

# ASALH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CLASS OF 2024 ELECTION BALLOT

ASALH members will elect the Class of 2024 during the 2021 elections. Ballots will be distributed the week of July 5.

## **Members Voting by Email**

Members who receive email ballots will receive them on July 8. Please check your email and spam on July 8 as ballots will be distributed only once. Reminders will be emailed during the month of July. Voting ends July 31 at 11:59 p.m. EST. *Please note, if you do NOT receive a ballot by email on July 8, your ballot is arriving via USPS.*

## **Members Voting by Mail**

Ballots are being mailed to arrive the week of July 5. If you do not receive a ballot by July 12, please email [membership@asalh.org](mailto:membership@asalh.org). Mail-in ballots must be postdated by July 31, 2021 and be returned in the self-addressed ballot envelope that you receive. Please vote early to allow adequate time for the USPS to postdate your ballot by July 31. Ballots postdated after July 31 will not be counted. Mail-in ballots will be accompanied by the attached document with voting instructions and candidate bios.

The attached document includes voting instructions and candidate bios.

## **BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Please take the time to become familiar with the candidates by reading their biographies and accomplishments which are included in the following pages, and are found in the Members Only area of our website at <https://asalh.org/members/executive-council-member-selection/>.
2. All current ASALH members will receive a ballot electronically or via the mail. Current members who do not receive a ballot should contact [membership@asalh.org](mailto:membership@asalh.org) by July 12.
3. You may vote only for the candidates listed on the ballot.
4. Election results will be announced at the General Membership Meeting held during the 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting, September 30, 2021 at 6 pm (EST). The meeting will be held virtually and information to participate will be emailed. If you have not received this information by September 16<sup>th</sup> please call 202.238.5910. Results will be posted to the Members Area on the website.
5. If you have not been receiving emails from ASALH please email [membership@asalh.org](mailto:membership@asalh.org).
6. Dates to keep in mind. The Annual Branch Workshop on September 18, 2021 and the Awards Presentation Event on September 30, 2021.

## **NOMINATIONS—CLASS OF 2024 ASALH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

The Executive Council and the Executive Officers set the policy direction for ASALH and are responsible for carrying out the mission of the organization and ensuring its fiscal soundness. Executive Officers and Executive Council members serve three-year terms.

### **PRESIDENT**

From this group, you may select one (1) candidate.

Nominee for President

#### **W. MARVIN DULANEY**

**Residence:** De Soto, Texas

**Email Address:** [wmarvindulaney@yahoo.com](mailto:wmarvindulaney@yahoo.com)

**Current Employer:** Dallas African American Museum, Dallas, Texas

**Professional Background:** Marvin Dulaney earned a PhD in history from The Ohio State University and has spent more than forty years as a professor of history at three universities. He served fourteen years as executive director of the Avery Research Center for African American History, Charleston, South Carolina, and is a former chair of the Departments of History at the College of Charleston and the University of Texas, Arlington.

**Major Accomplishments:** He raised \$1.5 million to finish the renovation of the Avery Research Center building at the College of Charleston. He co-founded two ASALH branches: the Charleston Area Branch and the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Branch (now renamed the W. Marvin Dulaney Branch). He created the Center for African American Studies at the University of Texas, Arlington. He organized the African American History in Texas Conference and was its chairperson for five years. He is author and co-editor of four books and numerous essays and book reviews.

**Previous Service to ASALH:** He has been a member of ASALH since 1976. He chaired the Local Arrangements Committee for the 1998 Annual Meeting in

Charleston. He started two ASALH branches, one in Charleston, the other in Dallas.

**What I Hope to Accomplish as President of ASALH:** I hope to continue raising the profile of ASALH nationally—to recruit more student members to ASALH; to continue the educational programs of ASALH and extend them to a broad, national audience; to keep ASALH on a sound fiscal foundation; and to make ASALH the most important organization in the country providing schools, corporations, and the public with information and resources about the African American experience. I want to continue what Woodson did—take ASALH to the public!

