

Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture

Public Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 4, 2023

Riversdale House Museum
4811 Riverdale Road
Riverdale Park, Maryland 20737

The following Commissioners were in attendance: Kali Aset-Amen, Maya Davis, H. Russell Frisby, Janice Curtis Greene, Kara Hunt, Jaelon Moaney, Barbara Paca, Ada Pinkston, Hakeem Tijani, Reggie Turner, Elinor Thompson, Kennedy Wilson, and Chair Edwin T. Johnson.

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m. by Chair Edwin T. Johnson.

Proof of Public Notice

Accepted by general consensus.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Johnson asked for a motion to be made in accepting the minutes of October 2, 2023. Commissioner H. Russell Frisby made a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

Chair Edwin T. Johnson's Report

Chair Johnson welcomed as well as brought greetings on behalf of he and Vice Chair Maya Davis who hosted the MCAAHC public meeting at the Riversdale House Museum.

- He asked that the MCAAHC Commissioners and the public give a moment of silence to the sanctity of human life with the number of conflicts that are taking place around the world during this holiday season.
- Chair Johnson took the moment to recognize Chair Lady Emeritus Lyndra (neePratt) Marshall who attended the meeting.
 - He shared that the commission is continuing to move forward with the work that predates her as well as moving forward today.
- Chair Johnson said that December's public meeting leads to the halfway point of their leadership with the MCAAHC.
 - He said that this was the third public meeting with three remaining.
 - Chair Johnson felt that it was important to share what has been achieved, what is in progress as well as what needs to be done in the short time that remains.
 - He said that he first wanted to note that the current works of the MCAAHC are built upon the works and success of the England Wilson-Herbert Frisby administration.
 - These results were off to a running start where they made great strides in Annapolis, Maryland with the legislation of the State of Maryland.
 - Their leadership resulted in an increase in staff capacity at the BDM.
 - A rise in the MCAAHC's African American Heritage Preservation Grant (AAHPG) from the \$1 million appropriation to the \$5 million appropriation.
 - Chair Johnson took a moment to recognize Commissioner Frisby for his work in securing that this process happened.
 - Chair Johnson was very happy to be elected as Chair of the MCAAHC at the June 5, 2022, public meeting however, his celebration was short lived for he lost his father who was one of his mentors in teaching African American history.
 - In August 2023, the MCAAHC welcomed 11 new commissioners.
 - An MCAAHC retreat was given where the commissioners received their assignment of joining one of the various committees under this organization.

