

National Heritage Sites Research Committee
November 2020

As the final report of 2020, we are reminding the Executive Council of the role of the National Heritage Sites Research Committee. Under the Master Cooperative Agreement between ASALH and the National Park Service (NPS), Task Agreements are developed for specific projects by National Park Sites nationally. The ASALH National Heritage Sites Research Committee carries out the objectives of the Task Agreement by obtaining the researchers/principal investigators for each project.

The Committee announces a Request for Proposals for each project and reviews the applicants' submissions through a rigorous vetting process that results in the selection of the Principal Investigator [PI(s)]. Committee members have also served as peer reviewers for selected projects.

The following Task Agreements are continuing:

- (1) Acadia National Park (August 15, 2018 – December 31, 2021)
- (2) Buffalo Soldiers (July 2019 – September 30, 2022)
- (3) Valley Forge National Park (April 3, 2020 - December 31, 2022)

CESU Lafayette Square Task Agreement

In April 2020, Dr. Noel Lopez, National Capitol Area Office,[NCAO], director of the project, provided the following information relative to the Lafayette Square Task Agreement. “The project was divided into two components. This gave the project a stopping point so that efforts would not surpass the obligated funds [\$80,000] by the NCAO (September 2019). That does not mean that there will not be funds available from the Park [or the park’s Historical Association] at the beginning of the next fiscal year, this October [2020]. However, the PIs should provide the Park with a draft of the deliverable for Component A. This provides a clear need for the second portion of funding to complete the study.” Dr. Lopez felt hopeful that the Park would want to complete the study and finance the second component. We were then directed to fully draw down funds for the PIs to submit a final report for Component A and stop work until NPS provided the second half of the funding. The final report for Component A was submitted in May 2020 by PIs Dr. Marya McQuirter and Dr. Gabrielle Tayac to close out the project with the possibility of a second installment being secured at the beginning of the new fiscal year [October 2020].

We spoke with Dr. Lopez in July and August to determine if he anticipated obtaining the additional \$80,000 in funding. We followed up with an email on September 16th and October 8th asking that he respond in writing relative to funding for the project. We have not received further communication thus determine this project has ended.

National Park Foundation Grant

Receipt of the National Park Foundation grant kicked off the Dunbar High School project in late August 2020. Of the twenty youth selected for the project, sixteen (16) completed the six-week summer internship that began in August 2020. These sixteen students closed out the summer internship with a viewing party attended by Superintendent of National Capitol Parks East, Tara Morrison. The additional four (4) students [now in college] completed the summer program the week of November 7th producing documentaries with selected themes of their choice that were submitted on November 25th. All students were provided training to conduct interviews using the interview protocol provided on ASALH's website. All of the students were provided documentary training using cell phones. Along with information either about Carter G. Woodson and/or Dunbar High School, the documentaries were also required to include snippets from interviews they conducted with either family members, mentors, or Dunbar Alumni with a key target age of 70 and older as interviewees.

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