Nominee for President

## **LIONEL KIMBLE**

**Residence:** Chicago, Illinois

**Email Address:** [lkimble@csu.edu](mailto:lkimble@csu.edu)

**Current Employer:** Chicago State University

**Professional Background:** Lionel Kimble is an associate professor at Chicago State University and vice president for programs at ASALH.

**Major Accomplishments:** As a member of ASALH’s Executive Council since 2013, he has served in many capacities and on numerous committees, and he has had the opportunity to influence the development of many new areas of the Association, including the ASALH/Howard University Social Justice Institute, the inauguration of ASALH TV, and ASALH’s partnership with PBS Books.

**Previous Service to ASALH:** He has been an active member of ASALH since 2005. He began his ASALH committee work in 2009 and has served on the Executive Council since 2013, on the Nominating, Membership, Academic Program, Audit and Finance, and Development Committees. He has served as the vice president for programs from 2019 to 2021, and in this capacity, has guided the expansion of ASALH’s programs. He has provided resources to our branches and members through initiatives like our Black History Month Resource Guides and ASALH TV. From 2013 to 2015, he was part of the National ASALH Centennial Committee and

helped lead the effort for the Centennial Celebration events in Chicago. He served as the president of the Chicago Branch of ASALH.

**What I Hope to Accomplish as President of ASALH:** I will continue to pursue opportunities to grow ASALH's brand, strengthen our fiscal health through the expansion of our membership base, and build capacity to hire staff to support our membership, development, and publication initiatives. In addition, I will seek ways to better align the *Black History Bulletin* with digital learning platforms; expand membership to broaden our presence internationally; and develop strategies that will continue to leverage corporate contacts through programming and grants.

### **VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROGRAMS**

You may select one (1) candidate.

Nominee for Vice President/Programs

#### **AAISHA HAYKAL**

**Residence:** Charleston, South Carolina

**Email Address:** [anhaykal@gmail.com](mailto:anhaykal@gmail.com)

**Current Employer:** College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina

**Professional Background:** Aisha Haykal earned a BA (English and textual studies) from Syracuse University and a MSc (library and informational science, with a certificate in community informatics and a graduate minor in African American studies) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Major Accomplishments:** She is the manager of archival services at the College of Charleston's Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture. In that role, she encourages pillars of the society to donate their archival records and papers. She works with researchers to access historical records, writes grants to support the administrative and programmatic goals of the organization, conducts instruction sessions for students and community organizations, and develops public programs. From 2017 to 2019, she managed and supervised a collection-moving process during the building renovation project—working with a vendor to inventory the center's collection and ensuring the safe removal and return of manuscripts and artifacts.

**Previous Service to ASALH:** She has been an active member of ASALH since 2011. She served in many capacities at the Chicago Branch: as the secretary (2013-2016), as co-chair (2016-2017), and as chair (2017-2018). Since 2019, she has been the recording secretary for the Charleston Area Branch. As a member of the Academic Program Committee (2016-present), she has been involved with the planning of the ASALH Annual Meeting and Conference, and in 2019, was part of the Local Arrangements Committee, the hosts of that year's conference in Charleston. She was elected to the Executive Council in 2019 and she serves as the chair of the Program and Planning Committee.

**What I Hope to Accomplish as ASALH'S Vice President for Programs:** I intend to work with the committees in this cluster—Awards, Academic Program, Publications, Marketing and Public Relations, Program Planning, Historic Sites, and Woodson House—to ensure that their goals are accomplished and that they follow the policies and procedures of the Association. Because of the wide variety of responsibilities and expertise needed on these committees, I will work with our membership and the vice president for membership as we engage with emerging and new scholars to envision new ideas. I will also seek additional funding from relevant and stakeholder organizations to highlight, promote, and support great scholarship, projects, and research exposing the life and history of Black people in the various regions of America and in the African diaspora.

### **VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEMBERSHIP**

From this group, you may select one (1) candidate.