- The MCAAHC commissioners were asked to compile a list of allies, organizations, and clubs from their jurisdictions for their colleagues so that the MCAAHC would be better equipped for outreach and engagement.
- The things that have been achieved by the MCAAHC are that:
 - The MCAAHC rebranded their look as noted at the 60th Anniversary of the March on Washington.
 - The new t-shirts were designed by Ms. Jan Lee and Chair Johnson.
 - New MCAAHC banners were produced for the commission's distinction and outreach efforts at the Juneteenth celebrations.
 - A promotional video was produced for the Association of African American Museums which will be showcased in the summer of 2024.
 - The MCAAHC presided over Governor Wes Moore's proclamation ceremony for the kickoff to the International Underground Railroad month.
 - The MCAAHC also hosted the kickoff to the Year of Maryland's Civil Rights program.
 - The MCAAHC participated in the annual symposium that was held at Morgan State University.
 - Chair Johnson thanked Commissioner Hakeem Tijani for his concerted efforts on this endeavor.
 - Chair Johnson represented the commission at a YPR interview in response to the comments regarding slavery providing professional development.
- Chair Johnson, on behalf of the MCAAHC, encouraged that the Governor's office acknowledges Maryland's 159th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.
 - This recognition was asked to be done because the states of Maryland, Kentucky, Delaware, and Missouri didn't succeed from the union.
 - A year later Maryland succeeded the union on November 1, 1864.
 - A formal acknowledgement is being made directly from the governor's office regarding this matter.
 - Also, a bi-weekly meeting has been established with Governor Wes Moore on all African American History projects.
- Chair Johnson, also on behalf of the MCAAHC encouraged that the Governor's office acknowledges Maryland's 159th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.
 - This recognition was asked to be done because the states of Maryland, Kentucky, Delaware, and Missouri didn't succeed from the union.
 - A year later Maryland succeeded the union on November 1, 1864.
 - A formal acknowledgement is being made directly from the governor's office regarding this matter.
 - Also, a by weekly meeting has been established with Governor Wes Moore on all African American History projects.
- Chair Johnson shared that in the closed session of the meeting, the MCAAHC will update some bylaws that were antiquated.
- Chair Johnson shared that things are in the works to have the Banneker-Douglass Museum changed to the Banneker-Douglass Tubman Museum where the fruit of that labor will be shared in the month March for Women's Month.
- A charge was given to the MCAAHC Commissioners to have at least one group from their jurisdiction to come to the Banneker-Douglass Museum for a docent guided tour.
- Also, a system has been developed by some MCAAHC Commissioners to collect donated brand-new books to combat the book banning that is now taking place in the United States.
- Chair Johnson shared the various initiatives that are being worked on:
 - 1. Long overhaul of the MCAAHC and BDM websites.
 - He felt that the website doesn't carry the weight of all of the initiatives and history of the MCAAHC as well as share all of the past and present chairs, vice chairs of the commission all of the way back to 1969.

- 2. A consistent email address for the MCAAHC.
- 3. Provide an historic overview of the African American Heritage Preservation Grant where one can click on a city or county and see where the grant offerings have been awarded as well as what they are all about.

Director's Reports

Executive Director Chanel Johnson

Executive Director Johnson thanked Chair Johnson, the MCAAHC, and the public for allowing her to give her Director's Report.

- She took the moment to recognize the MCAAHC staff member Ms. Taylor Means, Research Grant Specialist who will be working with the MCAAHC as well as the BDM.
 - Executive Director Johnson took a moment to recognize her small but mighty staff: Ms. Jan Lee, Director of Marketing; Ms. Sabriyah Hassan, Director of Programs; Ms. Shelly Holland, Chief Financial Officer as well as LeRonn Herbert, Administrative Manager of the BDM and the Special Assistant for the MCAAHC.
 - Executive Director Johnson shared that for years the MCAAHC worked on getting their operational budget increased.
 - The budget of the BDM went from \$600,000 to \$1.6 million as well as the increase of the MCAAHC's African American Heritage Preservation Grant from \$1 million to \$5 million.

AAHPP Highlights - December & January:

- In October, three site visits were conducted for FY 2023 projects. One visit was to view a completed project, another to assess the beginning stages of a project, and the final was to conduct a field survey.
- Seven grantee sites were visited in the month of November. The furthest one being the Bethel A.M.E. Church in Mountain Lake Park, which is in Garrett County.
- Also in October, the BDM and MHT met to discuss the coordination of social media posts and how to equally share and promote the AAHPP site visits and other activities.
 - The BDM Marketing and Communications intern, Bria Bates, worked to create a new Rack Card for the AAHPP grant.
- In November, the Rank & Review Committee met to decide the awardees for the FY 24 AAHPP grant. After two days of presentations and discussions, 24 projects were chosen, with nine more on the "Reserve List." Recommended awardees will be presented at the December 7th MHT Board Meeting
- Additionally in November, AAHPP met with MHT to discuss the virtual "MHT Incentives Roadshow" on December 6th. This virtual presentation will discuss the AAHPP grant, who qualifies, what projects are eligible, and a brief overview of potential easement requirements.

