

## Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture

Public Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 5, 2024

Reginald F. Lewis Museum  
830 East Pratt Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

The following Commissioners were in attendance: Kali Ahset-Amen, Lori Bradford, Maya Davis, H. Russell Frisby, Janice Curtis Greene, Kara Hunt, Philip J. Merrill, Jaelon Moaney, Brian Morrison, Barbara Paca, Ada Pinkston, Hakeem Tijani, Reggie Turner, Elinor Thompson, Wesley Wood, and Chair Edwin T. Johnson.

The meeting was called to order at 11:01 a.m. by Chair Edwin T. Johnson. Chair Johnson asked that the MCAAHC Commissioners and public pause for a moment of silence for the three soldiers that were lost in Jordan. They were Sergeant William Jerome Rivers, Specialist Kennedy Kadan Sanders, and Specialist Briana Alexandra Moffitt.

Chair Johnson then turned the floor over to Commissioner Kali-Ahset Amen to give a welcome. Commissioner Amen thanked the public for coming to the public meeting. She shared that she is a new MCAAHC Commissioner appointed by Governor Wes Moore for Baltimore City.

- Commissioner Amen said that she was very glad to see so many familiar faces in attendance.
- She took a moment to recognize Executive Director Terrie Freeman and staff for their hospitality in hosting the commission's public meeting.
- Commissioner Amen also recognized the Baltimore MCAAHC Commissioners who assisted in hosting this public meeting. They are:
  - Commissioner Wali Gill
  - Commissioner Philip Merrill
  - Commissioner Brian Morrison
  - Commissioner Ada Pinski
  - Commissioner Wesley Wood and
  - Chair Edwin T. Johnson
- Commissioner Amen shared that the commission not only has its public meeting but shares the significant work that it does across the State of Maryland.
  - She also took a moment to thank Commissioner Brian Morrison for adding a special touch to the public meeting inviting several Baltimore heritage area institutions to come and share their amenities at their exhibitor tables.

Chair Johnson then gave room to Ms. Terri Freeman, Executive Director of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum (RFLM) to share words.

- Executive Director Freeman welcomed the public and thanked Chair Johnson and the MCAAHC for having their meeting at their facility in downtown Baltimore, Maryland.
  - She also took a moment and shared how honored she was to work with as well as have Executive Director Chanel Johnson as a friend.
  - Executive Director Freeman said that Executive Director Johnson is a gifted woman of which she is very glad to partner with in doing programming at the Banneker-Douglass Museum.
  - Executive Director Freeman also shared that while the Reginald Lewis Museum is a State of Maryland Museum, the Banneker-Douglass Museum is the state's official African American Museum.
  - She also said that all are welcome to come to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum where they collect, display, and archive and provide great exhibits, and programming for all.
    - One of the major things that Executive Director Freeman said is that she would like to see RFLM and the MCAAHC work together and hosting an affair for the Legislative Black Caucus this legislative season.
  - Executive Director Freeman said that the RFLM is a space that fosters open dialogue where the museum does not take a particular side but welcomes all.

- Chair Edwin T. Johnson thanked Executive Director Freeman for her hospitality in hosting the MCAAHC's public meeting, for thinking highly of the commission and the BDM and shared that he does look forward to collaborating on many endeavors with RFLM.

### **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 December 4, 2023. Commissioner H. Russell Frisby made a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Hakeem Tijani seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

### *Chair Edwin T. Johnson's Report*

Chair Johnson said that he was going to take executive privilege and ask that Executive Director Johnson and the BDM staff stand before the august body.

- He shared that he has attended several phenomenal programs such as an author's talk as well as tremendously enjoyed the Black History Month Black Freedom Power Kickoff program that was put on by the BDM staff.
  - Chair Johnson said that these events were 5 star programming and asked that the MCAAHC Commissioners please give a round of applause.
- Chair Johnson also asked that Executive Director Chanel Johnson continue to stand.
  - He shared that the MCAAHC had three legislative priorities for this session:
    - \$1 million dollar capital grant capital-monies that will be available for programming and resources for after school programming and assistance for other heritage institutional programming.
    - \$1.4 million request for capital repairs. Chair Johnson shared that the Banneker-Douglass Museum was established in 1984 as well as the historic Mt. Moriah AME Church was established in 1875. The building is older and needs some love.
    - Legislation's going forth to have the Banneker-Douglass Museum to be changed to the Banneker-Douglass Tubman Museum to include the legacy of black women where Harriet Tubman is one of the best ambassadors.
      - Chair Johnson thanked Executive Director Johnson for reaching out to legislators, attending various sessions and meetings and being of great assistance on these matters.
      - Chair Johnson said that Executive Director Johnson even drove in a snowstorm from Baltimore to Annapolis, Maryland to attend the Legislative Black Caucus affair. In attending the affair Executive Director Johnson was able to make sure that all of the MCAAHC initiatives were achieved.
        - Chair Johnson asked that the MCAAHC Commissioners give a round of applause.
      - Last but not least, Chair Johnson thanked the Baltimore MCAAHC Commissioners for putting on the great meeting that took place at the RFLM. He asked that these MCAAHC Commissioners stand.
        - Chair Johnson thanked Commissioner Elinor Thompson for getting the ball rolling hosting MCAAHC's meetings.
        - Chair Johnson also thanked Commissioner Brian Morrison for being the leader over the Baltimore MCAAHC Commissioners in governing this meeting.
        - Finally, Chair Johnson said that the commission operates the museum and that there is tremendous work to do.
        - Chair Johnson asked if one is an MCAAHC Commissioner who is sitting on the sidelines, to please join a committee and keep this energy going.
- Commissioner Kara Hunt asked if she could ask a question.
- Chair Edwin T. Johnson obliged.
- Commissioner Hunt asked in terms of the agenda, to better understand, new business starts at 11:45 a.m.?
  - Commissioner Hunt asked that the chair's reports and the committee's reports are to take place from 11:20 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.?