Nominee for Vice President/Membership

**IDA E. JONES**

**Residence:** Washington, DC

**Email Address:** [Ida.Jones@Morgan.edu](mailto:Ida.Jones@Morgan.edu)

**Current Employer:** Morgan State University

**Professional Background:** Ida Jones earned a PhD in American history from Howard University, where she also earned a BA in journalism and a MA in public

history. She served for seven years as the assistant curator of manuscripts at the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University. She is the university archivist at Morgan State University, Baltimore, a position she has held since 2016.

**Major Accomplishments:**

She has received many grants and fellowships rewarding her activities in the field of public history. In 2019, she obtained the Authenticity Project Fellowship from the HBCU Library Alliance and Digital Library Foundation, as well as a grant from the Schlesinger Library that enabled her to complete an oral history project. In 2020, she received the IMLS Museum Grant for African American History and Culture and a grant from the Library of America's Lift Every Voice: Why African American Poetry Matters program. She holds membership (and offices) in national organizations, including the Association of Black Women's Historians, where she was the national director from 2011 to 2013; the Society of American Archivists; the Organization of American Historians; and the National Council of Negro Women.

**Previous Service to ASALH:** She has been involved with ASALH at all levels of service for more than twenty-five years. She is a life member who has volunteered with the Black History Month luncheon committee; she has been president of a branch; she was a member of the Executive Council; and she edited the *Negro History Bulletin*. She was employed at the ASALH 14<sup>th</sup> Street headquarters in 1994 to process institutional publication orders and assist in filling orders for the Black History Month kits. When ASALH sold the Associated Publishers building, she helped to sort and pack materials. She attended annual meetings from 1995 to present, only missing three years because of family emergencies. Currently, she is a member of the National Membership Committee and the Academic Program Committee, and serves when needed for collaborative programming with ASALH's partners, such as the National Archives.

**What I Hope to Accomplish as ASALH'S Vice President for Membership:** I believe that the membership/branches are the heart of ASALH. These communities of ASALH members live out the mission and vision of Dr. Woodson in their locales, within their affiliations, and throughout their cities and states. This community is the essential half of the equation I seek to strengthen and integrate into the organizational identity, conversation, and leadership. I am also interested in linking HBCU students to local branches to create bilateral communities. I

champion the work of Dr. Woodson and the tenacity of Dr. Bethune. To this end, I embrace education, community, transparency, and intergenerational collaboration akin to Dr. Bethune's work in and outside of ASALH. Therefore, if elected, I will serve the entire membership of ASALH with a special focus on building bridges between legacy and innovative branches, equitizing the membership experience, and contributing to honoring the legacy of Dr. Woodson through building strong branches, resulting in a stronger ASALH.

Nominee for Vice President for Membership

**ANITA M. SHEPHERD**

**Residence:** Jacksonville, Florida

**Email Address:** [amshepherd2003@yahoo.com](mailto:amshepherd2003@yahoo.com)

**Current Employer:** Bank of America/Merrill Lynch

**Professional Background:** Anita Shepherd is a retired human resources professional for AT&T (1970-1995). Currently, she serves at Bank of America/Merrill Lynch as financial advisory support (2005-present). She earned an MBA in international business administration from Nova Southeastern and a BA in African American, Pan African, and European history from Rutgers. She is a member of the ministerial staff of the Philip R. Cousin AME Church in Jacksonville, FL, and directs the women's ministry, which was organized under her guidance.

**Major Accomplishments:** Anita has acquired administrative, organizational, and leadership skills from working in managerial positions in corporate America for over twenty-five years, and has transferred these skills to her work within ASALH's structure. She has held leadership roles in ASALH at the branch level and at the national level. She served as treasurer, branch president (for seven years), and vice president for membership of the James Weldon Johnson Branch of ASALH. She also served as the chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2013 ASALH national conference in Jacksonville, FL. In addition, she is a member of the Florida ASALH Coalition, a growing, diverse network of ASALH branches. They meet regularly and plan innovative programming and events using social media platforms. Currently, she is a member of ASALH's Executive Council. As co-chair of the Strategic Planning Cluster, she co-developed the Strategic Planning Model (SPC), which is currently being used by the Executive Council for evaluating,

prioritizing, and approving proposals for implementation. In addition, she serves as a member of the Nominating, Governance, and Development Committees.

