



THE PENDULUM

Spring 2026

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends,

As we continue toward the nation's 250th anniversary, this issue of *The Pendulum* invites us to look more closely at the enduring roots of African American history in Maryland. This edition centers on 250 years of that history—not as something distant, but as a living legacy shaping our communities, institutions, and sense of possibility.

We are especially honored to feature the second installment of our exploration of Benjamin Banneker, one of Maryland's most remarkable figures. His life and work remind us that Black intellectual, scientific, and civic contributions have always been foundational to the American story, even when unrecognized. Banneker's legacy challenges us to think more deeply about who we remember, how we remember, and what it means to carry that knowledge forward.

At the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, we understand this work as both preservation and activation. Through our grants, partnerships, and public programs, we are committed not only to safeguarding history, but to ensuring it remains accessible, relevant, and empowering.

As you move through this issue, I invite you to reflect on how African American history in Maryland continues to shape the present—and to consider your role in sustaining and sharing these stories.

With appreciation and purpose,

Dr. Kali-Ahset Amen
Chair, Maryland Commission on
African American History
and Culture



Courtesy Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum

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ABOUT THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the Spring 2026 issue of *The Pendulum*. In recognition of the 250th Anniversary of America's birth each issue gives added focus to Maryland's African Americans contributions, to building America. Our lead article, by Commissioner Walter Gill, is part 2 of his piece on Benjamin Banneker's life and legacy. This is a packed issue leaning into our year of celebrating 100 Years of Black History!



We are not a DEI Program: We are Defenders of Freedom and Democracy

A STATEMENT FROM THE MARYLAND COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

Today, the hunt is on to root out “DEI” and so-called “divisive ideologies” from classrooms, libraries, museums, and public institutions across the country. In statehouses and school boards, from Florida to Texas and beyond, diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts are being defunded, dismantled, or recast as threats to national unity. At the heart of this backlash lies a deliberate mischaracterization: that the study of race and the preservation of Black history, women’s history, and other marginalized narratives are somehow ideological, rather than factual and foundational.

The term DEI, originally emerging from workplace diversity initiatives and later expanded to include systemic barriers to equity and access, has been weaponized by right-leaning political movements and figures seeking to conflate racial reckoning with partisan activism. So too has the term ideology, which in truth means any system of ideas and values – but is now used selectively to suggest that only those who champion equity hold a worldview, while those who oppose it are neutral or apolitical. Yet this framing masks a deeper reality: the very effort to suppress African American history reflects an ideology of exclusion – one that prioritizes a narrow version of American identity while denying the plurality of stories that shape our national life.

The work of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) is not a subsidiary DEI initiative, nor is it an expression of partisan ideology. It is the official, state-mandated effort to document, preserve, and elevate the central role that African Americans have played in shaping Maryland and the nation. Established in 1969 through the visionary leadership of Senator Verda Welcome and the scholarly foundation laid by Dr. Benjamin Quarles, the Commission was conceived as a vital public-interest institution from the start.

Our work is not peripheral or ephemeral – it is constitutional, civic, and essential. We do not teach grievance; we preserve historical fact. We do not promote division; we advance understanding. Through research, public education, cultural preservation, and grantmaking, the Commission fulfills Maryland’s obligation to confront its past honestly and ensure that African American stories, sites, and contributions are safeguarded for future generations. To call our work ‘ideological’ is to distort both our mandate and our mission. We are not promoting a political agenda. We are upholding a democratic promise.

Continued --->



Our work is grounded not in recent political trends but in the unfulfilled potential of the **13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments** – the cornerstone civil rights amendments that redefined American democracy in the aftermath of the Civil War. Through these constitutional provisions, African Americans were guaranteed equal protection under the law, the right to vote, and a new vision of political and civic participation. The MCAAHC serves as a steward of that legacy: chronicling it, protecting it, and ensuring that future generations understand the cost and the value of freedom.

To suppress or defund the telling of this history is not neutral, but an act of erasure that weakens our shared democratic fabric. The Commission's work fosters civic literacy, community resilience, and a deeper understanding of what it truly means to pursue a "more perfect union."

Continued state support is vital, even in times of fiscal strain.

Maryland, like many states, faces a significant budget deficit. Federal uncertainty, particularly in the realms of university, workforce, and cultural funding, adds further strain. But it is precisely in such moments of national and fiscal crisis that we must double down on our civic commitments.

