



Taking the Next Steps!

**Alexandria's
Community Remembrance
Project**

September 21, 2019

Lynchings in Alexandria

- 100 of the 4,743 American racial terror lynchings between 1882 and 1968 occurred in Virginia
- 11 occurred in Northern Virginia
- 2 occurred in Old Town, Alexandria
- On April 23rd, 1897, **Joseph McCoy** was hanged from a lamp post at the intersection of Lee and Cameron Streets
- On August 8th, 1899, **Benjamin Thomas** was hanged from a lamp post at the intersection of Fairfax and King Streets



Alexandria's Social Justice Journey

As our nation observes the 400th anniversary of the first enslaved African people to arrive in Virginia, Alexandria and other cities across the nation have been grappling with the legacy of slavery, and the acts of discrimination and violence....

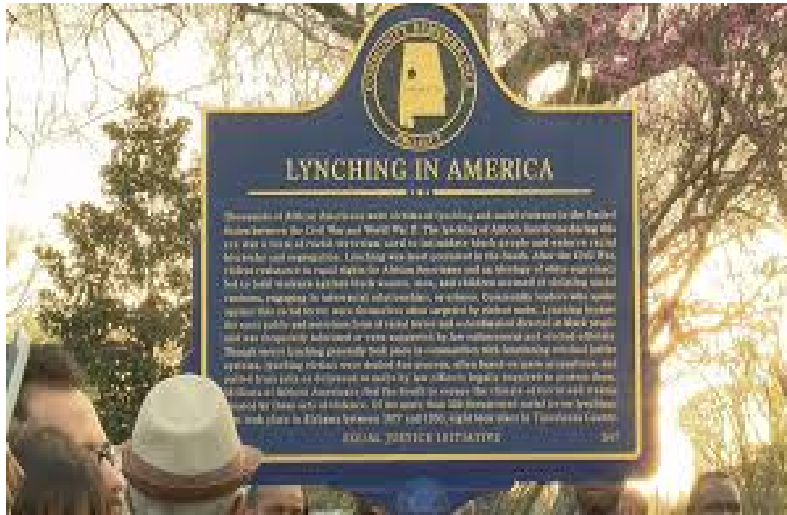
Mark Jinks, City Manager

The City's EJI initiative will provide historical insight into the atrocity of lynching, its legacy in Virginia, the lives of its victims, and its contemporary implications.

Community Remembrance Project

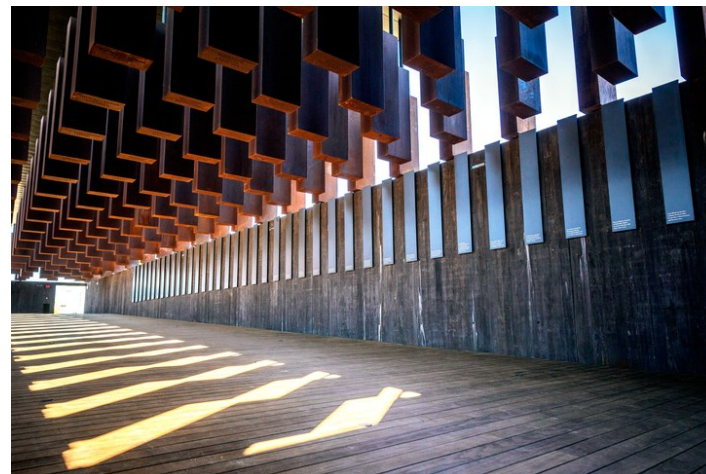


Denied justice in life, the lynching victims' voices speak through us as we pledge that Alexandria stands for diversity, inclusion, and reconciliation.



Alexandria Pillar

Alexandria's EJI pillar places African American heritage as an integral part of the City's historical narrative. It is an enduring reminder to fight against bigotry and racial injustice.



Alexandria Action Plan

Establish seven committees to manage each of the following aspects of Alexandria's:

1. Public Outreach
2. Education & Programming
3. Marketing
4. Marker and Soil Collection
5. Research
6. Fundraising
7. Public Pilgrimage to EJI

Public Outreach

- Community Associations
- Churches
- Civic Groups
- Schools
- Libraries
- Museums
- And more!

Education & Programming

- Speakers
- Discussion Groups
- Forums
- Book Clubs
- Exhibits
- Essay Contests
- Art Initiatives

Marketing

- Increasing visibility of City's EJI initiative
- Sharing current research on Alexandria's lynching history
- Social media
- Articles in publications, community newsletters
- Promoting events, meetings
- Communication and collaboration with other communities

Marker Dedication & Soil Collection

- Writing marker text
- Recommendation of location to City
- Process for collecting soil
- Ceremonies
- Communication with EJI about displaying soil

Research

- Living Descendants
- Content for marker
- Assist with information for Education & Programming Committee

Fundraising

- \$20,000 pledged from City
- Seek corporate partnerships
- Individual donors
- Community fundraising events (e.g. banquet, film screenings)
- Grants

Pilgrimage to EJI

Bus tour to EJI's Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice

Possible future pilgrimages:

- Heritage tour linking Alexandria's role in domestic slave trade to sites in Deep South
- Tours to other Civil Rights sites



Draft Timeline

- Year 1 Community Dialog and Outreach Begins
- Year 2 Application to EJI, Marker Text, Ceremony for Soil Collection, Continued Public Programming, Trips to EJI
- Year 3 Continued Community Dialog, Public Programming, Trips to EJI, Approvals from EJI for Marker and Pillar installation, Site Location Approvals from City, Installation Ceremonies
- Beyond... Continue the community dialog, Annual Remembrance Event(s)

Future Public Meetings

November 16, 2019 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Charles Houston Recreation Center

January 15, 2020 7:30 p.m.
City MLK Program
Beth El Hebrew Congregation

Creating a Community of Reflection



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