**Previous Service to ASALH.** Through her experience in branch leadership, Anita has acquired a greater awareness of the issues and needs of branches. In addition to this knowledge, her current membership on the Nominating, Governance, and Development Committees has allowed her to work with others to co-develop the Strategic Planning Model (SPC). She has helped to introduce this model, which ensures that ASALH's activities align with its key goals and promote awareness of the Association and its mission. Such an alignment promotes ASALH's growth through its network of branches while using resources that are cost-effective and profitable.

**What I Hope to Accomplish as ASALH'S Vice President for Membership:** I believe that branches are critical to the fullest actualization of Dr. Woodson's legacy, and to ensuring that ASALH leads in social justice and global empowerment through the implementation of ASALH's mission. I hope to strengthen and build on the work of the Membership Cluster in the following ways: 1) supporting the growth of branches and encouraging innovative programming using social media platforms and in-person gatherings to spotlight historic persons, sites, and/or issues to facilitate social justice reform; 2) improving structural efficiency of the National Membership Committee (NMC) to support existing, forming, and noncompliant at-risk branches, or those with declining memberships; 3) collectively developing a recruitment strategy and retention model for non-branch-affiliated members; 4) encouraging inclusive community-based programming to be showcased in the Woodson House to the global community using social media platforms; 5) ensuring the Membership Cluster initiatives are integrated organizationally with all clusters to achieve ASALH's mission and action plans to promote positive synergy within the EC Board; 6) promoting the need for technological resources to support the membership base and record-keeping needs that are user-friendly.

**SECRETARY**



From this group, you may select one (1) candidate.

Nominee for Secretary

**SUSAN SIMMS MARSH**

**Residence:** Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

**Email Address:** [sdsimms@yahoo.com](mailto:sdsimms@yahoo.com)

**Current Employer:** Pennsylvania American Water

**Professional Background:** Susan Simms Marsh is a well-respected, accomplished attorney and is one of the few women of color serving as in-house corporate counsel for a major public utility. She currently serves as deputy general counsel, senior director of regulatory compliance, and assistant corporate secretary for Pennsylvania American Water Company, a subsidiary of American Water, the largest and most geographically diverse US publicly traded water and wastewater utility company, serving 15 million people in forty-six states. She earned a BA from Duke University and a JD from North Carolina Central University School of Law. She currently serves on the ASALH Executive Council. She also served as the international secretary for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and as chairman of the International Risk Management Task Force from 2015 to 2018.

**Major Accomplishments:** Her major accomplishments include managing multi-million-dollar acquisitions and serving as project manager for multi-million-dollar projects.

**Previous Service to ASALH:** She is currently a member of the ASALH Executive Council and co-chair of the Governance Committee. She has provided training and guidance on governance and risk management to the Executive Council and risk management training to the ASALH branches.

**What I Hope to Accomplish as Secretary of ASALH:** As secretary, I will deliver accurate, precise, and timely minutes while maintaining records reflecting ASALH's dynamic history. Further, as someone who exemplifies commitment and believes in the fundamental value and mission of the organization, I commit myself to enhance the council's governance as well as develop a risk management strategy. As in-house counsel and assistant corporate secretary to a subsidiary of the largest investor-owned water and wastewater company in the US, I have developed legal, analytical, and governance skills and experience that will ensure the council's

foundation and infrastructure continue to be strong as we move forward in the legacy of Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

## **TREASURER**

From this group, you may select one (1) candidate.

Nominee for Treasurer

## **VALERIE HOLT**

**Residence:** Washington, DC

**Email Address:** [holtrorie2@gmail.com](mailto:holtrorie2@gmail.com)

**Current Employer:** Retired

**Professional Background:** Valerie Holt is a senior executive with a demonstrated history and more than thirty years of leading change and achieving results in complex public, private, and nonprofit organizations. She is a recognized leader in auditing, accounting, and financial reporting; her financial management experience is comprehensive in scope and includes budget, accounting, audit, financial reporting, public finance, treasury operations, and tax collections.

