

ACRP Steering Committee Meeting
March 12, 2025
5:30 p.m.
Alexandria Black History Museum
Meeting Notes

In Attendance: Gretchen Bulova, Rev. Quardricos Driskell, Rose Dawson, Paul Glist, Michael Johnson, Jean Kelleher, MacArthur Myers, Tiffany Pache, Jacquay Plummer, RaAlim Shabazz, Sarah Whelan, Kennetra Wood.

Excused: Mark Farkas and David Spinrad.

1. Gretchen Bulova Called us to Order at 5:35
2. Updates on 2025 Work

- Faith Initiative, Quardricos Driskell

Two coffees were held in February, another will be held next week. Issues of concern among the clergy include: immigration crackdown, federal job loss, erosion of values. They are working on a joint Proclamation, a moral statement from the congregations, that can show solidarity and hope.

Monday night we held a Courageous Workshop on Confronting Whiteness – it had a faith lense to it. It was well attended and sparked further interest.

Still challenged with getting our more conservative brothers and sisters to the table. Rev. Driskell connected with the new Chief of Police, Terry Maguire, at a Ramadan Dinner. He is interested in engaging the faith community and it would be nice to invite him to one of our conversations.

- Remembrance Students, RaAlim Shabazz.

We hope to launch a full program for the 2025-2026 School Year. This will include three Saturday field trips using school buses to visit places in Alexandria to learn about our African American history.

Theme 1: (Tentative Date in November)

Slavery and the Trade In Alexandria 1749-1860, local field experience Freedom House.

Theme 2: (Tentative Date 1/23)

Reconstruction and the Rise of Jim Crow in Alexandria 1865-1902, local field experiences: Lyceum and Lynching Sites.

Theme 3: (Tentative 3/13) The Fight to End Segregation and for Civil Rights 1939-1975

Local field Experience – Alexandria Library and the African American Hall of Fame.

April 9th Remembrance Project Showcase (Presentations, Awards Ceremony, Pizza Party) Our version of National History Day.

Shabazz estimated the cost for all three local trips including transportation, meals, admissions and tours for about 30 students to be about \$2500.

(Other possible sites and options for tours: Blacks in Wax Museum, Smithsonian Museum of African American History, Reginald Lewis Museum, Banneker-Douglass Museum, etc.)

Michael Johnson said he has been gifted some documentaries that could be shared and also oral interviews with elders from the Black Community.

Shabazz welcomed it and said he would also like to have film studies prior to each of the three trips to contextualize the story for the visits.

Mac Myers suggested some student led fundraising opportunities.

The Josiah Henson Museum is another possibility with local ties.

Churches talked about donating funds.

Social Studies at ACPS can help with the history day like showcase and cost of museum tickets.

- ACRP Promotional Video, Tiffany Pache

Mark is working on a promotional video for ACRP with the help of Michael Johnson. A short, two-to-three-minute video grounded in the stories of Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas, that explains what ACRP is doing to remember and retell Alexandria's story, will be made available to local groups, churches, etc. as a fundraising tool.

Farkas intends to use Compelling footage and imagery From Project events, Interview clips with Gretchen Bulova and Audrey Davis from the documentary, Alexandria city high school students talking about What they yearn to learn, and two Titans Walking the streets of Alexandria Showing places they should've been taught during their 12 years in school in This city dominated by The historical perspective of George Washington and those of his race going forward. Steering Committee members thought this was the right direction and would like to review it at the May meeting.

- Committee of Inquiry, Jean Kelleher

So far, we have just four applications for research volunteers, so we extended the deadline. The first meeting will be on March 31. There is a lot of interest in the

City for this particular project. A real need to change the narrative and ensure we tell the true story.

- Schools and Libraries Action Committee, Tiffany Pache

This small committee continues to meet to discuss policy impacts on vulnerable students at ACPS.

3. Outreach, Gretchen Bulova

- Documentary Screening announced an additional screening of the documentary for the City Manassas Museums.
- Bulova and Pache presented to the OPMH Social Action Group.

4. Scholarship Update

- Tables of Conscience Dinners raised \$5,875 for the 2025 Scholarships.
- Concert for a Cause by OPMH raised a little more than \$7,000 for the endowment for the Scholarships. Balance after reducing by \$6000 for this year's scholarships will be \$38,514.

5. Remembrance of Joseph McCoy

- The draft event plan for the Remembrance of Joseph McCoy on April 23, 1897, was agreed to – we will not be illuminating as many places in the City as we were before due to budget constraints.
- Mac Myers recommended we ask for donations at our upcoming Remembrance events. He suggested we try to collect money for ACRP's operating budget any time we have an audience.

6. Public Comment, no members of the public were present.

7. Next meeting: Wednesday, May 14, 2025.

8. Closed Meeting at 6:42 p.m.