- She shared that this is the first time that she has seen the agenda and was wondering if all the reports are to take place in 25 minutes?
- Chair Johnson said that the MCAAHC tries to keep to the public meeting agenda as much as possible but sometimes things can run over.
- Commissioner Hunt shared that she didn't know the process and had a few things that she would like to run over.
  - She also asked if there is a process to approve the agenda now or bring it up during new business?
  - Chair Johnson shared that if Commissioner Hunt had a new item to present that it should have been presented before the February 5<sup>th</sup> public meeting.
  - Commissioner Hunt said that she did request a new item for the public meeting.
    - She said that she had a request to get an agenda before the public meeting but she and the MCAAHC Commissioners received the agenda now at the meeting.
    - Commissioner Hunt shared that she sent an email request with two-line items to be discussed at this meeting.
    - Chair Johnson shared that they would take these items up at the MCAAHC's April public meeting.
    - Commissioner Hunt said that the commission should be able to discuss new business here at the public meeting.
      - She said that she was not sure if the time of 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m. was allotted for new business?
      - Commissioner Hunt said that this is the first time that she has seen new business beyond the Baltimore MCAAHC Commission delegation.
      - Chair Johnson shared that new business items are added to the agenda right after the last public meeting.
        - He said that the commissioners had from December 8<sup>th</sup> up until this meeting to add new business items.
        - Commissioner Hunt said that she emailed Executive Director Chanel Johnson and LeRonn Herbert about the new business items.
        - Chair Johnson said that this is the first time that he has heard about this.
        - He shared that he would like these items to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
        - Commissioner Hunt said that no, these items should be shared at this public meeting.
          - She shared that this is not a part of the bylaws and wanted to know why these items could not be addressed at this public meeting?
            - Commissioner Hunt asked what would prevent these items from being discussed at this meeting?
            - Chair Johnson replied that he didn't know what the agenda items were.
            - Chair Johnson shared that this is not the time to discuss this matter.
            - Commissioner Hunt shared that she felt that it was the time to discuss these items.
            - Commissioner Kali Ahset-Amen asked a question to Chair Johnson if he MCAAHC allow Commissioner Hunt to put forth her suggestions at the beginning of the new business portion and then make a decision to

- determine if the commission has the time to make a discussion regarding the items she has?
- Commissioner Ahset-Amen shared that apparently Commissioner Hunt followed the protocols, and that the information was not communicated to all of the relevant parties.
- Chair Johnson shared that we could allow grace to allow the items that Commissioner Hunt has but his concern is that he doesn't know the items that were going to be discussed?
- Chair Johnson asked former parliamentarian Commissioner Frisby his thoughts?
- Commissioner Frisby shared that he felt that the items should be tabled until the commission had an opportunity to see them and then take a vote for discussion.
- Chair Johnson asked if there was a motion?
- Commissioner Kali Ahset-Amen made a motion to allow Commissioner Hunt to put forth her suggestions at the beginning of the new business portion.
- The motion was seconded by Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene and the motion carried.

## **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.*

- 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.

The Banneker-Douglass Museum celebrated the holiday season with engaging family programs and staff & commissioner gatherings to connect with one another and the Kwanzaa season. This is a season of reflection and preparation for a dynamic new year, as we as a commission, along with the office of Governor Wes Moore, announced 2024 as Maryland's Year of Civil Rights. In January and December, enjoyed staff potlucks, holiday parties, and took much deserved vacation time to see family and friends. During that time, we continued to plan for an active Black history month, an exhibition opening, new program series, grant writing, staff training, and interviewing staff candidates for our growing departments.

## **December & January Highlights**

- AAHPP: public announcement of 2024 AAHPP awardees
- In the News: News coverage on MCAAHC's Ancestral Remains Project
- Programs: Kwanzaa celebration at BDM was a success
- Facilities: Completion of new pine wood floors in Verda Welcome Hall (BDM's historic wing)

## **AAHPP Highlights - December & January:**

- In December, the awardees for the FY24 AAHPP grant were presented at the MHT Board Meeting, on the 7th. Soon after, the Acceptance and Declination emails were sent out to applicants notifying them of their status. Also in December, the AAHPP participated in the MHT Virtual Roadshow, which had over 50 attendees.
- Also in December, BDM and MHT collaborated on the FY24 AAHPP Awardees Press Release, which was published in January. It held quotes from MHT Director Elizabeth Hughes, BDM Director, Chanel Compton-Johnson, and Governor Wes Moore.
- In January, Governor Wes Moore began the BPW meeting by recognizing the AAHPP and speaking on the significance of the program. He also spoke some on awardee, Henry’s Hotel.
- Additionally in January, virtual meetings were held with applicants who did not receive funding. They were encouraged to apply again and to attend the AAHPP workshops, which will potentially help to strengthen their application.

**Upcoming:**

- Virtual webinar by Taylor Means and Stacy Montgomery covering initial preparations tasks for new awardees. This will occur on February 8, 2024.
- Maryland Preservation Awards Deadline, February 5, 2024.

**Media Coverage:**

- “January 3rd, Board of Public Works Meeting”
  - <https://bpw.maryland.gov/MeetingDocs/2024-Jan-3-Agenda.pdf>
- “MHT Roadshow”
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDaXp7s1gnI>
- “Museum hailing Ocean City’s Black history in works.”
  - <https://www.delmarvanow.com/story/news/local/maryland/2024/01/05/museum-hailing-ocean-citys-black-history-in-works-all-to-know/72109345007/>
- “Governor Moore Announces \$5 Million in African American Heritage Preservation Grant Awards”
  - <https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/governor-moore-announces-5-million-in-african-american-heritage-preservation-grant-awards.aspx>
- “Henry Hotel Foundation Scores \$250K Grant For Restoration Efforts”
  - <https://mdcoastdispatch.com/2024/01/03/henry-hotel-foundation-scores-250k-grant-for-restoration-efforts/>
- “OC's Henry Hotel gets \$250K grant and speech from Gov. Moore”
  - [https://www.oceancitytoday.com/news/ocs-henry-hotel-gets-250k-grant-and-speech-from-gov-moore/article\\_1f277ec2-b0af-11ee-80a7-dbc1cf5c9670.html](https://www.oceancitytoday.com/news/ocs-henry-hotel-gets-250k-grant-and-speech-from-gov-moore/article_1f277ec2-b0af-11ee-80a7-dbc1cf5c9670.html)
- “Moore: \$5M in African American Heritage Preservation grants”
  - <https://baytobaynews.com/stories/moore-5m-in-african-american-heritage-preservation-grants.126398>
- “Buffalo Soldier's homestead receives African American Heritage preservation grant”
  - <https://baytobaynews.com/stories/buffalo-soldiers-homestead-receives-african-american-heritage-preservation-grant,125061>