**Major Accomplishments:** She retired in 2015 as the vice president for audit at Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, having served in this capacity for fourteen years. In previous years, she provided management consulting services for a wide range of public- and private-sector clients, including the Government of the District of Columbia and Ernst Young and Co. She has been active in professional organizations, holding membership in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and as a past president of the Government Finance Officers Association of the Greater Washington Metropolitan Area. She has also been active in the community as a member of the United Way One-Fund Executive Committee and as a member and treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Excel Charter School from 2009-2017.

**Previous Service to ASALH:** She is an ASALH member, but previously limited her service to attendance at programs. As a retiree, she now has the time, the resources, and the desire to serve the Association by offering the expertise she

garnered in the world of work to become a “trustee” of ASALH and to do her best to ensure that the Association is well maintained, financially secure, growing, and always operating in the best interests of membership.

**What I Hope to Accomplish as Treasurer of ASALH:** I want to contribute to the further advancement of the ASALH mission. I believe that my education and experience in finance, administration, and the social sciences, and as a member of a large extended Black family, will be well suited to thinking through growth strategies and making research and information accessible to our and future generations. Since retiring, I have spent the last four years researching and expanding my knowledge of our history and experience in America. I would be honored to have this opportunity to actively support the ASALH mission through serving as a board member.

## **CLASS OF 2024 ASALH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

### **CORPORATE MEMBER**

From this group, you may select one (1) candidate.

Nominee for Corporate member

#### **JEFFREY BANKS**

**Residence:** Washington, DC

**Email Address:** [jeff.banks@bankwithunited.com](mailto:jeff.banks@bankwithunited.com)

**Current Employer:** United Bank, Washington, DC

**Professional Background:** Jeffrey Banks is vice president of commercial services at United Bank. He helps businesses and nonprofits develop financial solutions that grow their organizations. He has held this position since 2007, bringing more than thirty years of banking experience to his diverse portfolio of clients in commercial real estate, retail, technology, faith-based, and charitable organizations. For the last twenty-five years, he has dedicated his career to supporting the diverse communities in the Washington metropolitan area.

**Major Accomplishments:** He was appointed to the District of Columbia’s Financial Literacy Council by DC Mayor Muriel Bowser in 2016. This council assists and advises the mayor and the DC Council in promoting financial literacy for all city residents. He is a member of the Boards of the Woolly Mammoth Theatre, the DC Children’s Trust Fund, and the Metropolitan Washington Bankers’ Association. He is also a graduate of Leadership Greater Washington, class of 2014.

**Previous Service to ASALH:** He has served on the Executive Council for the last six years. He is co-chair of the Annual Luncheon Host Committee, and, in 2021, chaired the successful Black History Month Virtual Festival. He has also served as co-chair of the National Conference Oversight Committee and chair of the Finance Committee. In these roles, he has raised tens of thousands of dollars for ASALH.

**What I Hope to Accomplish as an Executive Council Member of ASALH:** I hope to raise tens of thousands of dollars again for ASALH. I will continue to help ASALH work toward a balanced budget each year. I will support each year’s Annual Conference by engaging in fundraising activities to ensure that the conference, ASALH’s largest fundraiser, reaps large benefits for the Association.

## **GENERAL MEMBERS**

From this group, you may select up to six (6) candidates for the **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL** (five for the class of 2024; 1 to replace a member who resigned from the class of 2023). Seven names are listed.

General Member Nominee

### **TARSHEL BEARDS**

**Residence:** San Francisco, California

**Email Address:** [tbeards@sfsu.edu](mailto:tbeards@sfsu.edu)

**Current Employer:** San Francisco State University

**Professional Background:** Tarshel Beards is an educator, librarian, and communications/PR professional with extensive experience in higher education and nonprofit organizations. She is the director of the Black Unity Center at San Francisco State University, a home-away-from-home for Black students, an

African-centered environment that provides students with transformative and socially conscious programs that allow them to grow culturally and academically.

