

**2025 ASALH CONFERENCE REPORT FEB. 12 2025**  
**AUGUSTUS WOOD**

THEME: AFRICAN AMERICANS & LABOR

**PLENARIES (TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED)**

1) Thursday, September 25, 2025

“The Current State of the Black Radical Tradition: Evaluations and Interventions”

Chair: Orianmi Burton (Unconfirmed)

Panelists: Charisse Burden-Stelly (Confirmed)

Gerald Horne (Confirmed)

Robin D.G. Kelley (Unconfirmed)

Joy James (Unconfirmed)

Alternate Panelists: Akinyele Umoja

Ashley Farmer

Keeanga-Yahmatta Taylor

2) Friday, September 26, 2025

“The Scholarship and Legacy of Joe W. Trotter, Jr.”

Chair: Naomi R. Williams

Panelists: Blair L.M. Kelley (Confirmed)

Leslie Harris (Confirmed)

Sundiata Cha-Jua (Confirmed)

Augustus Wood (Confirmed)

3) Saturday, September 27, 2025

“The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act: The Past, Present, and Future of Democracy”

Chair: Jelani Cobb (Confirmed)

Possible Panelists/Speakers: Kamala Harris (Unconfirmed)

Michelle Obama (Unconfirmed)

Barack Obama (Unconfirmed)

Hakeem Jeffries (Unconfirmed)

Jasmine Crockett (Unconfirmed)

Notes: Crystal Moten and I are working to secure the participants in this plenary as soon as possible. Communication with these camps has been difficult.

**PRESIDENTIAL SESSIONS**

1) “Sick and Tired” (DATE AND TIME TBD)

2) Informal Teach-In Style Session” (DATE AND TIME TBD)

Note: President Whitehead and I are currently finalizing the details of these Presidential Sessions

### **POTENTIAL KEY SESSIONS (participants have confirmed they will present at the conference)**

- 1)The Life and Legacy of Robert Allen
- 2)Publishing with a Tier One Peer Reviewed Journal (JAAH editors)
- 3)The History of Self-Defense in African American Communities
- 4)The Uncovered History of Robert and Mabel Williams
- 5)Immigration and Black Communities: What it means to be a Black American and Intra-racial Solidarity
- 6)The Mississippi Workers Center for Human Rights and Current Black Labor Struggles in the Deep South
- 7)Public Monuments and Black Community-Led Truth and Reconciliation Commissions (in partnership with the AAAM)
- 8)Workshop on the crisis around National Grant Funding and African American Studies and History (in partnership with the NPS and/or the AAAM)
- 9)Building Social Movements in the Trump Era: Critiques and Interventions with Bill Fletcher, Jr.
- 10)Black Women's Work and Feminist Reevaluations of the Domestic
- 11)Rethinking African American History Through a Material Print Culture
- 12)Black Conservative Thought and Black Ethnocentrism

### **SUBCOMMITTEES**

#### **Public History, Cultural History, and Digital Humanities Subcommittee**

VICE CHAIR: Ashley Howard

1. Report: **Panel on monuments, public history, and community-led truth and reconciliation commissions.** While contentious events around either the removal or creation of public monuments has largely faded from news cycles, the conversations that these stories animated remains. This panel could potentially feature representatives from EJI, as well as community-led initiatives, to discuss what happens in the years that follow and what lessons interested parties can apply in their own communities.
2. **Panel on immigration and Black communities-** According to a [2022 Pew Research Study](#) one in five Black Americans is either an immigrant or a child of immigrants. Although throughout this nation's history, Americans of African descent have always maintained connections to their countries of origins, given the national and community dialogue on creating space to have a frank dialogue of what it means to be a Black American in 2024 helping to foster both intra- and inter-racial solidarity.
3. **Panel on national funding opportunities-** Federal grants such as the [NEH](#) and [NHPRC](#), as well as private funding opportunities through [Mellon](#), are continuously seeking community-based organizations, particularly those whose work centers people of color, to apply. For many of these smaller nonprofits, the sheer volume of information to navigate seems daunting. This panel would bring together project managers from relevant funders and possibly successful awarded to discuss best practices. This may also provide an opportunity for the Association to collaborate with the African American Museum Professionals association.