**December & January Visitation & Engagement**

Channel	Followers/Subscribers	Reach/Views
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Onsite Visitation	–	850
Outreach Numbers (AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS, from Sabriyah)	–	HACA- 40 December 48 January Annapolis High- 75 December 28 January
Website (BDM + MCAAHC)	–	6,838
Facebook	2,701 (+1%)	22,930 (+136%)
Instagram	2,098 (+3%)	3,063 (+155%)
YouTube	228 (+5%)	649
LinkedIn	260 (+35%)	4,225 (+1453%)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5,287</b>	<b>38,555 (+124%)</b>

*\*Growth figures are in comparison to the previous 60 days/two months.*

Visitor Groups	December
Other Group Visits	MD Office of Tourism, Opportunities Inc., Annapolis High School Black Student Union, Anne Arundel County Executive's Office, Security 101, Chesapeake Painting Inc. - 51 visitors
Individual Visitors	127 visitors
BDM Events	MCAAHC Public Meeting - 93 visitors  Lt. Governor Aruna Miller Tour - 5 visitors  BDM's Black Kwanzaa Program and Ernest Shaw Artist Talk - 125 visitors
<b>Total Visitor</b>	350 visitors

Visitor Groups	January
Other Group Visits	Annapolis High School Social Studies Program, Maryland's Legislative Black Caucus, Baltimore Read Aloud, Taylor Family, Davidson Family, Dr. Carol Benson, Visit Annapolis, Signs By Tomorrow, Touro Family, Harkraft Lighting & Design, Barnes Family, WBAL Channel 11 - 123 visitors

BDM Events	Baltimore Read Aloud Program- 20 individuals BDM Active Shooter Training- 14 individuals Senator Arthur Ellis District Night- 123 individuals
Individual Visitors	220 Visitors
<b>Total Visitor</b>	500 Visitors

**Marketing & Communications Highlights:**

- Created social media pages for MCAAHC on Facebook and LinkedIn
  - MCAAHC Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61554483547275>
  - MCAAHC LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/mcaahc/>
    - Commissioners: Update your LinkedIn profiles to link with this page
- Announcement of AAHPP grant awardees for FY24
- Kwanzaa & ‘A Story to Tell’ Exhibit Opening Reception Artist Talk and December 2023 Public Meeting videos are posted on BDM’s YouTube page.
- Ran a paid social media ad for the Black Power Freedom Party ticket sales, which greatly impacted social media reach and brand awareness.
- In the process of being hired for the Marketing Coordinator position.
- WBAL TV reporter Breana Ross interviewed chairs of the Ancestral Remains Committee Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene and Commissioner Elinor Thompson, Chanel C. Johnson, Elizabeth Hughes with MHT, and possible member of the descendant community, Denia Henson. The story will come out sometime in February as a Black History Month special.



**Upcoming:**

- Website updates for MCAAHC ([africanamerican.maryland.gov](http://africanamerican.maryland.gov)) are in progress in lieu of a website merger for BDM and MCAAHC, while renaming/rebranding way forward is determined.
- MCAAHC & BDM Annual Report 2023 in the works.
- Create submission and/or repost process to promote commissioners’ content.

**Media Coverage:**

- ‘7 things to do in Annapolis in the next 7 days’, *The Baltimore Banner* (January 11, 2024)  
<https://www.thebaltimorebanner.com/culture/things-to-do/7-things-to-do-in-annapolis-in-the-next-7-days-ZGDSWP7JLBHPLN24FYGOLDVI5Y/>

- 'What's Up? This Weekend 1/11', *What's Up? Annapolis Online* (January 11, 2024) <https://whatsupmag.com/news/what-s-up-this-weeknd-0111/>
- 'Patrice Drago: Visit January art shows to start the new year', *Capital Gazette* (January 2023) <https://www.capitalgazette.com/2024/01/04/patrice-drago-visit-january-art-shows-to-start-the-new-year/>

## Facilities & Admin

- **Maintenance work** - A bond bill was submitted for \$1.4 million the additional cost per DGS recommendations.
- **Security Cameras** - Wires are currently being installed.
- **Wireless Access Point (WAP)** - A vendor was selected on 01/31/2024 to start work to provide the museum with Wifi.
- **Volunteers** - 2 Volunteers gave a total of 22 hours.
- **New Lights** - New track lights were installed in the temporary gallery. New track lights will be installed in the historical wing on 02/19/2024.
- **Site Visit with DGS** was conducted to assess BDM's capital building repairs project. A list of recommendations and costs were submitted by DGS.
- **Active Shooter Training** - arranged by Shelly Holland, given by Joshua Sullivan, Master Instructor of A.L.I.V.E. Active Shooter Training on January 22.



## 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.



## December & January Program Highlights

**December 9th, 2024**

### **Kwanzaa Celebration & "A Story to Tell" Show Opening**

Photos: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.869547281840024&type=3>

On Saturday, December 9th the Banneker-Douglass Museum hosted a vibrant and culturally enriching Kwanzaa celebration. This event featured over 10 Black-owned vendors, providing an opportunity for attendees to support local businesses and discover unique products. In addition, there was an engaging conversation between guest curator Chanel Johnson and featured artist, Ernest Shaw, where they shared their inspirations and creative journey regarding the "Story to Tell" art exhibit. The celebration also included a harambee read aloud session, where participants gathered to share and learn about African heritage through storytelling. Adding to the excitement, there was an Afro-futurism Photo Booth, allowing attendees to capture and express their own personal visions of Afro-futurism. This futuristic and imaginative setting provided a platform for self-expression and exploration of African diasporic experiences.

