

# 2023 Black History Festival and Community Event

## Proposed Concepts for Programming

### Program Descriptions

- I. Proposed Title:** [Exploring Aspects of Black Resistance](#)  
**Category:** History  
**Time:** One hour 30 minutes, end to end  
**Date:** TBD  
**Preliminary Description:** In this program scholars will explore the various ways Black Resistance has been expressed in the African Diaspora.  
**Potential Participants:** Martha Biondi, Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor  
**Other Points:**  
**Music:** TBD  
**Team Lead:** Aisha
- 2. Proposed Title:** [Preserving the Black Resistance](#)  
**Category:** Public History  
**Time:** One hour 30 minutes, end to end  
**Date:** TBD  
**Preliminary Description:** In this program information and cultural heritage professionals will discuss ways they have preserved and interpreted Black Resistance movements in the United States  
**Potential Participants:** Association of African American Museums (AAAM), Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), Information Professionals (IP) of ASALH  
**Other Points:**  
**Music:** TBD  
**Team Lead:** Aisha
- 3. Proposed Title:** [The Underground Railroad and Network to Freedom](#)  
**Category:** History--Slavery  
**Time:** One hour 30 minutes, end to end  
**Date:** TBD  
**Preliminary Description:** In this program scholars will explore the ways enslaved people resisted enslavement

**Potential Participants:** Underground Railroad Museum in Niagara Falls and Cincinnati, National Parks Service

**Other Points:**

**Music:** TBD

**Team Lead:** Aaisha

4. **Proposed Title:** “Poetry—Fighting with Words: Then and Now.”

**Category:** The Arts: Literary--Poetry

**Time:** One hour 30 minutes, end to end

**Date:** TBD

**Preliminary Description:** Accomplished poets, seasoned and beginning, share via a round table discussion how they have used their craft over time to resist discrimination and fight racism. A variety of genres will be featured, including Spoken Word, Hip Hop and Rap. Selected poets will be invited to perform their work.

**Potential Participants:** Former Poet Laureates, Hip Hop, Rap and spoken word artists, renowned poets

**Other Points:** Program could be designed as two-part, back-to-back two-hour program, that separately features seasoned poets and poets representing newer genres.

**Music:** TBD

**Team Lead:** Gladys

5. **Proposed Title:** **Public Historians: The Continuing Struggle to Make Black Lives and Black Culture Visible**

**Category:** Public History

**Time:** One hour, end to end

**Date:** TBD

**Preliminary Description:** This panel will bring together public historians to explore the idea of preserving African American spaces and places as a way to resist marginalization and erasure.

**Potential Participants:** Public Historians representing archives, museums, and historic sites.

**Other Points:**

**Music:** TBD

**Team Lead:** Sharita

6. **Proposed Title:** [Resistance and the Black Press: “Too long have others spoken for us ... We wish to plead our own cause.”](#)

**Category:** Journalism, Black Press

**Time:** One hour 30 minutes, end to end

**Date:** TBD

**Preliminary Description:** Background: In 1827 a group of prominent free African American citizens from states along the Eastern seaboard met in the New York City home of Bostin Crummell to discuss means to communicate their views on the various social, political and economic issues that commonly confronted them and their respective communities. The most significant outcome of this meeting was the decision to begin publication of the first newspaper produced by Black Americans, *Freedom’s Journal*. During the 180 years since the appearance of Freedom’s Journal, the Black Press has chronicled and commented upon events as they have occurred and impacted upon African Americans.

Format: Interactive panel discussion with moderator

**Potential Participants:** (1) Denise Rolark-Barnes and selected members of the Word in Black, [Word In Black - About Us](#) (2) A representative from All Africa [South Africa: History of Resistance and the Black Press - allAfrica.com](#) ; (3) A representative from the Pittsburgh Courier - [During World War II, the black press campaigned for a double victory – over tyranny abroad and segregation at home \(andscape.com\)](#); (4) A representative from the Griot [About TheGriot - TheGriot](#), and/or the Root Magazine which was founded by Skip Gates [The Root \(magazine\) - Wikipedia](#)

**Other Points:**

**Music:** TBD

**Team Lead:** Val

7. **Proposed Title:** [Woodson House](#)

**Category:** Education

**Time:** One hour, 30 minutes, end to end

**Date:** TBD

**Preliminary Description:** The opening of the Carter G. Woodson House, including virtual tour of public spaces and ASALH offices.

**Potential Participants:** Woodson House Committee members, National

Park Service officials, ASALH National President, officers and Executive Director.

**Other Points:**

**Music:** TBD

**Team Lead:** Sylvia

8. **Proposed Title:** [Resistance- History through Photojournalism and Art](#)

**Category:** The Arts: Photojournalism

**Time:** One hour, 30 minutes, end to end.

**Date:** TBD

**Preliminary Description:** In his own voice, a discussion of the artistic contributions of the renowned photographer and activist Roy Lewis, including his historical photographs of the Million Man March and the Wall of Respect.

