Woodson Home Committee EC Report

November 2020

The Woodson Home Committee continues its work with the National Capital Parks-East to facilitate the design of temporary and permanent exhibit development at the Carter G. Woodson National Historic Site, plan and implement youth involvement at the sites, and plan educational experiences and public programming. Co-Chairs, Bettye Gardner and Barbara Spencer Dunn, attended the November 5 and 6, 2020, review of the final draft of exhibit plans.

We met with Michael Chambers and Vincent Vaise twice [September and November] to discuss the National Capital Parks East’s Workplan for 2021. This is a new requirement for NPS sites with their partners.

President Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Co-Chairs Bettye Gardner and Barbara Spencer Dunn, and Executive Director, Sylvia Cyrus met with Superintendent Tara Morrison and Michael Chambers to discuss ASALH’s input in the new 10-year agreement between the National Park Service [Woodson Home Site] on December 4, 2020. The document was reviewed in advance of the meeting and incorporated ASALH’s suggestions. The new agreement will be presented to the Executive Council at its December 17, 2020 meeting.

The following programs with the NPS and ASALH were discussed:

- Woodson Birthday Celebration, Saturday, December 19, 2020, 1:00 p.m., a virtual program is planned featuring Darius Wallace, Carter G. Woodson reenactor and a virtual tour of the Woodson Home. Greetings by Superintendent Tara Morrison and Dr. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, ASALH. NPS will forward the flyer for distribution.

- Woodson Birthday Celebration, Saturday, December 18, 2021 – A one-day symposium will be planned celebrating the grand opening of the Carter G. Home Historic Site scheduled to open spring of 2022 around the theme “A Bold Vision: Revisiting the Life and Legacy of Dr Carter G. Woodson And What it Means Today.”

- Black History Month Theme Kick-Off - February 1st – 2021 Theme: The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity featuring Dr. Carter G. Woodson’s family. Co-hosted by NPS and ASALH

- February 28th – 2021 Black History Month Event featuring a conversation with Dr. Bernice King and a Wreath laying at Dr. Woodson’s gravesite sponsored by the ASALH Prince George’s County Truth Branch and co-sponsored by NPS.

- Ongoing involvement of youth docents for the Woodson and Bethune Historic Sites [Dunbar and Kiamsha docents/interns participating in the NPF grant project]