January 4th, 2024

### **Annapolis HS Field Trip**

The Banneker-Douglass Museum recently welcomed an enthusiastic group of 35 students from Annapolis High School's Black Student Union (BSU) for an engaging and educational field trip. The students embarked on a journey to explore African American history and culture through a guided tour of the museum. Led by knowledgeable Mr. LeRonn Herbert, the students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich exhibits that showcased the achievements and contributions of African Americans throughout history. From the struggles of slavery to the triumphs of the civil rights movement, the tour provided a comprehensive understanding of the African American experience.

A highlight of the field trip was a private artist talk with the talented Ernest Shaw. The students had a unique opportunity to engage with Shaw, who shared his artistic inspirations, creative process, and personal experiences as an African American artist. This intimate conversation allowed the students to gain insights into the power of art as a means of expression and activism.

January 13th, 2024

### **MLK Day Program. Let's Create. Art as Activism**

On Saturday, January 13th the Banneker-Douglass Museum welcomed artist Oliver James for an inspiring artist talk where we explored the powerful connection between art and activism. Inspired by the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., James shared her unique perspective on using art as a platform for social change. Attendees discovered how art can ignite conversations, challenge societal norms, and inspire collective action.



### **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		
Day Out at the Museum		Join us for a fun-filled morning where stories come to life! Baltimore Read Aloud and Banneker-Douglass Museum presents Day Out at the Museum, a monthly story time series for ages 2 to 5. Let their imaginations run wild as we dive into enchanting tales.
FEBRUARY 15TH		
11:00 AM		Expect a read aloud, interactive games, art activities, and light snacks. Pre-K classes and day care groups welcome!
BANNEKER-DOUGLASS MUSEUM		Baltimore Read Aloud is an independent, woman-owned bookshop specializing in diverse books for children and the adults in their lives.
String of Pearls		Maryland Hall, in association with Banneker-Douglass Museum, is proud to present the jazz musical String of Pearls. This captivating musical tells the love story of Nettie and Sam, sharecroppers, who dare to preserve their love in a daring and ingenious escape from the Chikoree Wood Cotton Plantation to Washington, D.C.'s Greater U Street neighborhood. The adventures, calamities, and flashes of joy and wonder they encounter are the thread
FEBRUARY 4:00 MARYLAND	18TH PM HALL	

<hr/> Revisit/Reimagine Exhibit Opening FEBRUARY 24TH 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM BANNEKER-DOUGLASS MUSEUM	that holds them together–The String of Pearls. A panel discussion with Annapolis cultural leaders, including Dr. Edwin T. Johnson will follow the show. <hr/> <i>Guest Curator: Thomas James</i> Join us for the opening reception of the REVISIT/REIMAGINE, a multidisciplinary exhibition that features historical photographs from the <i>AFRO</i> newspaper archive that chronicle the African American experience, civil rights leaders, and activities in Maryland. Artwork from Maryland Black artists are included to interpret the themes of the photographs. Come and hear from featured artists in the exhibit during an artist talk led by the exhibit’s curator, Thomas James.
<hr/> Harriet Tubman: The Woman Behind the Legacy MARCH 16TH BANNEKER-DOUGLASS MUSEUM	We are changing our name! Join us for this historic event as we honor the life and legacy of Maryland’s native daughter with this exciting name-changing ceremony. Program highlights include live art, special guest performances, a riveting keynote address and so much more. Be sure to join us as we “Turn Up for Tubman” on this very special day!
<hr/> Maryland Day MARCH 23RD 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM BANNEKER-DOUGLASS MUSEUM	Join Banneker-Douglass Museum as we celebrate Maryland Day with this special Family Drop-In Day and Exhibition Tour. Attendees are invited to participate in a docent-led tour highlighting the museum’s current exhibit, <i>REVISIT/REIMAGINE</i> , a visual masterpiece dedicated to the Year of Civil Rights. After the tour, visitors are welcome to join us for an artistically crafted family activity led by a local Maryland-based artist. Visitors can also learn how African Americans throughout Maryland made lasting changes for all Americans through the museum’s permanent exhibit, <i>Deep Roots, Rising Waters: A Celebration of African Americans in Maryland</i> . This exhibition provides an overview of African American history in Maryland from 1633 through the Civil Rights Era.

**Financials**

**MCAAHC Financials**

- FY24 Appropriation is \$1.6 million
- Appropriation balance as of 01/31/2024 - \$894,615
- 55.85% of FY24 Appropriation remains.
  - Current recruitment includes the following:
    - Program & Education Manager
    - Exhibitions Manager

- In the interview process
  - Marketing Coordinator
  - Curator of Collections & Exhibitions

### **Capital Budget**

- FY23 Capital Grant through DGS - \$75k
  - Remaining balance - \$25k
  - Submitted invoice to DGS to pay vendor for the floor installation in the historical wing vestibule and stairs.
- FY24 Capital Grant through DGS - \$3 million

### **Foundation Financials**

- December 2023
  - Total Income - \$113.4k
  - Total Expenses - \$62k
  - Net Profit - \$51.4k

Pictures of the new pinewood steps of the Mt. Moriah AME Church



### ***MCAAHC Financial Report Commissioner Reggie Turner***

Commissioner Reggie Turner gave a financial report that:

- For FY24 an appropriation of \$1.6 million was applied to the MCAAHC operational budget.
  - A healthy budget of \$894, 615 is still available as of January 21, 2024.
  - Commissioner Turner shared that there is still \$3,025,000 for capital improvements.
    - There hasn't been any new major changes from the previous committee report from the last meeting.
  - This concluded Commissioner Turner's report.