Upcoming:

- Presentation on the overview of the AAHPP program at the MHT Incentives Roadshow on December 6th - virtual. Presentation by Taylor Means
- Presentation of FY24 awardees on December 7th at the MHT Board Meeting - presentation by Taylor Means and Stacy Montgomery

Media Coverage:

- "MHT Sees Bethel Center Progress"
 - <https://deepcreektimes.com/mht-sees-bethel-center-progress/>
- "MHT Sees Bethel Center Progress"
 - <https://mlpha.org/blog/mht-sees-bethel-center-progress>

December & January Visitation & Engagement

Channel	Followers/Subscribers	Reach/Views
Onsite Visitation	–	1,376
Outreach Numbers (AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS, from Sabriyah)		HACA- 36 November Annapolis High- 75 November
Website (BDM + MCAAHC)	–	3,269*
Facebook	2,661 (+1%)	9,733
Instagram	2,035 (+3%)	1,203
YouTube	217 (+19%)	1,179 (+113%)
LinkedIn	192 (+14%)	272
Totals	5,105	17,143

**MCAAHC website stopped collecting visitation data from October 1st - November 29, 2023, due to a Google Analytics tracking error. The issue has now been fixed.*

Visitor Groups	October
Other Group Visits	Centreville High School, Opportunities Inc., Our Local Tours, Annapolis Red Hat Queen, Elizabeth Pattery UMBC, Efrat Israel, Key Family, Maryland Office of Tourism, Pathways School, .140 visitors.
Individual Visitors	225 visitors
BDM Events	MCAAHC Public Meeting 108 visitors Leadership Anne Arundel Conference 69 visitors Governor Wes Moore’s “Maryland’s Year of Civil Rights Affair” 118 visitors
Total Visitor	660 visitors

Visitor Groups	November
Other Group Visits	Bendust Family, Raising Leaders, Overlook at Oxon Manor 11, Hanner Family, Bowie High School, St. John’s College Overnight program, Maryland DGS, 138 visitors
Individual Visitors	Visitors
Total Visitor	visitors

Marketing & Communications Highlights:

- Maryland Emancipation Day proclamation and video featuring Gov. Moore posted on social media, Nov 1st.
- Maryland’s Year of Civil Rights launch event, Oct 25th at BDM, is available on the BDM YouTube for viewing.

- In the process of being hired for the Marketing Coordinator position. Lots of really great candidates!
- Photos from the October 2023 Public Meeting are available on the BDM Facebook page.
- Thank you to Fall 2023 Marketing & Communications interns: April Amerson and Bria Bates!

Upcoming:

- Website updates for MCAAHC (africanamerican.maryland.gov) are in progress in lieu of a website merger for BDM and MCAAHC, while renaming/rebranding way forward is determined.
- Openings for Winter 2023 Marketing & Communications Internships, January - March, will be posted this month.

Media Coverage:

- 'Maryland launches project to ethically rebury remains of African descent', *The Baltimore Sun* (Nov 20, 2023) <https://www.baltimoresun.com/politics/bs-md-pol-moore-african-descent-reburial-20231120-tq636stk5rdcneidi2gkpecf2ee-story.html>
 - Coverage of the "Engaging with Descendant African American Communities," project created in partnership between MCAAHC and the Maryland Historical Trust, with a quote from Executive Director Chanel C. Johnson.
- 'Patrice Drago: November gallery offerings remind us that art is storytelling', *Capital Gazette* (Nov 2, 2023) <https://www.capitalgazette.com/lifestyles/ac-cn-drago-november-gallery-2023-20231102-57nohbtmpva2zlnlq7m6qigna-story.html>
- 'Maryland announces 2024 as Year of Civil Rights', *Travel Mole* (Nov 2, 2023) <https://www.travelmole.com/news/maryland-announces-2024-as-year-of-civil-rights/>
- 'Governor Moore Proclaims 2024 as Maryland's Year of Civil Rights', *Maryland.gov* (Oct 25, 2023) <https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/governor-moore-proclaims-2024-as-maryland%E2%80%99s-year-of-civil-rights.aspx>
- 'Pass the Mic: Teaching the truth about African American history and culture', *WYPR* (Oct 24, 2023) <https://www.wypr.org/show/on-the-record/2023-10-24/pass-the-mic-teaching-the-truth-of-african-american-history-and-culture>
 - Chair Dr. Edwin T. Johnson spoke with Terri Freeman on the WYPR monthly series, Pass the Mic.

