enslaved members of the African diaspora throughout the United States and the world. Beginning in 2015 (despite initially being held in a sparsely populated corner of Deep East Texas), this one-day event has featured renowned speakers and presenters from across the nation and Texas, including *The Jemima Code* author and James Beard Award winner, Toni Tipton-Martin, and Texas Monthly Food Editor, Pat Sharpe. Once focused on foodways-centered presentations, the symposium has evolved to fully explore the histories, social foundations, and people associated with the more than 500 freedom colonies in Texas – and the future of those colonies.

In 2019, the ***Aya Symposium*** moved to the campus of Prairie View A&M University featuring renowned speakers such as *Dr. Peniel E. Joseph*, founding director of the Center for the Study of Race and Democracy at the University of Texas at Austin and *Dr. Andrea Roberts*, Assistant Professor of Urban Planning and Associate Director of the Center for Housing and Urban Development at Texas A&M University. After a 2020 hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the symposium returned in 2021, reaching a broader audience of teachers, historians, genealogists and history enthusiasts from across the nation in a virtual format, and in 2022 the symposium offered a hybrid experience to maximize its reach while also providing a space for community building and the exchanging of ideas, resources, information, and wisdom.



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Why Sponsor?

Maximize your commitment to supporting historical perspectives and stories of Americans of African descent. Supporting the Aya Symposium means helping to expand the discussion of historic preservation, conservationism, and sustaining the retelling of accurate history, as well as the legacy of African American pioneers who developed places for formerly enslaved Africans.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY	COST	CONTENT
Bronze Package	\$1,000	Your company logo on all event marketing materials, a guaranteed digital sponsor page, sponsor placement in lower thirds, 30-second promo video before keynote session.
Silver Package	\$2,500	Everything in the Bronze Package + branded transitions between sessions.
Gold Package	\$5,000	Everything in the Bronze and Silver Packages + your marketing materials included in participants' swag.

To become a Aya Symposium sponsor, contact info@ayasymposium.org