**Major Accomplishments:** She is the editor of the *African American Biographical Database, International Index to Black Periodicals*. She has managed major events—lectures, book chats, symposia, conferences—for national and local audiences.

**Previous Service to ASALH:** Member

**What I Hope to Accomplish as an Executive Council Member of ASALH:** I will work with program teams to develop communications and publicity plans for events and programs to elevate ASALH's national profile. I will also work with conference planning teams on programs, networks, and social media to generate sponsorship opportunities.

General Member Nominee

### **SUNDIATA KEITA CHA-JUA**

**Residence:** Champaign, Illinois

**Email Address:** [sunchaassalh@gmail.com](mailto:sunchaassalh@gmail.com)

**Current Employer:** University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign

**Professional Background:** Sundiata Keita Cha-Jua earned a BA from Tougaloo College, MA from Sangamon State University, and PhD from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, as well as an advanced certificate in Black studies from Northeastern University and advanced certificate in Black studies from the Black Studies Director's Institute, National Council for Black Studies, University of West Virginia.

**Major Accomplishments:** President, National Council for Black Studies, 2010-2012, 2012-2014; senior editor, *The Black Scholar*, 2011–2015; associate editor, *Journal of African American History*, 2015-2018; The Nancy Schaenen Endowed Visiting Scholar at the Janet Prindle Institute for Ethics, DePauw University, 2013; biweekly op-ed columnist, “Real Talk: From a Black Perspective,” *News Gazette* (daily newspaper), Champaign, Illinois; *RealTalk with Dr. Sundiata Keita Cha-Jua* podcast, Black Power Media Channel, YouTube.

**Previous Service to ASALH:** He has been a member of the Executive Council since 2016 and became co-chair of the Planning Committee in 2017. In this position, he has influenced the development of a more tactical and action-oriented strategy for the Association by developing an operational chart that establishes processes and procedures for turning an idea into an ASALH program. He has also served as a member of the Public Commentary Committee whose responses to national activities have raised the Association's profile. And, as co-chair of the Academic Program Committee (2016-2018), he witnessed years of real growth for the Association as conference presentations and attendance increased.

**What I Hope to Accomplish as an Executive Council Member of ASALH:** I will seek to develop closer working relationships among Black/Africana studies academic organizations such as the National Council for Black Studies, the Association of Black Psychologists, and international groups such as the Japan Black Studies Association.

General Member Nominee

## **JARVIS R GIVENS**

**Residence:** Roxbury, Massachusetts

**Email Address:** [Jarvis\\_givens@gse.harvard.edu](mailto:Jarvis_givens@gse.harvard.edu)

**Current Employer:** Harvard University

**Professional Background:** Jarvis Givens is an assistant professor of education and an affiliate faculty member in the Department of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. He is also the Suzanne Young Murray Assistant Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. He earned his PhD in African diaspora studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

**MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** His book *Fugitive Pedagogy: Carter G. Woodson and the Art of Black Teaching* was published by Harvard University Press in 2020. He is also the co-editor of *We Dare Say Love: Supporting Achievement in the Educational Life of Black Boys*, published by Columbia University's Teachers College Press in 2019. He was a Radcliffe Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies in 2020-2021, and a Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellow and Dissertation Fellow in 2012-2015 and 2015-2016. He has been an active member

of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, serving as assistant vice president of the Western Region in 2009-2010 and Northern California District director in 2012-2016.

**Previous Service to ASALH:** He is a life member of ASALH who served on the Executive Council from 2017 to 2020. He has been a member of the Academic Program Committee since 2017. Jarvis established and raised funds for the ASALH Book Prize as co-chair of the ASALH Book Prize Committee. The first award was made during the ASALH virtual festival in February 2021. He represented ASALH at the History Makers Faculty Advisory Board Meetings in 2019 and 2020 and raised over \$100,000 in corporate sponsorships for ASALH in 2020.