**Potential Participants:** Denise Rolark Barnes and Roy Lewis

**Other Points:**

**Music:** TBD

**Team Lead:** Louis

9. **Proposed Title:** [Protest In Real Time: The Historically Black College and University](#)

**Category:** Education

**Time:** One hour, 30 minutes, end to end

**Preliminary Description:** A robust discussion of the role of HBCU students and faculty in resistance activities.

**Potential Participants:** Former college students who were participants in or first-hand witnesses to resistance activities, and historians who have written about their activism; e.g., Shirley Sherrod, Diane Nash, Bernard \_\_\_\_\_, **Frank Smith**

**Other Points:** Members of the Hampton Roads (VA) Branch and/or Montgomery (AL)

Branch recommended as possible coordinators of this session.

**Music:** Protest music originated or sung by students

**Team Lead:** Rose ?

10. **Proposed Title:** [ASALH 2022 Book Prize](#)

**Category:** Literature

**Time:** One hour, end to end

**Preliminary Description:** Presentation of the ASALH Book Prize, featuring remarks by the prize-winning author.

**Potential Participants:** Book Prize Committee Leaders, book prize winner, ASALH president

**Other Points:**

**Music:** TBD

**Team Lead:** Gladys

11. **Proposed Title:** **PBS Book Talk**

**Category:** Literature, Education

**Time:** One hour, end to end

**Date:** TBD

**Preliminary Description:**

**Potential Participants:** TBN

**Other Points:**

**Music:**

**Team Lead:** Sylvia

12. **Proposed Title:** **Call and Response: Liberation Theology, Resistance and the Black Church**

**Category:** Religion

**Time:** One hour 30 minutes, end to end

**Date:** TBD

**Preliminary Description:**

**Background:**

Black theology, or black liberation theology, refers to a theological perspective which originated among African-American seminarians and scholars, and in some black churches in the United States and later in other parts of the world. It contextualizes Christianity in an attempt to help those of African descent overcome oppression. It especially focuses on the injustices committed against African Americans and black South Africans during American segregation and apartheid.

**Format:** A lecture (The call) followed by a virtual roundtable discussion (The response) providing commentary and critical analysis. Q & A from audience also part of the response

**Potential Participants:**

Lecturer/Key Informant: 15 minutes

Dr. John Kinney – Virginia Union University: Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology

Roundtable Discussants: 30 minutes

Dean Yolanda Pierce – Dean Howard University School of Divinity - [Rev. Dr. Yolanda Pierce Website](#) [Rev. Yolanda Pierce, Ph.D | Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel at Howard University](#)

Rev. Otis Moss, III - [Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, III \(revom3.com\)](#)

Dr. Eddie Glaude - [Eddie S. Glaude Jr. | Department of African American Studies \(princeton.edu\)](#)

Dr. Terrence L. Johnson: [Author, We Testify with Our Lives | Columbia University Press](#)

Former students of Dr. James Cone **Cohn** (TBD) - [Dwight Hopkins - Wikipedia](#) or [Kelly Brown Douglas '82, '88 - Union Theological Seminary \(utsnyc.edu\)](#) ?

Other resources: [Black Faith and the Black Radical Tradition \(georgetown.edu\)](#)

**Catholic Representative**

Q & A – 15 minutes

**Music:** (TBD)- (5 minutes) “I ain’t gon’ let nobody turn me round” “Oh Freedom... before I be a slave, I’ll be buried in my grave...”

“The Close: (TBD) – (10 minutes) Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III - Abyssinian Baptist Church

**Team Lead:** Valerie

13. **Proposed Title:** Part I: *Barry Farm: Community, Land & Justice in Washington, DC* (film screening)  
**Category:** HOUSING- Fight for Affordable Housing  
**Time:** 1 hour 30 minutes, (50 min. film screening; 30-minute audience Q&A)  
**Date:** TBD  
**Preliminary Description:** This documentary film, a collaboration between the [Bertelsmann Foundation](#) and the [DC Legacy Project](#), tells the story of a journey for community, land, and justice. It is a story of Barry Farm and a story of Washington, D.C. In the cycles of place and displacement, it is also a story of the United States.  
**Potential Participants:** Daniel del Pielago, Michael Fisher, Jr., and Sabiyha Prince  
**Other Points:**  
**Music:** TBD  
**Team Lead:** Louis
14. **Proposed Title:** Part II: *Residents Wage a Fight Against City Hall/ Developer in the Era of Urban Renewal and Gentrification* (panel discussion)  
**Category:** HOUSING- Fight for Affordable Housing  
**Time:** 1-hr, end to end (45 min. discussion; 15-minute audience Q&A)  
**Date:** TBD  
**Preliminary Description:** This panel explores how residents of rental housing have challenged housing systems and their attempts to preserve the rich cultural traditions of a community that are threatened by eradication, gentrification, and redevelopment.  
**Potential Participants:** Mara Cherkalsky, Sarah Shoenfeld, Pariza Narouzi, Dr. Amber Wiley, TBD Former resident of Barry Farm, and TBD former resident of Brookland Manor, Ivy City  
**Other Points:** For decades residents living in affordable housing have battled developers in an effort to maintain affordable housing and stable communities. In a number of cases, multiple generations have resided in rental units, raised families, bonded with their neighbors, and developed a close-knit/ interdependent community. Various factors have contributed to the demise of these strongly bonded communities including benign neglect by City housing agencies or private landlords, a failure to maintain the