The MCAAHC is not a luxury budget item. It is an educational and cultural institution essential to the health of our democracy. We serve the people of Maryland through four pillars:

- Supporting **curriculum and teacher training** aligned with Maryland's educational standards.
- Strengthening **museums and heritage sites** across the state, which serve as economic engines and cultural anchors in their communities.
- Promoting **cultural entrepreneurship and local storytelling**, often in underserved regions, through our grant support to community-based organizations.
- Providing a **model for civic engagement** at the Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum that promotes informed citizenship.

When Maryland supports MCAAHC, it is not just funding a program. It is making a constitutional claim: that the state will uphold the right of its people to know their history, speak their truth, and participate fully in civic life. The Commission's work is a guardrail against authoritarian erasure, and a platform for democratic renewal.

We also say to Maryland's corporate, institutional, and philanthropic communities: now is your moment to step into the breach. Supporting the MCAAHC and similar institutions is not charity work; it is strategic democracy work. History is infrastructure. Just as roads and bridges hold up our physical society, archives, exhibits, and community education hold up our civic consciousness. At a time when truth itself is under attack, philanthropic support for the MCAAHC helps ensure that:

- **Free speech is protected** through robust public dialogue about the past.
- **Civil rights are preserved** by amplifying the stories of those who fought for them.
- **Democratic culture endures** by empowering communities to see themselves as part of the American story.

We believe that Black heritage work must not be defined or dismissed by those who seek to marginalize it by assigning terms like "DEI" or divisive ideology. Instead, we must reclaim the language and reframe the narrative about what we do for the public as vital, pro-democracy work rooted in a commitment to historical truth-telling, civil and social rights, and the protection of constitutional liberties.

This is a call to action: Make your values visible. Help us hold the line. Join us in ensuring that the promise of American democracy is not abandoned, but fulfilled.



STATEMENT ON RECENT COVERAGE OF THE REGINALD F. LEWIS MUSEUM

April 6, 2026

The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) stands firmly in support of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture (The Lewis) and urges the public and policymakers to consider the full context of recent media coverage.

The Lewis Museum is one of only four institutions in Maryland classified as quasi-governmental agencies, a structure that reflects the State's deliberate, foundational commitment to Black history as a public necessity rather than a discretionary one. Like many museums across the nation, The Lewis has faced declining attendance in the wake of the pandemic, a challenge shared by the cultural sector nationwide. Yet, Maryland museums collectively generate \$1.3 billion in economic activity, support 18,000 jobs, and contribute nearly \$320 million in local and state tax revenue annually[1]. Yet, it is The Lewis Museum, Maryland's only institution dedicated to the preservation of Black history and culture at this scale, that faces singular public scrutiny.

We note that numerous fellow state-supported cultural institutions across Maryland, including zoos, aquariums, and historic sites, receive capital and operational funding through the State, often totaling millions of dollars annually. But none of these institutions has been subjected to a comparable per-visitor cost analysis. We ask: why is the standard applied differently here?

The Lewis Museum's funding structure is more transparent and subject to more rigorous scrutiny precisely because it is a quasi-governmental agency with a mandated state partnership. That level of accountability is a direct result of the State's own structural requirements, and it should be treated as evidence of responsible governance rather than weaponized.

The MCAAHC takes the responsibility of sound fiscal stewardship seriously for every publicly funded organization, and we support the museum's ongoing efforts to strengthen institutional practices. Following its state audit, The Lewis' leadership has reported that nearly all identified deficiencies have been addressed [2], steps that warrant acknowledgment, not dismissal.

Cultural institutions, such as The Lewis Museum, are a civic imperative. The Lewis Museum documents, interprets, and preserves the complex experiences, contributions, and culture of Black people in Maryland, housing more than 14,000 objects spanning 400 years of history. Institutions like this exist because the mainstream historical record has too often excluded Black voices. Allowing them to be undermined by selective scrutiny would be a disservice to all Marylanders.

We urge lawmakers, journalists, and the public to hold all publicly funded cultural institutions to the same standard, and to stand behind Black history not as a political talking point, but as a genuine and irreplaceable part of Maryland's identity.