### *MCAAHC Ad Hoc Book Drive Committee, Commissioner Jaelon Moaney, Co-Chair*

Commissioner Moaney shared that he is presenting on behalf of Commissioner Kennedi Wilson, Chair of the Ad Hoc Book Drive Committee.

- ❖ He shared that the committee launched its efforts in September 2023.
- ❖ The committee established drop off sites at half of many libraries across the State of Maryland including Baltimore City.
- ❖ It will convene at the end of February 2024.
- ❖ The committee has deferred to each library for their best practices, facilitation, and promotion policies they may have with book donations.
- ❖ In collaboration with the MCAAHC, many community led organizations, the Legislative Black Caucus of the Maryland Library Association, the Public Association of the Maryland Libraries Administrators have genuinely amplified the parameters of the drive to their own constituencies.
- ❖ The BDM staff as well as the MCAAHC extended an invitation to the public that was present at the meeting join this endeavor.
- ❖ Some of the libraries have decided to begin the drive during the month of February 2024 leading to community giveaways.
- ❖ The partnering libraries and community-based organizations will give an updating on how things are progressing with their drive.
- ❖ The questions that the ad hoc committee has for the commission is:
  - How will they measure the success of this drive for this year and the many years to come?
  - Whether the MCAAHC and the BDM Staff are willing to do a brief survey for the participating libraries and community organizations involved to improve on collaborations?
  - What is the process of how the book drive will be done for 2025?
- ❖ Commissioner Moaney asked that a motion be made where the committee proposes a punctual reflection where the commission and museum join the committee in debriefing the committee on the book drive an ascertain the path forwards both in impact and scope for the successive drive-in year 2024-2025?
  - It was seconded by Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene and the motion carried.

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

Commissioners Janice Curtis Greene and Elinor Thompson gave a comprehensive report that they are working on putting names on the ancestral remains that are being housed at the Mack Lab in Calvert County.

- ❖ Their other initiative is to preserve other black historical cemeteries around the State of Maryland.
- ❖ They shared that the committee also consists of Commissioners Ada Pinkston and Philip J. Merrill.
- ❖ Commissioner Greene said that Governor Wes Moore shared a press release touting the efforts of this committee with the MCAAHC and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT).
- ❖ Commissioner Thompson shared that the work of the committee is crucial in studying the life of African Americans in the State of Maryland telling their stories as well as giving them a voice of our ancestors.
- ❖ Funds are needed to maintain this great work paying honorariums to the researchers and genealogists as well as other experts that are giving their time and talents towards this endeavor.
- ❖ The committee is seeking to build trust of the various communities visiting the counties and spending time with individuals.
- ❖ It was said that individuals have bibles, obituaries, and documents that they do not want to share with everyone but will work with this committee to preserve the history of our ancestors.
- ❖ January 19, 2024 was the date of the last committee meeting.
  - March 15<sup>th</sup> is the date of the committee's next meeting.
- ❖ The action items that the Ancestral Remains Committee has made thus far are:
  - The committee filed for an ILMS grant in the amount of \$100,000.
  - A google document survey was distributed to 39 individuals regarding their connection to the community or individual's history.
    - Most of the 39 forms came back showing that people are concerned and care about their family's history.
  - A Microsoft team document was established for all group research information will go there to be distributed to the public.
  - Commissioners Janice Curtis Greene, Commissioner Elinor Thompson, Executive Director Chanel Compton Johnson, the Maryland Historical Trust, Director Elizabeth Hughes, and members of descendant community gave interviews on WBAL-TV.

- The interview will be turned into a small documentary and will be aired during Black History Month.
- ❖ The action times that are still pending are:
  - MCAAHC Commissioners will be developing regional meetings from the steering and sub committees developing a schedule across the State of Maryland.
  - The commissioners will finalize a descendant letter that will be used across the state at their regional meetings.
    - There were four different areas where remains were found across the State of Maryland. They are:
      - Queen Anne’s County
      - Wicomico County
      - Anne Arundel County
      - Charles County
  - MHT will continue to work on the developmental process.
  - 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.
    - Towson University is following this template that the committee has established on ancestral remains.
      - The university is formulating committees and work groups based off this template the committee has provided.
      - The ancestral remains committee will be working with the Loudon County Cemetery honoring the Black soldiers of the Civil War with a program on Memorial Day.
      - Commissioner Greene and Commissioner Thompson would like for the MCAAHC to approve their list of items at the April 1<sup>st</sup> MCAAHC public meeting.
      - Executive Director Chanel Johnson and Commissioner Barbara Paca gave major thanks for their great service, work, and national template that the leaders are setting for this process.

#### ***BDM Committee Report, Vice Chair Maya Davis***

Vice Chair Maya Davis gave greeting and shared that the BDM Committee met on December 5<sup>th</sup> and January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- In their first meeting there was a discussion as to what programs fell under the committee.
- There was also a discussion at the first meeting that there be a name change of the BDM Committee to the BDM MCAAHC Program Committee since there are both planned events for the BDM as well as the commission.
  - There was a discussion as to whether there was funding for the Black Symposium Conference that has been traditionally held at Morgan State University.
  - The question was asked that being that the MCAAHC has commissioners representing different parts of the State of Maryland, could the conference be held in another area? Other areas suggested was:
    - Bowie State University
    - Coppin State University
    - University of Maryland Eastern Shore
    - Various churches and community centers.
- At the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting it was shared that the BDM Committee would reach out to past chair of the Black Symposium Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene to review the past conferences as well as what those structures look like.
  - The committee is also going to reach out to Ms. Sabriyah Hassan to see what support is needed for this year’s conference.
    - This task was completed at their January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
    - Commissioner Ada Pinkston reached out to Executive Director Chanel Johnson to find out what exhibits were coming out for the year.
    - Commissioner Tijani reached out to the BDM Committee commissioners to see if they want to continue to participate on the committee.