Facilities & Admin

Maintenance work- BDM met the Department of General Services (DGS) Capital Construction Team on 11/17/2023 to assess the Capital Improvement needs.

- **Security Cameras** - Security 101 was selected to install the new security cameras.
- **Wireless Access Point (WAP)** - DBM received a proposal to install WAP devices throughout the museum for staff and visitors' internet access.
- **Alarm System** - BDM is in the process of upgrading the current alarm system.
- **Volunteers** - 4 Volunteers gave a total of 18 hours.
- **New Lights** - Several areas in the museum lights have gone out. New LED lighting is looking to be placed throughout the museum by vendor Chesapeake Lighting.
- **A Site Visit with DGS** was conducted to assess BDM's capital building repairs project. A list of recommendations and costs were submitted by DGS.

Collections and Exhibits

Art Purchase: BDM applied for a grant with the Anne Arundel Arts Council to purchase the Harriet Tubman statue. Goya has committed to a \$50,000 match and to collaborate with the museum on raising remaining funds.

Loans: Loaned *Mal Art*, ca. 1970s (1987.2.1) by Dr. Joyce J. Scott to the Baltimore Museum of Art for an upcoming exhibition.

New Exhibit: *A Story to Tell* is an arts and literacy exhibition celebrating the beauty and importance of Black history, art, & literature. The exhibit features large portraits by Maryland artist *Ernest Shaw* and children and young adult (YA) books presented by *Baltimore Read Aloud*. *Baltimore Read Aloud* is a leading bookstore that features socially conscious books by Black authors. The Banneker-Douglass Museum invites families, art lovers, and readers to explore the exhibited art and literature to build greater connections, appreciation, and understanding of Black history and heritage.

October & November Program Highlights

October 25th, 2023

Year of Civil Rights Launch Event

On Wednesday, October 25th, the MCAAHC launched “The Year of Civil Rights” initiative with a program featuring special guest speakers Governor Wes Moore, First Lady Dawn Moore, Dr. Edwin T. Johnson, and Dr. Vedet Coleman-Robinson, Executive Director of the Association of African American Museums. During this very special event we amplified civil rights work being done by heritage sites and visitor bureaus throughout the state, while highlighting the work that has been done to pave the way for today. During the performance we also heard 2 performances from the Baltimore Slam Team and Kamyia Chapman-Pearsall and Sanaa Harris from The Center for Visual and Performing Arts at Suitland High School.

Week of November 6th

Launch of Out of School Time Programs w/ the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis and Annapolis High School

We are excited to be back for a second year with our exciting out-of-school program engaging youth throughout the City of Annapolis. For the 2023-2024 school year we have expanded our program offerings to include Annapolis HS. This year’s curriculum will focus on genealogy tracing, protest arts, Maryland rich civil rights history and more. Classes will meet on a weekly basis and be led by teaching artist Nikki Brooks and Education Coordinator Daveisha Gibson.

HACA & Robin Wood Community Center

The Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis’ Out-of-School Time Program in partnership with the Banneker-Douglass Museum, started its 2023-2024 session on Tuesday, November 7th at Robin Wood Community Center.

On Thursday, November 16, the museum’s resident teaching artist Nicole Brooks and Leron Fisher from The Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis, took students to Maryland Hall’s ‘I Am A Man’ Exhibit Opening Reception & A Day of Civil Rights Celebration.