housing developments in low-income neighborhoods, and the future aspiration of developers/City offices to generate greater revenue from the redeveloped land.

The redevelopment of the land occupied by rental units has forced residents to reluctantly concede to the developer's promise to set aside a percentage of housing units for the displaced residents. That promise would allow former residents to return to the original site once their home. Over the past few decades, residents have risen up to fight against the developer and preserve their community.

<https://www.streetsensemedia.org/article/displacement-midcity-gentrification-affordable-housing/#.YuQq4i-cZQI>

**Music:** TBD

**Team Lead:** Louis

15. **Proposed Title:** “African American Music: A Reflection of and Inspiration for the Struggle for Freedom, The Civil Rights Movement and Black Lives Matter Movement”

**Category:** Music

**Time:** One hour 30 minutes, end to end

**Date:** TBD

**Preliminary Description:** Panelists will explore how music has served as a source of inspiration for African Americans' struggle for freedom from the antebellum period, through the Civil Rights Movement and into the present day as manifested through the Black Lives Movement.

**Potential Participants:** John Fleming and Portia Maulsby

**Other Points:**

**Music:** TBD

**Team Lead:** Louis Hicks

16. **Proposed Title:** “The Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Legacy Project: The Struggle for Freedom and Equality Continues”

**Category:** Civil Rights

**Time:** One hour 30 minutes, end to end



**Date:** TBD

**Preliminary Description:** This panel discussion will provide a broad overview of SNCC's history and the SNCC Legacy Project's current work. The Legacy Project is working to document the history of the movement, connect young people with the movement and strive to meet the unfulfilled needs of the Freedom Movement. Panelists will also share how they are working to pass on the legacy of the freedom struggle from the current generation on to future generations.

**Potential Participants:** Karen Spellman, Coutland Cox, Judy Richardson, Niani Kikenny, **Frank Smith, Joan Mulholland**

**Other Points:** Should include: the Black Panther Party, Rainbow Coalition, Black Reparations, Black Liberation Movement, Pan Africanisms, Kwame Touré's organization, ANC, and cultural and religious organizations that were the forerunners of the struggle for freedom

**Music:** TBD

**Team Lead:** Louis

16. **Proposed Title:** [“AfriCOBRA: An Art Movement with a Conscience”](#)

**Category:** Art

**Time:** One hour 30 minutes, end to end

**Date:** TBD

**Preliminary Description:** A conversation with art historians Valerie Casel Oliver and Jeffreen Hayes exploring the Black aesthetic of AfriCOBRA as well as the African identity and call for awareness to the political struggles through the representation of Black Visual Culture.

**Potential Participants:** Valerie Casel Oliver and Jeffreen Hayes

**Other Points:** Today, historians ignore the active contingent of artists that were a part of the Movement and excelled as artists in the Washington, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV) region. When tracing the history of the organization, the Chicago artists are singularly associated with the Movement to the exclusion of the DMV artists. AfriCOBRA's work incorporated elements of free jazz, vibrant, “kool-aid” colors, and images representing spiritual identity. Their images were to perform a function that Black people could directly relate to, emphasizing education and awareness of the conditions of black people.

**Music:** TBD

**Team Lead:** Louis

**17. Proposed Title:** **Black Landowners and Farmers—Reclaiming Land and Civil Rights**

**Category:** Agriculture

**Time:** One hour 30 minutes, end to end

**Date:** TBD

**Preliminary Description:** A moderated panel discussion of the role of the Black landowners and farmers during the period 1930 to 2000 in leading civil rights activities. First hand witnesses and participants will describe their views of little known history about the risks taken by Black landowners and farmers to ensure justice.

Question and answer period to follow.

**Potential Participants:** Mrs. Shirley Sherrod, Mr. Cornelius -----

**Other Points:**

**Music:** TBD

**Team Lead:** Gladys

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