Woodson Home Committee Update
February 11, 2022
Submitted by Dr. Bettye J. Gardner, Barbara Spencer Dunn, and Omar Eaton-Martinez
Co-Chairs, Woodson Home Committee

Committee Members: Bettye J. Gardner, Co-Chair; Barbara Spencer Dunn, Co-Chair; Omar Eaton-Martinez, Co-Chair; Members: Pero Dagbovie, Jarvis Givens, Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, W. Marvin Dulaney, Moses Massenberg, Elizabeth Clark Lewis, Cheryl Laroche, Lopez Matthews, June Patton, John E. Fleming, Dorothy F. Bailey, Cheryl Gooch, Thomas Battle, Jim C. Harper, Jr., Tara White, Renada Johnson, Tiffany Spriggs

Update:
On December 18, 2021, the National Park Service in collaboration with ASALH hosted the Carter G. Woodson Birthday Virtual Symposium. A special tribute to our outgoing President, Dr. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, was featured at the end of the symposium as the first President to serve a six-year term as a result of a recent change in the ASALH Constitution and Bylaws.

Prior to the Symposium Gardner and Dunn had a conversation with Dr. Dagbovie, Editor of the Journal of African American History (JAAH), relative to presenting the participating panelists in an issue of the Journal. Dr. Dagbovie decided to organize a Forum based upon the presentations at the Symposium that will be published in the Spring 2023 issue of the JAAH. Each panelists has been contacted by Dr. Dagbovie and agreed to participate.

The Virtual Symposium is currently featured on ASALH TV and will be accessible for perpetuity. Click the link below to view the symposium and share it with your family, friends, church members, and colleagues. For those who are professors, use portions of the symposium as teaching tools to introduce your students to Dr. Woodson and the Association he founded in 1915.

2021 Annual Carter G. Woodson Birthday Symposium Part 1 - YouTube
National Heritage Sites Research Committee Update

Principal Investigators have been selected for each of the following projects.

**A Historic Context Study of African and African Americans in South Florida** [$129,792]
The Principal Investigators (PI(s)) will “produce an annotated bibliography and comprehensive scope of work that explores the lives of Africans and African Americans in the past 500 years in the region now known as South Florida including its connection to the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean and the Atlantic world.” The PI team of Drs. Portia Hopkins and Synatra Smith began work on October 1, 2021.

**Booker T. Washington National Monument National Register Nomination Update** [$75,000]
This project will complete National Register of Historic Places documentation of Booker T. Washington National Monument. This project will update the 1989 National Register of Historic Places Nomination to be consistent with recent determinations of historic significance made by National Park Service (NPS) and the Virginia Department of Historic Resource. The commemorative period significance is defined as the time from Booker T. Washington’s birth in 1856 to his emancipation in 1865. The PI team of Dr. Arlisha Norwood and Ms. Elvatrice Belsches began work on January 10, 2022.

**Martin VanBuren Historic Site: A Special History Study of Free and Enslaved Africans at Lindenwald [VanBuren’s home in upstate New York** [$85,000]
The primary goal of the project is to produce a Special History Study (SHS) that will provide critical baseline research and historic context for African American history at Lindenwald, the historic home of Martin Van Buren at Martin Van Buren National Historic Site (MAVA), and the broader community of Kinderhook in Columbia County, NY. This project will provide needed historical and ethnohistorical information that will inform an archaeological investigation at the site to kick off the following year. The PI, Dr. Cheryl Renee Gooch, began work on February 1, 2022.
Visual Anthropology of the Statue of Liberty within the African American Community [$118,300]
A historic resource study will be produced that records the historical and contemporary use of the imagery of the Statue of Liberty among African American communities for political, commercial, and other social means. PI, Dr. Emma Silverman’s, start date is February 15, 2022.

DeSoto National Monument – Africans in the DeSoto Expedition [$53,787]
Africans played an important role in the Americas well before 1619. They made significant contributions to each of the 16th Century Spanish incursions and settlements along the U.S. coast and interior. The DeSoto Expedition provides an excellent example of African impacts on these early events. This project proposes to synthesize information specifically on African expedition members, their activities, and incorporate that information into a report that can be used to develop interpretative and educational material on African participation in the DeSoto Expedition. The PI is Dr. Jane Landers and the Principal Researcher is Dr. David Wheat (Wheat is subcontracting with Michigan State University).