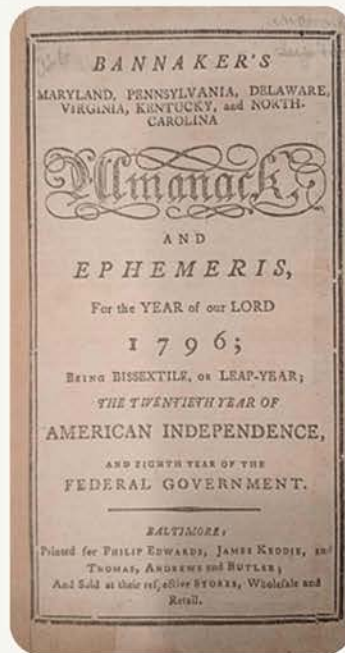




Benjamin Banneker: A Genius in Early America Pt. 2



By Commissioner Walter Gill



BENJAMIN BANNEKER'S 1796 ALMANACK IS IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS OF THE ENOCH PRATT LIBRARY IN BALTIMORE. PHOTO BY W. GILL.

Benjamin Banneker lived most of his life as a freeborn farmer on land he owned in Oella, in what is now Catonsville in Baltimore County, Maryland. Mostly self-taught, by the age of twenty-two, locals and legends of others knew the roots of his genius status: a mathematical ability that allowed him to help his parents with finances at age six; designed an irrigation system for his farm as a teen; and, built America's first striking clock from wooden parts after observations of a pocket watch. However, Banneker's crowning glories would be in helping Andrew Ellicott survey the boundaries for the District of Columbia, his searing letter to Thomas Jefferson on racism and equality, the publication of six almanacs and his astrological prophecies. Banneker's curiosity was insatiable and he demonstrated multilayered productivity. He was America's first African American genius.

In 1772, the Ellicotts, Andrew, John, and Joseph, all Quakers, bought land next to Banneker's farm. The Ellicotts opened a new world for the 41-year-old Banneker with the erection of new buildings for grist mills, equipment, the Ellicott store, while urging area farmers to shift from tobacco to wheat. George Ellicott, the son of Andrew, had been a prodigy like Banneker, and over the years they collaborated from their mutual interest in science, surveying, and astronomy. George's gift of *Treatise of Practical Surveying* enabled Banneker to practice in local geographic areas and apply what he learned to any piece of land. In 1789, George loaned Banneker *Ferguson's Astronomy*, *Mayer's Tables*, *Leadbetter's Lunar Tables*, and some astronomic instruments. Before the summer ended, Banneker had mastered the projection of eclipses with accuracy and had produced other measurements to produce an ephemeris. Banneker came to believe that Sirius, also known as The Dog Star and the brightest in the night sky, was actually two stars long before the world of astrology proved it to be fact. Throughout his life, Banneker kept a series of journals for his astrological observations, mathematical computations, puzzles, and dreams.



BENJAMIN BANNEKER: A GENIUS IN EARLY AMERICA (CONT'D)

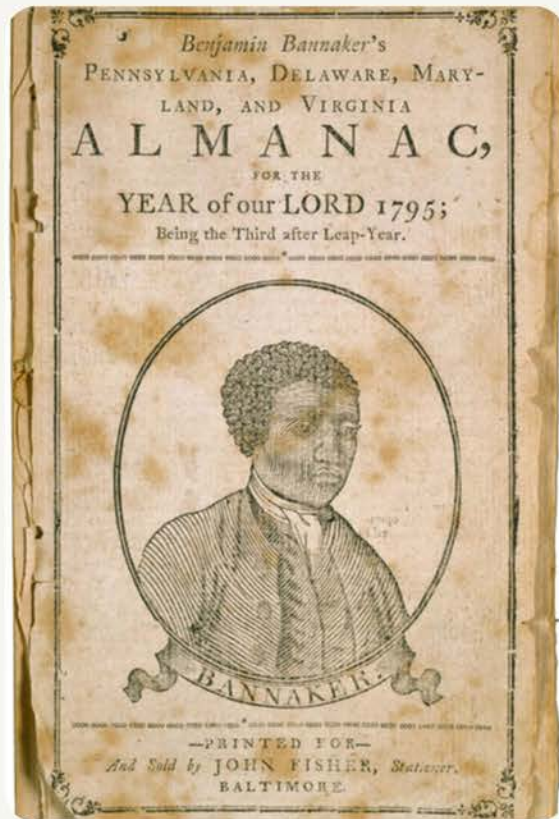
The year 1791 would prove to be a banner one for Banneker. Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson asked Andrew Ellicott to survey lands in Maryland and Virginia in order to create a Federal District, a square measuring ten miles on each side and totaling one hundred square miles. Ellicott named Banneker as one of the principal assistants for the project based upon his combined knowledge of surveying and astrology. For two months, Banneker was at work or on-call twenty-four hours a day as he checked the times and readings of the sky throughout the night. With the boundaries of the city laid out, Banneker returned to his farm for the spring planting.

