

# Songs and Stories of the Underground Railroad at National Park Summer Concert Series



*Nzinga's Daughters to present free concert, Thursday, July 18*

The 2013 Thursdays in the Park Concert Series continues its weekly summer series with a performance of songs and stories from the Underground Railroad featuring the Connecticut based ensemble Nzinga's Daughters. The free concert takes place Thursday, July 18th from 6:30-7:15 in the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park garden (33 William Street). In the event of inclement weather, the performance will be moved indoors to the National Park Theater.

Nzinga's Daughters is a five woman ensemble whose members share their gift of song and story to educate the public about the history and cultural achievements of Africa and the

African Diaspora. The Daughters are best know for their "Underground Railroad" performance which invites the audience to experience the creativity, ingenuity, and perseverance employed by African American slaves in their efforts to shepherd runaway slaves to safety. Because slaves were prohibited from learning to read or write, they developed an elaborate system of communication which included embedding coded messages into the verses of Negro spirituals. Nzinga's Daughters perform for schools, universities, senior centers, festivals, community events and a variety of cultural venues from New England to Ghana West Africa.