

Alexandria Community Remembrance Project

Steering Committee Meeting

September 9, 2026

5:30 p.m.

Alexandria Black History Museum

Present: Audrey Davis, Rose Dawson, Rev. Quardricos Driskell, Josette Franklin, Darrlyn Franklin, Paul Glist, Michael Johnson, Jean Kelleher, Nigel Mease, Tiffany Pache, Sarah Whelan.

Excused: Mark Farkas, Gretchen Bulova, RaAlim Shabazz, Kennetra Woods.

Meeting Notes

1. Call to Order at 5:34 p.m.

2. Aug. 28 Benjamin Thomas Remembrance:

The Committee members were impressed with the speaker Myesha Braden and the soloist Charles Miller. Some were happy with the turnout (97 participants), and some were not. A discussion ensued as to whether it may be advantageous to hold one event a year in Remembrance of both souls.

3. Faith Initiative Update:

Rev. Driskell and Tiffany Pache shared that members of the clergy group took a bus together to the 63rd annual March on Washington in remembrance of Benjamin Thomas on Aug. 28. The next clergy coffee will be held in October.

4. Research Team Update:

Jean Kelleher said the Committee of Inquiry has some real momentum building and expects to complete 1865 -1870 this Fall and has set a deadline for the end of January to finish the first ten years. This is the initial review and there will be more to come but it is also the most time-consuming part of the research. She said they are still looking for a couple more volunteers and are also approaching Howard for a partnership. Ms. Kelleher attended a Constitutional Seminar that considered the evolution of the constitutions of Virginia and the motivations behind each. Brent Tarter from the Library of Virginia and Professor Howard led the seminar

5. Remembrance Student Banned Truth Tour 26-27:

Sarah Whelan said the teachers had submitted our dates for approval of early release. There are more history teachers engaged this year, and media students are announcing the opportunity in their morning broadcast.

6. Memorial Scholarship Program:

Tiffany Pache presented the current total towards our endowment - \$67, 720. We are almost halfway to the goal of \$150,000 where the fund will be self-sustaining. We need to raise an additional \$82,280 more. One ticket has sold to date for Oct. 24 Tables of Conscience and 12 for the November 5 Discerning Dinner with Tony Cohen.

7. Annual Retreat:

Jan. 8 was selected as the date for the retreat.

8. Overall Committee Updates:

Darryln Franklin announced that her term as President of the NAACP end in November, but she will remain on the Executive Committee.

The NAACP Freedom Dinner is Thursday, Oct. 1 and tickets are \$200. All are encouraged to attend.

Michael Johnson has been named an Alexandria Living Legend.

The Alexandria Library's Annual Black Family Reunion will take place on Sept. 19 from 11-4 p.m. on Queen Street, in front of the Barrett Library.

9. Next Steering Committee Meeting: October 14 at 5:30 p.m., at the Alexandria Black History Museum.

10. The meeting concluded at 6:20 p.m.