Banneker's letter to Thomas Jefferson, dated August 19, 1791, was done at his own peril not knowing how it would be received. The handwritten letter was lengthy and chided the hypocrisy of the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson's published view on the inferiority of African Americans, and enjoined him and others to wean themselves of such prejudices.

Banneker's 1792 handwritten *Almanack* was also included. Jefferson thanked Banneker for the letter and *Almanack*, was polite, non-committal about slavery, and supported advancement when he wrote, "No body wishes more than I do to see such proofs as you exhibit, that nature has given to our black brethren, talents equal to those of the other colors of men..." Both men ended their letters with "Your most obedient, humble servant," which was the standard courteous letter-writing etiquette of the day.

His first Almanac, Benjamin Banneker's 1792 Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia The Baltimore Edition, was issued in 1791, includes the Banneker-Jefferson letters. In six years, there were twenty-eight known published editions, and Banneker became most famous during this time period. The Special Collections Department of the Enoch Pratt Library has a copy of Banneker's 1796 *Almanack, The Baltimore Edition*. The booklet contains thirty-two pages, measures 4 X 6 1/2 inches and in exceptional condition, thanks to it being printed on ragweed paper (paper made from wood pulp in printing did not come until the mid-1870s). The Preface of this and all his *Almanacks* began, "Dear Gentle Reader." They contained astrological information to include solar and lunar eclipses, weather forecasts, and a combination of populations of the 16 Districts/States and the Southwest Territory, advice on diet and exercise, anatomy of the body, essays (to include anti-slavery), poems, sermons, and Banneker's dreams. The *Almanacks* remained profitable until 1797 when the last one was printed and more competitors entered the field.

By the early 1800s, Banneker was in his early seventies, no longer receiving revenues from his almanacs and in declining health with rheumatic and arthritic pain. Still, he wanted his late years to be as comfortable as possible. He decided to use his unused land as an asset in another way, as landlord, but that was unsuccessful. His tenants were unreliable with rent, had a bevy of excuses



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

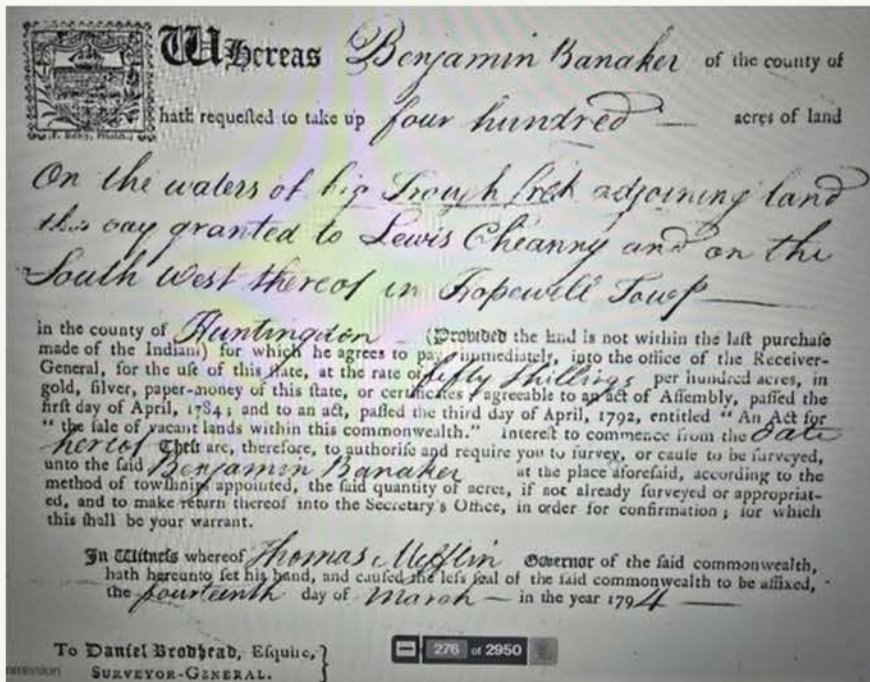


BENJAMIN BANNEKER: A GENIUS IN EARLY AMERICA (CONT'D)

