

# Alexandria Community Remembrance Project

## Steering Committee Meeting Notes

May 13, 2026

5:30 p.m.

Alexandria Black History Museum

Present: Gretchen Bulova, Dr. Emerald Christopher, Audrey Davis, Rev. Quardricos Driskell, Mark Farcas, Paul Glist, Artura Jackson, Jean Kelleher, Nigel Mease, Tiffany Pache, Heather Peeler, RaAlim Shabazz, Sarah Whelan.

Excused: Michael Johnson, Rose Dawson, Rev. Josette Franklin, Kennetra Wood.

Missed: Rev. Heatley

1. Audrey Davis called the meeting to order at 5:38.
2. Review of April 23, Remembrance Event for Joseph McCoy. People were pleased with the program and felt the reception worked out well.
3. Remembrance Student Banned Truth Tour 26-27 Plan. RaAlim Shabazz and Sarah Whelan reviewed the pilot program. The content was very strong and the students who participated got a lot out of it. But there were some minor administrative issues getting the club going at the high school that had an impact on participation. A plan is in place to address this and expand the program for the next school year, including two to three early release days, one Saturday field trip, more community participation created with meetings with teachers, parents and students. Mark Farcas encouraged the team to include the Virginia Theological Seminary's reparations program in next year's BTT.
4. Planning for Benjamin Thomas Remembrance. A discussion was held to develop ideas for the August program. A decision was made to hold the remembrance on Friday, Aug. 28 (day of the memorial service for Thomas at Shiloh) instead of Saturday, Aug. 8 (the date of the lynching). There was a proposal to use the date to provide a community platform focused on issues impacting the African American community. There was also a desire to move away from speaker events and towards Remembrances that feature art.
5. New Fundraising program for Memorial Scholarship Program. Tiffany Pache offered a plan to raise the annual \$6,000 contribution to the Memorial Scholarship Program set up to honor Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas. ACRP will hold two Tables of Conscience, one in the Fall and one in the Winter instead of six. ACRP will hold two community dinners and discussions with local speakers of interest at an approachable ticket price to make

participation more accessible while still raising the money needed for the scholarships.  
This plan was agreed to, and the first dinner will be held on Nov. 5.

6. The meeting concluded at 7 p.m.
7. Next Steering Committee meeting will be Wednesday, June 10, 2026.