- Vice Chair Maya Davis made a motion to have the BDM Committee name change to the Banneker-Douglass Program Committee.
        - It was seconded by Commissioner Hakeem Tijani and the motion carried.
- At the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting the committee reviewed the individuals that Executive Director Johnson wanted to honor. The honorees to be considered was:
  - Governor Wes Moore
  - Speaker of the House Adrienne Jones
  - Dr. Carl Snowden
  - Delegate Shaneka Henson
  - Ms. Bertice Medolla
  - Mr. Paul Coates
  - Ms. Erica Bridgeford
- The BDM Program Committee always has a theme for their conferences.
  - The committee tends to follow the Association for the Study of Life and African American History's theme.
  - This year the theme is, "African Americans and the Arts."
    - The committee will do overarching statewide themes.
    - Governor Wes Moore proclaimed that 2024 will be the Year of Civil Rights.
      - The committee will be incorporating his theme into the programming.
    - The committee will be looking to support the BDM staff with exhibits and satellite programming in the future.
    - The BDM Program Committee will be looking at its role of finalizing the further details of their roles.
      - Chair Edwin T. Johnson shared that the name change of the BDM Program Committee name change will have to take place with the update of the constitution of the bylaws.

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

Commissioner H. Russell Frisby began his report by sharing that AAHPG is considered the jewel of the commission.

- ❖ He shared that statutory purpose of the grant is to identify and preserve African American cultural buildings and communities in the State of Maryland.
  - Commissioner Frisby said that this so critical because he has found that the many years that he has been on the MCAAHC that there are hundreds of sites like this in the state that if they didn't receive annual funding they would not survive.
    - He shared that funding, in the past, has always been a problem have \$1 million dollars in the annual grant.
    - Commissioner Frisby thanked the legislature, the AAHPG has raised to \$5 million.
    - Commissioner Frisby said while this great, this is still not enough money.
    - Each year the AAHPG Committee faces some very tough challenges.
    - He has found that individuals and organizations have filed for this grant with requests totaling \$20 million dollars.
    - There were 104 grant application requests this round which totaled \$200 million in grant requests.
    - This made the AAHPG Committee decisions tougher for the charge of this committee is to reach all areas of the state in trying to meet the requests.
    - Commissioner Frisby was glad to report that the committee has awarded \$5 million in grants to 24 entities throughout the State of Maryland.
    - The awardees were:
      - Robert W. Johnson Community Center – Hagerstown, Washington County
      - Hoppy Adams House – Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
      - American Hall - Hagerstown, Washington County
      - Upton Mansion, Baltimore City- Afro Charities, Inc.
      - Henry's Hotel, Ocean City, Worcester County-Henry Hotel Foundation, Inc.
      - Historic Oliver Community Firehouse – Baltimore City-awarded to African American Fire Fighters Historical Society, Inc.

- Brown's UMC Multi Cultural Heritage Center - Port Republic, Calvert County-awarded to Brown's UMC Multi Cultural Heritage Center, Inc.
- Buffalo Soldier Living History Site - Eden, Wicomico County-awarded to Buffalo Soldier Living History Site Co.
- Brewer Hill Cemetery - Annapolis, Anne Arundel County-awarded to Brewer Hill Cemetery Association, Inc.
- The Bellevue Passage Museum - Royal Oak, Talbot County- awarded to Mid-Shore Community Foundation, Inc.
- The Fruitland Community Center - Fruitland, Wicomico County-awarded to Fruitland Community Center, Inc.
- Grasonville Community Center - Grasonville, Queen Anne's County-awarded to Grasonville Community Center
- Malone Methodist Episcopal Church - Madison, Dorchester County-awarded to Harrisville/Malone Cemetery Maintenance Fund, Inc.
- Bryan's Chapel and Cemetery - Grasonville, Queen Anne's County-awarded to Bryan's United Methodist Church, Inc.
- Locust United Methodist Church - Columbia, Howard County-awarded to Locust United Methodist Church
- Two Sisters' Houses (Caulkers' Houses) - Baltimore City-awarded to The Society for the Preservation of Federal Hill and Fells Point, Inc.
- The Yellow/Hearse House - Chestertown, Kent County-awarded to Kent County Public Library
- Jones & Moore Luncheon/Bambricks Cards & Gifts - Cambridge, Dorchester County-awarded to Alpha Genesis Community Development Corporation
- Mt. Calvary United Methodist Church - Meeting Hall and Cemetery - Arnold, Anne Arundel County-awarded to Mt. Calvary Community Engagement Incorporated
- Ridgley Methodist Church and Cemetery - Landover, Prince George's County-awarded to Mildred Ridgley Gray Charitable Trust, Inc.
- Scotland African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Zion Church - Potomac, Montgomery County-awarded to Scotland A.M.E. Zion Church
- Bushy Park Community Cemetery - Cooksville, Howard County-awarded to Bushy Park Community Cemetery, Inc.
- James Stephenson House, Enslaved Quarters - Havre de Grace, Harford County-awarded to Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- American Legion Mannie Scott Post 193 Building - Denton, Caroline County-awarded to The American Legion, Department of Maryland, Mannie Scott Post #193, Inc.
  - ◆ Commissioner Herbert Frisby formally congratulated each recipient of the AAHPG.
  - ◆ He also thanked the MCAAHC Commissioners that were on the committee, the BDM Staff and the Maryland Historical Trust.

*Guest Speaker-Dayvon Love, Director of Public Policy at Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle*

Chair Edwin T. Johnson turned the floor over to Commissioner Brian Morrison to introduce Executive Director Dayvon Love.

- ❖ Commissioner Morrison shared that he is an avid supportive of the Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle and the work that Executive Director Love is doing for Baltimore City, the State of Maryland as well as the country.
- ❖ Their grassroot efforts in public policy demand that blacks are properly represented and that as a people we get what we deserve as citizens and residents of the city and state.

Executive Director Love shared that his organization presents a nationalist Pan African perspective.