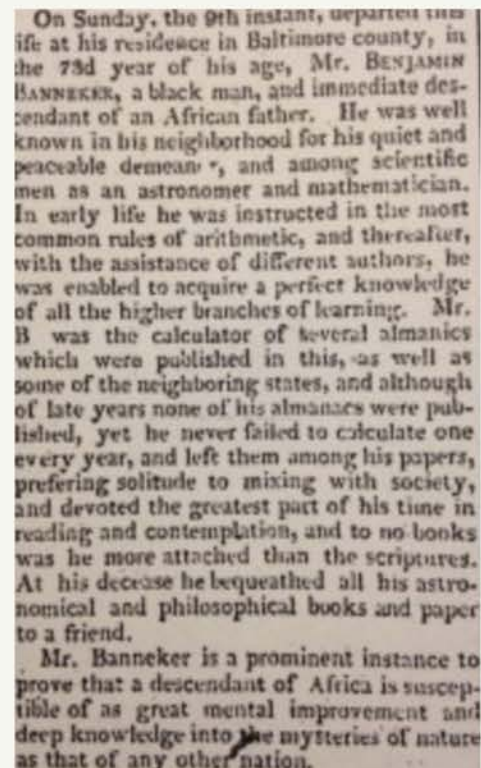
and one tenant asked for compensation for a failed crop. After one year of unneighborly interactions, Banneker negotiated an annuity on a deferred sale of land with the Ellicotts. There was also an agreement for him to have a charge account at the Ellicott store. Long walks by Banneker were no longer possible without the help of a cane. He continued to read for his inquisitive mind and study the stars through his telescope.

Charles Calaman, an ancillary cousin of the Banneker descended family from his sister Jemima Banneker Lett, recovered a land warrant for four hundred acres in the name of "Benjamin Banaker" in Hopewell Township, Huntington County, Pennsylvania. The warrant is dated March 14, 1794. Calaman says, "If Banneker was financially capable of making additional purchases of land, why would he need a 'reverse mortgage' of his own property. This leads to my desire to search for more information on his finances in his later years and at the time of his death."

Banneker died on Sunday, October 9, 1806. Two of his sisters, Minta Black and Molly Morton, sorted through his possessions for their gifts and what had not been returned to George Ellicott. Two days after Banneker's death, his funeral was held on the same day that vandals burned down his house including his clock and all his papers. Three years after Banneker's death, Jefferson showed his other face as to what he thought of Banneker in a letter to a friend, "I have a long letter from Banneker which shows him to have a mind of very common statue indeed." Nothing could be further from the truth for Banneker's genius cannot be denied. He was an extraordinary mathematician, surveyor, astronomer, publisher, and American patriot with African roots.



Banneker Huntington County, PA Land Grant



Benjamin Banneker Obituary

Excerpt of a letter from Benjamin Banneker to Thomas Jefferson

"...but that he has also, without partiality, afforded us all the same sensations and endowed us all with the same faculties; and that however veritable we may be in society or religion, however diversified in situation or color, we are all the same family, and stand in the same relation to him." Dated, August 17, 1791



Anne Joice, The Georgetown Memory Project, and Me

By Dr. Lynn Locklear Nehemiah with Commissioner Walter Gill



The woman seated on the left is Louisa Mahoney Mason, a descendant of Anne Joice. Dr. Lynn Lochlear Nehemiah is Mason's third great granddaughter

“With great anticipation, I opened the email revealing my ancestry DNA test results. It was around Mothers Day, 2018. I had asked my daughter for the kit as a Christmas gift because I wanted to know more about my family. As I poured through my matches on Ancestry, I noticed a common notation: ‘Georgetown Memory Project.’ My DNA matched a sizable number of people who had been enslaved and trafficked from Jesuit-owned plantations in Maryland, ultimately leading to the establishment of Georgetown University and other Jesuit institutions of higher learning. I also discovered that I am the seventh great-granddaughter of Anne Joice.”

Dr. Lynn Locklear Nehemiah.