Enrollment for the Out-of-School Time Program is ongoing, currently 8 youth regularly attend. A PSA/Marketing initiative is under way to promote the Out-of-School Time Program to inform community members on the many ways the program can support academic, behavioral, and social-emotional growth while providing middle school and high school youth with exposure to African American History, Arts and Culture content. The curriculum for this school season explores historical and contemporary forms of resistance and protest by African Americans, and the role of art in the pursuit of civil rights in America.

Annapolis High School

November 9th marked the start of a new educational program in partnership with Annapolis High School. Once a week student in the school’s honor African American History course welcomes the Banneker-Douglass Museum’s Programs Coordinator into the learning community to analyze the disruption of African Societies and the impact of slavery on the

ability of African Americans to control the structure and heritage of their families. Students explore the role of genealogical and ancestral research in preserving and reuniting the intergenerational legacy of African American through the scoop and lens of civil rights history and contemporary activism.

The attendance for the course includes 20 students ranging from 10th to 11th grade who are receiving 80-minute arts-integrated instructional experience guided by the National Council for Social Studies standards. The weekly learning experience incorporates strategies for whole-child development, thereby supporting the continued development of skills needed for social-emotional wellness and civic engagement.

UPCOMING PUBLIC PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Program	
<p>Saturday, December 9th</p> <p>A Story to Tell Opening Reception & Kwanzaa Celebration</p>	<p>Director Sabriyah Ismail, asked for the MCAAHC and the public to join she and the BDM staff for their annual Kwanzaa celebration as we highlight our newest exhibit, <i>A Story to Tell</i>, featuring the art of Maryland artist Ernest Shaw and a selection of children’s and young adults’ books by Baltimore Read Aloud.</p> <p>This exhibit, curated by Chanel C. Johnson, is an arts and literacy exhibition celebrating the beauty and importance of Black history, art, & literature.</p>
<p>January 13th</p> <p><i>MLK Day Program: Let's Create. Art as Activism!</i></p>	<p>Stay after the artist talks and read aloud and join us for some dancing, eating, shopping and holiday cheer.</p> <hr/> <p>Activism shows up in spaces in many different ways. Join us for a discussion with artist Oliver James as she discusses the inspiration behind her art. Creating pieces that address pressing social issues, sparks dialogue and inspires action, James will take us on a journey that offers insight into the transformative role that art plays in shaping history. Immediately following the discussion, audience members will be invited to participate in the creation of a civil rights mural, led by James, to be displayed at the museum.</p>
<p>Friday January 5th 10am - 12pm</p>	<p>Whether you are an art enthusiast, activist or simply curious about the intersection of creativity and social change, this program is not to be missed.</p> <hr/> <p>Annapolis HS Program Field Trip Visit to Banneker-Douglass Museum</p>

Financials

MCAAHC Financials

- FY24 Appropriation is \$1.6 million
- Appropriation balance as of 11/30/2023 - \$1.1 million
- Once all permanent staff are on board that, the monthly expenditure will increase.
 - Current recruitment includes the following:
 - Curator of Collections & Exhibitions
 - Exhibitions Manager
 - In the interview process
 - Marketing Coordinator

Capital Budget

- FY23 Capital Grant through DGS - \$75k
 - Remaining balance - \$55k
- FY24 Capital Grant through DGS - \$3 million
 - Grant approved by the Board of Public Works on 11/29/2023.

Foundation Financials

- July - September 2023
 - Total Income - \$71k
 - Total Expenses - \$45.5K
 - Net Profit - \$25.5K

- SAHC Grant - Will apply for the Emergency Assistance to Secure against Hate Crime Grant through the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services. If awarded, the grant will be used for hardening the exterior and interior doors with access control readers and adding additional exterior cameras. Grant application is due January 10, 2024.

BDM Committee Report, Vice Chair Maya Davis

Vice Chair Maya Davis thanked Chair Johnson for his grace and kindness.