**What I Hope to Accomplish as an Executive Council Member of ASALH:** I have four primary goals: 1) to promote the ASALH Book Prize and continue to raise funds to support this award; 2) to continue serving on the Academic Program Committee to help strengthen our national conference; 3) to bolster ASALH's partnership with the History Makers; and 4) to assemble a committee to write a volume on the history of ASALH.

General Member Nominee

## **ERIC JACKSON**

**Residence:** Florence, Kentucky

**Email Address:** [jackoner@nku.edu](mailto:jackoner@nku.edu)

**Current Employer:** Northern Kentucky University

**Professional Background:** Eric Jackson is a professor of history in the Department of History and Geography and director of the Black Studies Program at Northern Kentucky University. He has twenty-eight years of academic and administrative experience at the university level. He has taught numerous classes in American and African American history, race relations, and peace studies. He has published a wide array of books, reviews, and articles in local and national journals. He is engaged in his community and serves as a board member for local historical societies.

**Major Accomplishments:** In 2006, he was a content expert/consultant for a NEH grant—a week-long day camp on the history of the Underground Railroad. This

experience led to his becoming director of the Institute for Freedom Studies in 2007-2012, where he worked with local institutions to secure a Department of Education “Teaching American History” grant that helped publicize local and regional programs related to the history of the Underground Railroad and its legacy. His experience in grant writing and administration was recognized by the National Endowment for the Humanities and he was invited to review grants at the NEH’s offices in Washington, DC. He has been a member of the Grant Professionals Association, and, in 2018, he received their certification after completing the Ultimate Grant Proposal Blueprint Course.

**Previous Service to ASALH:** He was chair of the Local Arrangement Committee for the 2017 Annual Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was elected to the Executive Council for 2018-2021, and served on the Academic Program Committee for the 2020 Virtual Conference and the Oversight Committee for the 2019 conference held in Charleston, South Carolina.

**What I Hope to Accomplish as an Executive Council Member of ASALH:** I want to use my skills in grant writing, evaluating, and consulting, as well as my knowledge of historic preservation, to help ASALH in any way that upholds the mission and goals of the organization. I will also continue to serve as member or leader on committees, working groups, or clusters such as the Academic Program Committee, the Annual Themes working group, and/or the Programming Committee.

General Member Nominee

### **OMAR EATON-MARTINEZ**

**Residence:** Upper Marlboro, Maryland

**Email Address:** [eatonmartinez@gmail.com](mailto:eatonmartinez@gmail.com)

**Current Employer:** Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission

**Professional Background:** Omar Eaton-Martinez has a BA in African American studies, a MA in educational leadership, PhD coursework in American studies, and years of leadership experience in public humanities programming in historical house museums, an aviation museum, historical and archaeological parks, cemeteries, and schools.



**Major Accomplishments:** As the assistant division chief of historical resources, Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, Natural and Historical Resources Division, in Prince George's County Parks and Recreation, he oversees the programming of all its sites while emphasizing preserving, sustaining, and enhancing these resources, as well as engaging and building communities through education, outreach, and innovation. He was selected in 2019 as an American Alliance of Museums Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, Inclusion (DEAI) Senior Fellow, a position dedicated to diversifying museum boards. In 2020, he was elected to the Board of Directors for the Association of African American Museums. He is currently a gubernatorial appointee to the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

**Previous Service to ASALH:** He has served in numerous capacities: as a member of the Black History Month Luncheon Committee in 2015-2016, as a moderator of a roundtable at the Annual Conference in 2015, and as a member of the Program Committee and a panelist at the Annual Conferences in 2017-2018. He presented information as a Park Guide (Interpretive) Educational Coordinator at the Carter G. Woodson Home in Washington, DC, and created a Junior Ranger activity booklet to be used at the Carter G. Woodson Home.

**What I Hope to Accomplish as an Executive Council Member of ASALH:** I hope to continue to cultivate the relationship between ASALH and public humanities, with a special focus on museum professionals. I plan to support public history projects like the Carter G. Woodson Home in Washington, DC. Additionally, I would like to help expand the reach of the organization to culture keepers that focus on Afro Latinx communities and others in the African diaspora.