It is believed that Anne Joice was born a free woman of color, in a slave society, in Barbados, and was in England by the mid-1600s. She signed on as an indentured servant to Charles Calvert, the Third Lord Baltimore and a Catholic, and arrived in the Maryland colony in her late teens in 1676. Anne worked as a cook or maid in the grand manor on the vast plantation of the Calvert family in St. Mary’s County. Before returning to England, Calvert sent Anne to work for his cousin, Colonel Henry Darnall, who believed all Negroes should be slaves for life. When Anne asked Darnall to honor her indenture papers, he took them, burned them and, for her impudence, imprisoned her in the kitchen cellar for five to six months. When Anne emerged from the cellar, she was a transformed woman. For many years she cooked for the Darnalls. Described as “dark-skinned mulatto woman,” white men were attracted to her, had their way, and Anne birthed several mixed-race children. Anne’s body had been enslaved but her mind remained intact. She is the matriarch of the Mahony family that have endured almost two centuries of indentured servitude and enslavement.



Anne Joice, The Georgetown Memory Project (cont'd)

In May 1789, a small group of Jesuits met at the White Marsh plantation, near present day Bowie, and conceived an academy. But by 1839, the school was in shambles with accusations of malfeasance against the board, disordered finances, and student drunkenness. The decision was made to sell 272 enslaved people (now known as GU 272) to save Georgetown College, the predecessor to the now renowned university. The sale would be to planters in Louisiana who agreed to allow the enslaved to practice their Catholic faith. The Georgetown Memory Project, a non-profit, was created in 2016 for the purpose of tracking down all living descendants through DNA tests of the men, women and children sold by the Jesuits. To date, some initiatives include: the creation of CROSS (Catholic Religious Organizations Studying Slavery); the creation of the Descendants Foundation which award ten thousand dollar scholarships to descendants and provides aging in place grants to seniors; a pledge by the Jesuits to develop curriculum and teach enslavement by the Catholic Church in primary school; and to restore and preserve cemeteries of the enslaved at all former Jesuit plantations throughout Maryland.

"I researched that in the 1790s and the beginning of the next century, the Mahoney name became widely known -mainly because of the freedom suits launched by my uncles, Charles, Daniel, and Patrick. These early freedom fighters petitioned the courts for manumissions based on their descendancy from their great grandmother Anne Joice, who had consistently and emphatically proclaimed that her freedom and that of her children had been unequivocally stolen. The Mahoney Brothers and many of their family members were ultimately freed by plantation manager Rev. John Ashton, one of the founders of



Dr. Nehemiah (r), August Mathews (c), and Kyla Mathews (l)

Georgetown University." Dr. Nehemiah

Dr. Nehemiah, Kyla Mathews and August Mathews, the daughter and son of Dr. Nehemiah, are recognized as descendants of the GU 272. Kyla graduated from Georgetown University Law Center in May 2025. She was awarded Legacy Status by the school but began her studies before the Descendants Foundation was established. August is a junior at Loyola University in Baltimore, majoring in Digital Media and Communications, and a recipient of the Foundation's yearly scholarship award. August said *"I am sure if the ancestors could see me today it would definitely bring joy to them knowing that the work they did was able to bring reparations in some form. I do what I can to represent the ancestors and honor them and to be that legacy."*

It is a bit ironic that Dr. Nehemiah is a Founding Board Member of the White Marsh Historical Society. Her closing comment that could apply to all African Americans in America. *"We descendants of those who were the unrecognized, uncompensated founders of this nation have joined to ensure that the contributions and legacies of our forefathers will be extolled."*



Commissioner SPOTLIGHTS

“

Commissioner, Walter Gill, PhD (Baltimore City)



Dr. Walter (Wali) Gill was born in Greenville, Mississippi and attended public schools in Jefferson City, Missouri, and Baltimore. He was the first African American to graduate from Baltimore City College High School in 1955. Over a twenty year period, Dr. Gill has been employed at four universities as an administrator or professor in education or telecommunication. For a total of 20 years, he taught art in public schools but mostly to incarcerated youth, much of which has been highlighted in newspapers, and on commercial and public television. Gill has been a project director of a year-long agriculture-science program for middle school African American males in Baltimore and has taught art in the community at a boys club, summer program, a weekend school, detention center and after school programs. As an artist, he has worked in painting, mixed media, crafts, and ceramics; designed and copyrighted the “I Love Baltimore” tee shirt; and has won awards for his performances in community theater.

“

Commissioner Wesley Wood (Baltimore City)



Serving on the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture is important to me because preserving and elevating our history is essential to understanding who we are and where we are going. It aligns with my lifelong commitment to public service, community empowerment, and ensuring that the stories, struggles, and achievements of African Americans are recognized, protected, and passed on to future generations. Through this work, I can help connect history to action by promoting education, civic engagement, and opportunities that strengthen our communities.