Seneca Quarry Historic Resource Study of the African American History of the Seneca Quarry Stone Cutting Mill [$69,000]
This project will compile research and produce a historic resource study of the African American history of the Seneca Quarry Complex. The study will also provide critical information regarding the African American experience and its relation to the Seneca Quarry Cutting Mill, a historic cemetery, and the C&O Canal from the early 19th Century to the present.

Ongoing Projects

Buffalo Soldiers [83,270]
In the process of peer review to provide a draft report to NPS for their review.

Valley Forge [$106,000]
Produce a historic resource study for African American participation in the Valley Forge Encampment, 1777 – 1778. PI Dr. Justin Clement is currently engaged in the research component of Phase II.

CAWO [Carter Woodson Home] Place-based Curriculum and Kiamsha Peer-to-Peer Historical Youth Scholars Docent Documentary Project [$164,764]
Two meetings were held with the NPS staff to relay National Park Foundation’s (NPF) interest in funding a second co-hort for this project. Program Director and Lead Teacher at Dunbar currently designing the additional program for approval. Meeting held to introduce new staff members at NPF to the ASALH/NPS/Kiamsha team.
Completed Projects

**Acadia – Historic Resource Study of Participants at Acadia Job Corps Center** [$65,000]
The Park and PI requested an extension during which time the PI will produce and submit an article on the project. Awaiting approval of the requested extension.

**Carter G. Woodson National Historic Site National Historic Landmark (NHL) Update** [$46,500]
The revised version of the Carter G. Woodson NHL nomination that incorporates the responses to the NHL has been submitted. Committee's comments were made in a presentation by the PI Dr. Amber Wiley and Dr. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham [President of ASALH at that time] at the October 2021 meeting. The presentation with the revisions will be considered by the National Park System’s Advisory Board (NPSAB) at a meeting tentatively scheduled for late March 2022. Once the NPSAB reviews and forwards the nomination to the Secretary of the Interior for approval, NPS will finalize and share with ASALH.

**Minority Participants in the Battle of Cowpens** [$65,593]
The Cowpens National Park Task Agreement incorporated the perspectives of under-represented communities and populations in the southern campaign of the American Revolution at the Cowpens National Battlefield.
Addendum to March 2022 National Heritage Sites Research Committee and Woodson Home Site Committee Reports

National Heritage Sites Research Committee (NHSRC)
We recommend a review of the original application document for Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU). The structure that was put in place to manage the Master Cooperative Agreement (MCA) and CESU should be retained. (See pages 5-7 of the original CESU application)

The critical work to finalize a Task Agreement for both the MCA and CESU is done on the content side. The Co-Chairs of the Committee (content specialists) are the first line of contact for all NPS MCA Task Agreements and the CESU. Once individuals respond to a Request for Proposal (RFP) the NHRSC review and vet respective applicants and once a selection is made, the Committee members interview the selected applicant(s).

Woodson Home Site Committee
To provide ongoing continuity to the Woodson Home Site during the critical time leading to the opening of the Site in February of 2023, we recommend that the current Chair and Co-Chair continue in those roles. Omar Eaton-Martinez has recently been named as an additional Co-Chair and will be involved in all future meetings with the NPS [Woodson Home Site]. The new General Agreement that was developed by NPS and ASALH and signed off on by Superintendent Tara Morrison and ASALH President Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham spells out the administrative role of the Executive Director relative to ASALH's lifetime "presence" at the Woodson Site. Additionally, the Agreement spells out the continuing role of the Woodson Home Site Committee in all future programming and interpretation of the Site. The Association's Woodson Home Site Committee will remain in place for the life of both parties -- ASALH and NPS. This partnership is unique and outside of the perimeters of standard ASALH programming and ASALH Committees. Finally, it is recommended that as new individuals are asked to serve on this Committee, future Chairs and Co-Chairs be selected from Committee members that also serve on the Executive Council.