May 27, 2020

Dear ASALH Members,

Given the current global health crisis of COVID-19 this year, the Executive Council of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History has decided to host virtually its Business Meeting, which is required annually by the ASALH constitution. This important meeting of the ASALH membership will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 6pm EST. Further information will be forthcoming closer to the date of the meeting as to the logistics for registering to attend.

The decision to revisit the practicality of ASALH’s in-person 105th Annual Meeting and Conference, which was scheduled to be held in Montgomery, Alabama, on September 23-27, and to convene instead in new ways is based on the Executive Council’s concern for our community’s best interests. We share your disappointment, since the traditional annual conference provides valuable intellectual and professional resources, artistic and cultural enjoyment, as well as the emotional benefit of connecting with friends.

While disappointed, we remain undaunted in our commitment to providing opportunities for virtual gatherings—indeed a 105th convening of monthlong activities. In the spirit of our founder Dr. Carter G. Woodson, ASALH plans to meet the challenges of this unprecedented time with innovative and informative programming. Each Thursday and Saturday throughout the month of September, ASALH will offer an array of online events—webinars on fascinating topics in African American history and culture, special presentations by emerging and renowned scholars and activists, intriguing conversations about newly published scholarship, and our beloved film festival.

Save the dates as they are announced, since registration will be necessary. Program updates will be posted to our website and our social media platforms. Please distribute widely and use #ASALH2020 to join the conversation on social media.

We look forward to your presence and to hosting you during ASALH’s Founders Month of September.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham
ASALH National President

Sylvia Y. Cyrus
ASALH Executive Director