General Member Nominee

**Lopez Matthews**

**Residence:** Randallstown, Maryland

**Email Address:** [kinglope@yahoo.com](mailto:kinglope@yahoo.com)

**Current Employer:** Howard University

**Professional Background:** Lopez Matthews earned a PhD in history from Howard University. Since 2014, he has served as the manager of the Digital Production Center and digital production librarian for the Howard University Libraries and the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. He also develops public programs and manages the center's Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter pages, which highlight the work of the center. In addition, he is the history subject specialist for the Howard Libraries, providing research support to the History Department faculty and students. He is the public face of the center and responds to media requests for interviews and/or comments.

**Major Accomplishments:** He built the Digital Production Center for the Howard Universities Libraries and the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. He has also been an active researcher and writer, having published four edited volumes, three book chapters, six articles, eight blogs, and four history-subject guides. He chaired four public programs that promoted digitized collections related to African American history. He was selected as a commissioner for the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, and he is a member of the History Makers Higher Education Advisory Board and the Board of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum, Baltimore, MD.

**Previous Service to ASALH:** He became involved with ASALH while he was an undergraduate student at Coppin State University and, for several years, volunteered his services in the ASALH office, at the Black History Month luncheons, and at the Annual Conferences. Later, he read papers at the Annual Conferences in 2006, 2009, 2012, 2018, and 2019. He mounted two exhibitions: "ASALH at 100: Celebrating 100 Years of Black History, Life and Culture" at the Banneker-Douglas Museum, Annapolis, March-July 2015, and "The Carter G. Woodson Home, the Birthplace of Black History" at the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site, 2006. He reviewed *Washington's U Street: A Biography* for *The Journal of African American History* in Fall 2013. Currently, he is the chair of

the ASALH Publications Committee, and, as a member of the Marketing and Public Relations Committee, he helped to create ASALH TV.

**What I Hope to Accomplish as an Executive Council Member of ASALH:** I will reinforce ASALH's position as the premier organization in the study of African American life and history. I plan to support that idea through publications that will provide resources to advance the promotion and study of African American history. I will encourage the re-establishment of the Annual Black History Month Theme Kit. I will also continue the development of ASALH TV as a vehicle for disseminating historical information and programming to the public.

General Member Nominee

**ARWIN D. SMALLWOOD**

**Residence:** Greensboro, North Carolina

**Email Address:** [asmallwo@ncat.edu](mailto:asmallwo@ncat.edu)

**Current Employer:** North Carolina A&T State University

**Professional Background:** Arwin Smallwood is professor and chair of the Department of History at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and has held this position since 2013. He previously held positions at the University of Memphis and Bradley University. His scholarship illustrates the relationship between African Americans, Native Americans, and Europeans in Eastern North Carolina during the Colonial and early Antebellum periods, and he developed mapping tools that may be used to teach history to students at all educational levels.

**Major Accomplishments:** He is the author of several articles and books, including *The Atlas of African American History and Politics: From the Slave Trade to Modern Times* and *Bertie Countrie: An Eastern North Carolina History*. He archived the Bart F. Smallwood Papers, which are housed in the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is engaged in community activities around public history: as a judge for the North Carolina History Day celebrations; as a member of the National Humanities Alliance Working Group for community impact; and as a member of the newly formed North Carolina MSI Humanities Corridor.

**Previous Service to ASALH:** He is a life member of ASALH and has presented papers at many national conferences.

**What I Hope to Accomplish as an Executive Council Member of ASALH:** I will help to organize workshops for teachers and students that will teach both groups how to incorporate and strengthen content knowledge of African American history. I will encourage communities to create collections of artifacts that reflect local history, and I will also support artists within those communities who interpret historical events in their art. I will work with the conference planning committee to encourage local genealogical societies, as well as community and high school students in conference host cities, to partner with ASALH to identify ways in which both groups could benefit from the collaboration.