- She shared that she wanted to first the diversity of faces on the campus of the Riverdale House Museum (RHM) that challenged the men that were on the wall who established a colony but would have never thought people of diversity would gathered freely in a place like this.
 - Vice Chair Davis brought greetings on behalf of the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation. She welcomed everyone who came to the public meeting.
- Vice Chair Davis said that the Mansion of the Riversdale House Museum was established in 1801 and lasted until 1807 by slave labor.
 - The home was built by slave labor, but her team is taking a lead sharing the richer and fuller story of enslaved Africans, that were the majority, by diversifying and changing the narrative o what told about African Americans on this property.
 - Vice Chair Davis said that the RHM will not erase or ignore the legacy, spirit, and history of the Calvert family.
 - She admonished the public to come the Riversdale House Museum's Kwanzaa Program, "Riverdale by Candelight" that will feature the Park Heights High School Choir to perform.
- Vice Chair Davis said that the BDM Committee was glad to pull out the MCAAHC Black Symposium that took place at Morgan State University.
 - Commissioners Hakeem Tijani and Brian Morrisson were the planners for the symposium.
 - College students at Morgan State University, the MCAAHC and the public at large were able to come receive extensive powerful information, training, as well as valuable information on African American history in the State of Maryland.
 - Vice Chair Davis was able to make a presentation with Chair Dr. David Funkle on behalf of the Maryland Lynching, Truth, and Reconciliation Committee.
 - One of the things that the committee noticed was that there was a drop off of visitors for the session as the day went on.
 - It was discussed, by the committee, that there be other partnerships brought into this endeavor and still partner with Morgan State for greater participation.
 - Vice Chair Davis thanked Commissioner Ada Pinkston for helping Vice Chair Davis with her presentation.
 - The BDM Committee established that they would have their meetings on Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

MCAAHC Financial Report Commissioner Reggie Turner

Commissioner Reggie Turner gave a financial report that:

- FY24 an appropriation of \$1.6 million was applied to the MCAAHC capital budget.
- The appropriation balance as of August 31st was \$1.4 million.
 - Once all permanent staff have been on board, the monthly expenditures will increase.
- Commissioner Turner shared that a FY 2023 Capital Grant was received through the Maryland Department of General Services of \$75,000.
 - \$55,000 is the remaining balance.
- He also shared that \$3 million was received FY24 Capital Budget through Maryland Department of General Services.
- Commissioner Turner shared that he and an accountant are working on the financials for the Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation.

MCAAHC African American Heritage Preservation Grant Report (AAHPG) Commissioner H. Russell Frisby, Chair

Commissioner H. Russell Frisby began his report by sharing that he is the chair of the AAHPG Committee.

- He shared that this year, the AAHPG increase from \$1 million to \$5 million.
 - Commissioner Frisby took a moment to thank the MCAAHC Commissioners as well as the BDM staff for their hard work.
 - There were 108 applications filed for this grant with requests totaling \$20 million dollars.
 - This was a tremendous increase compared to the year 2022.
 - There is a new BDM staff person that has been onboarded that has been working with the MCAAHC and the Maryland Historical Trust.
 - The applications were divided amongst the committee members where they were to give their recommendations.
 - The committee had an intense 2-day session where they reviewed and ranked every application.
 - For the first time in the grant's history there has been a grant application request coming from every part of the State of Maryland.
 - The AAHPG Committee looks to announce the award recipients at the end of the year.

Reginald F. Lewis Museum Report Commissioner H. Russell Frisby, Chair

Commissioner Frisby shared that this is his third year and final year representing the MCAAHC on the RFLM Board.

- He shared that the museum is doing well, expanding programmatically with two great exhibits and Friday night events.
- The RFLM is continuing doing its outreach throughout the State of Maryland where the museum received \$6 million from the state and federal government.
- Commissioner Frisby shared that the MCAAHC has a great relationship where there will always be a seat available for a commissioner to be a part of their board.
 - Commissioner Brian Morrison will fill that seat when Commissioner Frisby's term ends in June.