- He said that this is important for when one sees how politics are socialized to appeal to Europeans, the organization causes society to recognize the contributions of African Americans at large.
- From the organization's perspective, they believe that building a powerful base from the African American Community provides a leverage to force society to make concessions and move policies that impact the community.
- Executive Director Love shared that this is a different perspective of how to navigate the African American community in benevolence, strength, empathy, and power.



- His organization is working on aspects of reparations, the war on drugs in the community,
- In 2023, the organization was able to make an investment of funding towards these initiatives.

Chair Edwin T. Johnson took the moment to recognize Chair Emeritus Lyndra “nee’PRATT” Marshall who came to the public meeting.

Commissioner Elinor Thompson recognized Commissioner Cheryl McLeod who also came to the public meeting.

*Guest Speaker-Dr. Schroeder Cherry, Curator at the James Earl Lewis Museum of Art*

Commissioner Morrison shared that in keeping up with the ASALH theme of creativity in the arts, Dr. Schroeder Cherry came to the MCAAHC public meeting to share about African Americans and the arts.

- ❖ Dr. Schroeder shared that he serves as the curator at the James Earl Lewis Museum in Baltimore, Maryland.
- ❖ He said that he came to the MCAAHC meeting to share the programs that they’ve had in the past and what the museum is doing now.
  - Dr. Schroeder shared that the James E. Lewis Museum was started in 1989 by Mr. James E. Lewis.
  - Mr. Lewis provided exposure to art to the students at Morgan State University as well as the general community.
  - The museum is in the Murphy Fine Arts Building of Visual and Performing Arts.
  - Today, the museum provides exhibitions, tours, and lectures for all to see and enjoy.
  - The James E. Lewis Museum is the only museum in Maryland with the focus on African American and African Diaspora Art.
  - The museum is 8,500 square feet in size where the space is divided into 10 gallery areas.
    - It houses both permanent and temporary gallery rooms.
    - The museum’s strongest holdings are African American artwork housed by Mr. James Lewis.
    - The museum has great connections with people that were either born or lived in Africa who donate to the museum’s collection.
      - Most of the collection comes from West Africa.
      - The museum house art from the Black artist of DC, the Quarles Institute, as well as a variety of mediums, textiles, ceramics, mixed media art, digital art, and paintings.
      - The exhibits that are being featured currently are:
        - Elevation From Within: The Study of Art at Historically Black Colleges and Universities-Friday, February 2 - Friday, May 10, 2024
        - AMERICAN AFRICANISMS: The Musings of Elizabeth Talford Scott -Friday, February 2 – Thursday, May 9, 2024
        - Mixed Media Assemblages by Ann Bouie-March 10 - September 2024
        - Blooms and Prints by Brandon Donahue- Shipp-Tuesday, January 2 - Thursday, March 7, 2024

*New Business Items-Commissioner Kara Hunt*

Commissioner Kara Hunt shared that she is one of eleven new MCAAHC Commissioners and was very excited to see everyone at the public meeting.

- ❖ She shared that she also came to the public meeting to discuss what was happening with the BDM and the MCAAHC.
- ❖ Commissioner Hunt raised a couple of issues with Executive Director Chanel Johnson and Special Assistant LeRonn Herbert in terms of communications with the MCAAHC.
- ❖ She said that with the MCAAHC now containing 11 MCAAHC Commissioners which is over 50% of the body, bringing fresh energy and new energy, which is exciting, however she shared that there have been Black History events that have taken place that she was not made aware of.
- ❖ Commissioner Hunt said that many of the MCAAHC Commissioners weren’t invited where there weren’t any invitations sent to them. She shared the list of events being:
  - February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Black Power Event at St. John’s College.
    - Commissioner Hunt shared that MCAAHC Commissioners were not initially invited but a week before and that none of the MCAAHC Commissioners weren’t invited to be a part of the planning process or to have any say in the events.
      - She saw the events on social media and said that these events weren’t mentioned at any of the previous public meetings.

- Commissioner Hunt shared that the MCAAHC Commissioners didn't have any say in the events.
- The agendas aren't being sent out for review.
- Commissioner Hunt said that there wasn't any feedback on the locations of the public meetings as well as information as to:
  - Who's going to host the meetings in the Maryland Metro area?
  - A new agenda was presented to any of the new MCAAHC Commissioners who were able to vote on the agenda.
  - The legislative agenda was not presented to the new MCAAHC Commissioners.
  - The African American Heritage Preservation Grant, where millions of dollars were awarded, any information issued to the new MCAAHC Commissioners to see the awards beforehand before the awards were received by the recipients.
  - In regards to the MCAAHC chair and vice chair elections, there are two more meetings ahead of the elections but the elections have not been listed as a line item on previous agendas.
    - ◆ Elections are not in the bylaws where there isn't an opportunity to weigh in on candidates where she shared that the commissioners won't have the opportunity to vet the leadership.
  - Commissioner Hunt said that the MCAAHC Commissioners didn't have the opportunity to see the budget.
    - ◆ She shared that she has tried to email the commission staff to see how the commissioners could be an active part of the various processes.
      - Commissioner Hunt shared that she didn't want the 11 new commissioners to lose momentum or to understand the inner workings of the commission or the bylaws before the commissioners lose illustrious Chair Edwin T. Johnson's due to his term ending.
- As a point of privilege asked by Commissioner H. Russell Frisby, asked to Commissioner Hunt who honored it, he shared that every member on the commission was offered and invited to participate and the majority of the people on that committee were new to the extent that Commissioner Frisby said that Commissioner Hunt didn't volunteer.
  - Commissioner Frisby was sorry that she didn't volunteer for this process.
  - Commissioner Hunt shared that the MCAAHC Commissioners didn't have the opportunity to see the final selections before it came to a vote at the meeting.
    - ◆ She shared that she wasn't saying that the commissioners didn't have an opportunity to volunteer.
    - ◆ Commissioner Hunt said that none of the MCAAHC Commissioners had an opportunity to see the final selections of the awardees.
      - Commissioner Hunt shared that known of the commissioners mentioned anything about the final selections being distributed before this meeting nor was anything said at this last meeting.
- Commissioner Hunt's recommendation is that the MCAAHC have an executive session where they try to revise the bylaws.
  - She shared that the commissioners were told that they couldn't email one another about the bylaws where Commissioner Elinor Thompson and Commissioner Hunt try to email asking about this process but were told that they could email individual commission staff.
    - Executive Director Chanel Johnson said that if the commissioners were to email each other as a group it would be considered a meeting under the open meetings act where we would have to let the public know about this.
    - Executive Director Johnson said that if Commissioner Hunt had certain questions about the bylaws that she could reach out to the administrative staff to keep it between herself and Commissioner Hunt to avoid that additional process for a notice of a meeting.
    - Commissioner Hunt shared that the email started out saying, "Here are some suggested bylaw decisions that are in the email for you to provide your feedback."
      - ◆ She shared that she would like to have an executive session to review the MCAAHC bylaws.
      - ◆ Commissioner Hunt said that she would like to learn more about the commission bylaws before we don't have Executive Chair Johnson as well as some of the MCAAHC Commissioners who have served their terms leave the commission.
      - ◆ She said that the commission should have the opportunity to review and vote as a body of much the information as well as better understand elections.
        - Commissioner Hunt would like to see that the MCAAHC Commissioners have the voting information before April so that there isn't any on the spot voting in June.