### **Film Festival Subcommittee**

VICE CHAIRS: Anton House and Jonathan Dean

Report: I am working with Anton and Jonathan in finalizing a list of films for the festival. Labor films we are considering include 10,000 Men Named George, Killer of Sheep, The Killing Floor, and a documentary on Fannie Lou Hamer. We are also checking All Academic for more film submissions. Once we have a tentative schedule for the presidential sessions and plenaries, we can schedule the films.

### **Poster Subcommittee**

VICE CHAIRS: Thura Mack and Adreonna Bennett

Report: Everything is on schedule for the poster session

### **Media and Marketing Subcommittee**

VICE CHAIR: Zebulon Miletsky

Report: Marketing and publicity has begun in full swing. Zebulon spoke with individuals connected to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and CNN. He is working to set up publicity in both areas well in advance of the conference. Zebulon also set up an interview with PCMA Convene Magazine where we both gave answers to the journalist this past week. Zebulon continues to work to find more interview opportunities for us as well.

Meanwhile, we will begin crafting our publicity for our plenaries, presidential sessions, and key sessions following the February 21<sup>st</sup> executive council meeting.

### **Hine/Horne Book Award Subcommittee**

VICE CHAIR: Stephanie Fortado

Report: Pending

### **Conference Recruitment and Student Outreach Subcommittee**

VICE CHAIRS: Tomiko Meeks and Edward Onaci

Report: Tomiko has spoken with Rice University African American Studies Department about presenting at our conference. She also has been doing extensive outreach to get conference registrants and sponsors, including the Williams Company with an extensive Black employee network and Hewlett-Packard, who also has an extensive Black employee network. She reached over one hundred people and we feel confident that many will either register and attend our conference or publicize it or both. Tomiko's work led to Hewlett Packard placing ASALH on their list of charitable organizations for their employees to donate funds to with the company matching each donation! Truly phenomenal work from Tomiko and Sylvia on this. Tomiko also publicized ASALH and the conference on a podcast with more scheduled in the near future.

Ed Onaci is working on recruiting non-scholar local activists to attend the conference and submit panels and workshops on organizing and grassroots activism. He has gotten some veteran organizers to commit to attending the conference.

### **Affiliate & Media Sessions Subcommittee**

VICE CHAIR: Naomi Williams

Report: Naomi is currently recovering from a surgery, but prior to that she put me in contact with the Labor Institute at Clark Atlanta University. Joseph Jones and Sherman Henry are our connections there. At the beginning of March, I will meet with both of them and propose another key session on their Labro Institute and their significance to the labor situation in Atlanta. Theyb also expressed a possible interest in submitting a panel on Oral History, which I will follow up with them about.

Additionally, we are waiting to hear about the National Parks Service, but we are planning to meet with the AAAM. Thanks to Ashley Howard, we will have a key session dedicated to Museums.

### **Operations and & On-Site Help Subcommittee**

VICE CHAIR: Aisha Johnson

Report: We will begin prepping for Conference scheduling at the beginning of March. We will also coordinate the conference volunteers into Woodson Ambassadors and assign them to their areas with a target date of the beginning of May. I will follow up with Aaisha on these next steps.

### **Education Workshop Subcommittee**

VICE CHAIR: Pending

Report: Pending

**AVWH Liaison**-Netanya Duncan (Pending)

### **NEXT STEPS**

- 1)Finalize the 3<sup>rd</sup> plenary by end of next week Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- 2)Look at Rooms Layout and configure max efficiency for critical sessions (Think Space/Capacity!)
- 2)Build the Education Workshop Subcommittee and create Teacher Workshop sessions
- 3)Train all APC members on All Academic submission and scheduling panels
- 4)Create official time slots for plenaries, presidential sessions, and other key events so we can begin to publicize/market and schedule the Film Festival and other sessions around them
- 5)Lock in other special guests for our Luncheon and other events
- 6)Confirm with the Local Arrangements Committee all social events and how their times relate to scheduled sessions and other events