



THE Y: ADVANCING INCLUSION FOR ALL

Born into slavery, Anthony Bowen purchased his freedom and went on to become the first Black clerk in the U.S. Patent Office. Bowen first heard of the YMCA from a white co-worker who was associated with the YMCA in Washington, D.C. But this was the early 1850s, and even as a free Black man, Bowen was barred from membership in many organizations, including the YMCA. Bowen decided that a "Black YMCA" was needed, and so he founded it in 1853.

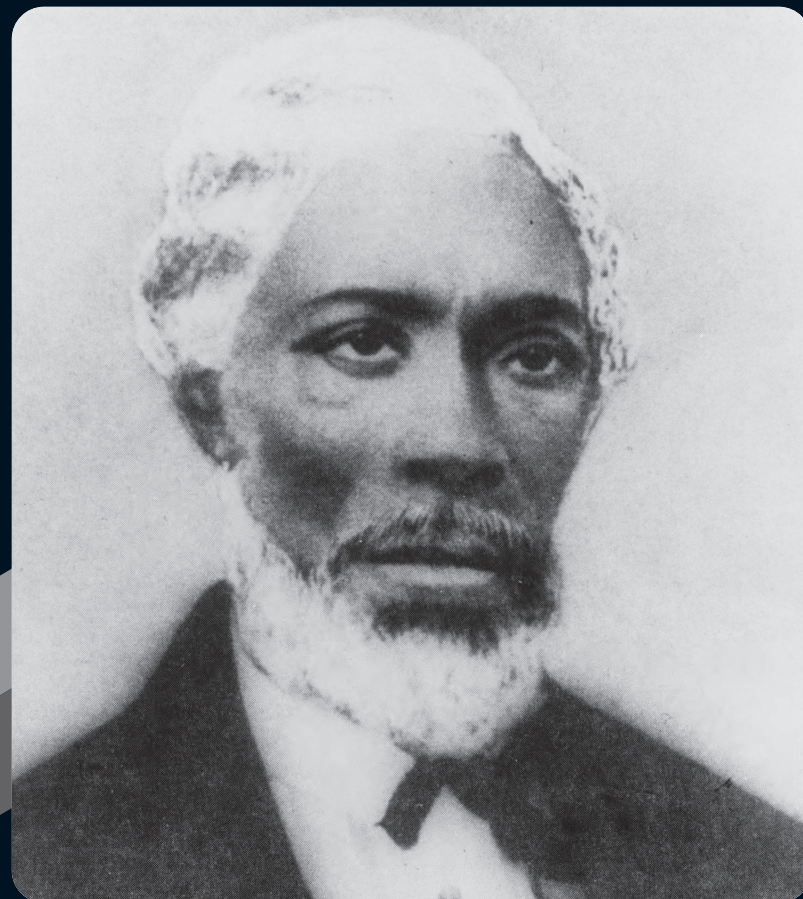
In 2015, I had the honor of becoming the first Black President and CEO of YMCA of the USA, which supports and leads over 2,600 Ys across the country, serving more than 21 million people of every race, ethnicity and creed. I stand on the shoulders of pioneers like Anthony Bowen, who had the determination and bravery to demand belonging in a society that excluded them.

The history of the YMCA—like the history of America—is a story of incremental progress toward greater inclusion and equity for all. At the Y, we have been on this journey for nearly 170 years, and we still have a long way to go. We envision a society of inclusive communities, where everyone feels that they truly belong and can access the support they need to reach their fullest potential with dignity.

**Join us on this journey.
Get involved with your local Y today.
www.ymca.net**

KEVIN WASHINGTON,
President and CEO,
YMCA of the USA

ANTHONY BOWEN
Founder of the first
Black YMCA in 1853



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First Black President and
CEO of YMCA of the USA