- She would also like to discuss how the commission can collectively communicate better with one other as well as with the staff.
- Commissioner Hunt shared that these are the issues that she has emailed the chair and the executive director as well as Mr. Herbert for a greater understanding.
- Commissioner Hakeem Tijani shared that he thinks that the MCAAHC consider going into a close session regarding the bylaws and items discussed.
- Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene, the open meetings act representative shared that the best practice is to have things discussed at an open public meeting regarding the process of the items Commissioner Hunt has shared.
  - Commissioner Greene said that maybe a training, for the MCAAHC new commissioners, can be done to help share the process of how the MCAAHC operates for great clarity.
  - Commissioner H. Russell Frisby agreed with Commissioner Greene but he shared that there is the role of the commissioners vs. the role of the staff.
    - ◆ He said that too often the commissioners aren't involved in the role of the staff vs. being a commissioner especially in the dealings of the daily operations of the staff. Commissioner Frisby wanted to make sure that this distinction was made.
    - ◆ Chair Johnson asked if all individuals on the MCAAHC has been heard from. They agreed.
    - ◆ Chair Johnson shared that we have 11 new commissioners.
      - He said that all of the commissioners had an orientation where they received the MCAAHC handbook.
      - Within the book and the handouts received, there was a list of calendar events that took the commissioner through the entire year.
        - Some of the dates did not have the details but said to be announced.
        - On the museum and commission website, there is a calendar of events.
        - As the events are scheduled, updated, they are on the website it is shared where it is a ticketed affair, if one has to register, pay or if it is a private function.
        - Mr. Herbert sends out Google Invites to all commissioners for every activity unless there is an incorrect email address that has been given to him.
        - At the orientation training all commissioners were on-boarded all commissioners and the continuing commissioners were present.
          - Chair Johnson said that everyone had the opportunity to talk to standing commissioners that were chairs over the various committees to find out what the mission was, what the committee did as well as ask any questions a commissioner may have as well as have the opportunity to join that committee.
          - When a commissioner joins that committee, they find out the work of that committee and how it operates.
          - Chair Johnson shared that as part of his chair's report, he closed in saying that there is plenty of work for all of us to do.
          - He said that a more prudent use of time is for an MCAAHC Commissioner to figure out where they fit in, roll up their sleeves and get busy.
          - Chair Johnson said that there are a lot of activities going on and that there are 4 to 6 ways to find out about the various activities.
          - Chair Johnson said that the reason he cut his report short is because the same thing he is presenting is the same thing the Executive Director is presenting where the information is given twice.
          - The commissioners also have the Google Invite, their commissioner's handbook as well the BDM and MCAAHC websites for more information.
          - Commissioner Hunt asked if she could have a moment to speak.
          - Chair Johnson shared that she could not have a moment to speak for he asked if all commissioners have been heard and that the meeting must move forward.
          - Commissioner Hunt felt that she had a right to be heard.
          - Chair Johnson respectfully shared that she was out of order to be heard for she wasn't recognized by the chair to speak at this time and said that the public meeting needs to be closed at this time.

- Chair Johnson reiterated that he wanted to hear Commissioner Hunt but that Commissioner Brian Morrison and the Baltimore Commissioners had guest who came to the meeting that he wanted them to be allowed to speak.
  - ◆ Chair Johnson shared that it took a long time for the Baltimore MCAAHC Commissioners to produce a meeting of this magnitude and he wanted to be fair to not have the new business shared to overshadow the guests that were invited.
  - ◆ Chair Johnson recognized every guest that came to the MCAAHC public meeting including the following Baltimore vendors that displayed materials for this meeting. They were:
    - ◆ Afro Charities
    - ◆ Ancestral Remains Committee
    - ◆ Art in the Hands of Men
    - ◆ Baltimore Dance Tech
    - ◆ Baltimore National Heritage Area: I. Henry Photo Project
    - ◆ Charm City Cultural Cultivation
    - ◆ Eubie Blake Center
    - ◆ St. Peter's Cemetery
    - ◆ Womb Works
- As a point of privilege Commissioner Reggie Turner, MCAAHC Commissioner from Washington County shared that there is a documentary that will be shared MPT that evening as well as a showing at the MLK Library on Thursday, February 9th regarding the Historic Jonathan Street from his county.

Chair Johnson shared that it is Black History Month and there is much to enjoy after this public meeting.

Chair Johnson then called for a motion to adjourn the MCAAHC Public meeting. Commissioner Janice Curtis Greene made a motion for adjournment. It was then seconded by Commissioner Hakeem Tijani and the motion was carried.

The public meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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LeRonn Herbert, Special Assistant