

**Alexandria Community Remembrance Project
Steering Committee Meeting
November 19, 2025**

5:30 p.m.

Alexandria Black History Museum

Meeting Notes

Present: Gretchen Bulova, Audrey Davis, Rose Dawson, Josette Franklin, Paul Glist, Michael Johnson, Jean Kelleher, Nigel Mease, Tiffany Pache, Jacqueline Plummer, RaAlim Shabazz, Judith Vaughn, Sarah Whelan, Kennetra Woods.

1. Call to Order by Audrey Davis at 5:36.
2. Project Updates
 - Remembrance Student Update by Sarah Whelan and RaAlim Shabazz.

\$5,473 raised – need \$1,527 to reach our goal.

We had to reschedule the first meeting due to administrative and bus driver availability concerns at ACPS and that meant that we did not have as many students as we had hoped. The Freedom House aspect of the tour was well received. We need to change the second half to focus more on Free Blacks in Alexandria before the Civil War and the neighborhoods, leaders, etc.

Mr. Shabazz told us, “It had an impact,” then he read student reflections from the Nov. 1 experience. Some of which are as follows:

“Overall, the recent ACRP visit to Freedom House was super informative, we discussed many things about Alexandria I didn’t know before because I am not originally from here... I learned Freedom House was headquarters for one of the largest domestic slave trading operations. It was striking to learn they walked more than 1000 miles and if someone died, they left them there on the side of the road. I thoroughly enjoyed this trip, and more people should invest their time...” This student intends to recruit more friends to join the rest of the Banned Truth Tour.

Another student said he enjoyed the first room at Freedom House, “enjoyed how much history that room held. I walked out of that room with more knowledge of my people than I ever had.” He particularly enjoyed learning about the first African American Scuba Diver and the Edmonson Sisters. “They really risked their lives for a taste of freedom and I loved it – the largest escape attempt in US history,” he was particularly upset to learn they were purchased to work as fancy girls. It was heart breaking, he said.

Mr. Shabazz said the students who missed the first tour will definitely come to the next one, he is grateful about the event and so glad he went. He said the permission slips for the Jan. 10 tour will go out before the holiday break.

We discussed that the end result after three trips is for students to construct something that speaks to their experience in the club. We will be providing a monetary award for several of the entries.

- Committee of Inquiry Update by Jean Kelleher. The research team launched on Nov. 10. There is a great deal of excitement about the project. The parameters and expectations were outlined at this initial meet and greet. We are going to have regular meetings, relying on each other learning from each other.

We will be accessing newspaper reports (which are unreliable) as well as court records, city records, school records, anything we can find.

Looking ahead to where we want to be, we are hoping to find enough evidence where we could have some kind of a formal admission that there was a lack of due process in cases of people lynched. Also, we want to look at what was happening with those trying to help. Trying to avoid racial terror and interrupt those activities. We will look at corruption and white supremacy during the time period. How Jim Crow unfolded in Alexandria and see what we can find, ultimately, we are searching for what is objectively true. So that when we have a report and outline everything, we find no one can say you are rewriting history, or that this is too negative, everyone will have to agree that this is the objective truth for that period in our history.

- Faith Leader Meetings Update by Tiffany Pache. Faith leaders met for the last clergy coffee of 2025 on Nov. 10. The speaker, Dr. Cook, trains people in grass roots lobbying. They focus on issues all the different faith groups can agree upon. It was an interesting meeting, and some congregations might pursue more information.

3. Scholarship Update by Tiffany Pache.

Crossed over \$50K - \$50,108

- In our effort to raise \$150 K for an endowment that will ensure the scholarship is provided every year without continuing to need to raise funds we have reached \$50K.
- Tables of Conscience are our main vehicle for raising \$6,000 each year for the two scholarships. Summary of Fall and Winter Dinners:

The Oct. 14 Tables of Conscience sold out raising \$1,000 towards this year's Memorial Scholarships. Nov. 14 sold seven of eight seats totaling \$875. We chose to postpone the Nov. 15 dinner and hold it on Feb. 7. We have three winter dinners and need to raise an additional \$4,125 for the scholarships. If we sell out all three Winter dinners can take up to 10 guests, we will make \$3,750 putting us at \$5,625. Because of the discrepancy we are going to try some new bundles to encourage more donations.

- Five tickets have been sold so far for the winter so there are 25 available. (\$625)
- We have flyers that I will attach in an email to each of you that you can use to promote the dinners with your constituencies.

4. Future Meeting schedule, every other month by Audrey Davis and Gretchen Bulova.
 - January Planning Retreat
 - i. Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, some parking available
 - ii. Friday, Jan. 9, 10 am-2 pm (working lunch)
 - iii. Some discussion about a guest speaker was considered. Topics of interest include fundraising to keep ACRP going.
 - Mar 11 Steering Committee Meeting
 - April 8 Steering Committee Meeting
 - June 10 Steering Committee Meeting
5. Public Comment: no public present.
6. Meeting concluded at 6:50 p.m.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Jan. 9, 2026 (Retreat)