Ancestral Remains Cemetery Research and Preservation Committee Report, Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene and Commissioner Elinor Thompson

Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene gave a challenge for the public regarding the MCAAHC AAHPG.

- Commissioner Greene said that she would like to see the public reach out to their MCAAHC Commissioners and provide them with a list of all the applicants.

- This will allow the public as well as the commissioners to be able to reach out to all the churches, burial sites and schools to:
 - Advocate for them.
 - Potentially provide funding for their projects.
 - Hold their hands as they go through the grant application process and serve on their boards.

Commissioner Greene said that she, Commissioners Elinor Thompson (co-chair), Ada Pinkston, and Philip J. Merrill make up the committee.

- The committee also has members from the Maryland Historical Trust.
 - These members are Elizabeth Hughes, Dr. Patricia Stanford, Zachary Singer, and Matthew McKnight.
- Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene gave a special thanks to Commissioner Elinor Thompson for all of the extra time and work she has put into this committee gathering budget estimates and contacting the extensive communities.
 - A special thanks was given to Director Chanel Johnson for submitting the ILMS grant for this committee.
 - The committee also thank Director Hughes and Dr. Stanford for their additional research as well as for their help in pulling the research team together.
 - The EIN Group company did work on the reconstruction and enhancement of faces from the remains available.
 - A budget for the identification project was submitted by Executive Director Johnson for \$100,000.
 - Governor Wes Moore sent out a press release hailing the work of the commission and the partnership between the Maryland Historical Trust.
 - In the press release Governor Moore spotlighted the archaeological remains of the identity of the remains that was housed at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab in preserving and interpreting the legacy of Maryland's past.
- Commissioner Elinor Thompson shared that the approach of reaching the descendant communities was discussed.
 - It was also decided that an announcement was decided that it would be placed on the MCAAHC and the MHT's websites with updates on the activities of the committees encouraging the update of the civic communities' updates in providing and distributing information on the cultural remains.
 - Next steps of how to proceed with the findings would be shared under the direction of Commissioner Elinor Thompson.
 - The date of the next meeting will be Friday, December 8, 2023.
 - Once all of the information is given, Commissioner Thompson shared that the committees will be able to put these individuals to rest.

Chair Johnson gave an announcement that Saturday, December 9, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. the MCAAHC's biggest program, "Kwanzaa" will take place at the BDM.

Chair Johnson then called for a motion to adjourn the MCAAHC Public meeting. Commissioner Hakeem Tijani made a motion for adjournment, it was then seconded by Commissioner H. Russell Frisby and the motion was carried.

The public meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

LeRonn Herbert, Special Assistant

Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture
Closed Meeting
December 4, 2023

Vote to Close

It was the general consensus of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture to move forward with the closed meeting.

Call to Order

The closed session was called to order at 12:48 a.m. by Chair of the African American Heritage Preservation Grant Committee, Commissioner H. Russell Frisby, Jr.. The following commissioners were also in attendance: Kali Aset-Amen, Maya Davis, H. Russell Frisby, Janice Curtis Greene, Kara Hunt, Jaelon Moaney, Barbara Paca, Ada Pinkston, Hakeem Tijani, Reggie Turner, Elinor Thompson, Kennedy Wilson, and Chair Edwin T. Johnson.

The statutory closed State Government article STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CLOSE SESSION General Provision Article § 3-305(b) {1.5 (b) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, a public body may meet in closed session or adjourn an open session to a closed session only to: (1) discuss: (5) consider the investment of public funds} was read and the meeting began.

Topic Discussed

Commissioner H. Russell Frisby, Jr., Chair of the African American Heritage Preservation Grant Committee presented an overview of the African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program and discussed the MCAAHC's review and ranking procedures. All MCAAHC Commissioners present were informed by this process; additional questions were answered; and everyone was in agreement from the meeting.