JOIN THE COMMISSION



The MCAAHC is seeking new Commissioners, especially from underrepresented counties in eastern, western, and southern Maryland. Applicants should have a record of service and commitment to preserving and advancing African American history and culture. Self-nominations are welcome.

As a Commissioner, you join a distinguished body entrusted with a vital mission: to interpret, document, and celebrate the contributions of African Americans to the state’s heritage. Your expertise and dedication will play a pivotal role in shaping the Commission’s work and ensuring its continued success.

Responsibilities for Commissioners include:

- Attending and hosting public meetings and hearings
- Serving on committees
- Representing the Commission at community events
- Meeting with local leaders to advocate for key initiatives
- Supporting the Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum

Questions? Contact: Chanel C. Johnson, chanel.compton@maryland.gov.

FY2026 MCAAHC Commissioners

Chair Kali-Ahset Amen, PhD (Baltimore City)

Vice Chair Jaelon Moaney (Talbot County)

Commissioner Rachele Adams (Anne Arundel County)

Commissioner Jean Bailey (Montgomery County)

Commissioner Lori Bradford (Anne Arundel County)

Commissioner Walter Gill, PhD (Baltimore City)

Commissioner Mark Glaze (Howard County)

Commissioner Dina Daly (Talbot County)

Commissioner Gina Marie Lewis (Prince George’s County)

Commissioner Jyoti Mohan, PhD (Baltimore County)

Commissioner Brian Morrison, PhD (Baltimore City)

Commissioner Robert J. Patterson, PhD (Prince George’s County)

Commissioner Ada Pinkston (Baltimore City)

Commissioner Bridgett Jones Smith (Washington County)

Commissioner Alethea Smith-Withers, DMin (Prince George’s County)

Commissioner Chrissy Thornton (Baltimore County)

Commissioner Hakeem Tijani, PhD (Baltimore County)

Commissioner Kennedi Wilson (Frederick County)

Commissioner Wesley C. Wood (Baltimore City)



APPLY TODAY



Commission Updates

Government Affairs and Community Engagement Committee

Established in October 2025, the Government Affairs and Community Advocacy Committee aims to expand the capacity of Agency priorities through public policy and the reach of the Banneker-Douglass-Museum (BDTM) strategic plan by fostering collaborative relationships across global, national, state, municipal and community-based entities.

During the first quarter of 2026, the Committee has made significant progress towards realizing its three inaugural goals: 1) inform policymakers, shape legislation and empower local advocates; 2) double the geographic impact and imprint of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) Statewide Book Drive; and 3) launch the MCAAHC Alumni Corps.

The Committee is now thirteen change agents strong, boasting a formidable array of incumbent MCAAHC commissioners, former MCAAHC commissioners, Agency leadership and State partners—this includes a structural evolution to ensure on-the-ground support in every region of Maryland for both legislative support and Book Drive engagement. Software to increase impact is also under consideration.

Led by BDTM Director Johnson and Chairperson Moaney, the Committee has secured critical capital and administrative investments through State appropriations, testified before the Maryland Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (SB191), addressed a previous MCAAHC omission in the introduction of SB 476, participated in a bicameral advocacy day, announced diplomatic developments with the Republic of Liberia, briefed Moore-Miller Cabinet officials, engaged Eastern Shore public school superintendents, endorsed Congressman Mfume's federal bill (HR 7915) to obtain a statue of Clarence Mitchell, Jr. for placement in the United States Capitol and presented at national conferences. As the Maryland General Assembly prepares for the end of session, the Committee has begun laying groundwork for productive interim platforms and Chairperson Moaney has been invited by the American University Project on Civic Dialogue to deliver remarks that preview innovative strategies.

Additionally, Commissioner Wilson has guided the MCAAHC towards doubling the number of counties with one or more Statewide Book Drive donation sites and the Committee urges all take action by learning more at <https://africanamerican.maryland.gov/book-drive> prior to Drive III closing on June 21, 2026.



Commissioner Bailey and MD Senate President Bill Ferguson



Commission Updates

Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Programs Committee



Martina Dodd, Curator of Collections and Exhibitions, in conversation with *She Speaks* artists (L-R) Charlyn Griffith-Oro, Darlene R. Taylor, and Savannah G. M. Wood | Photo by Christian Smooth



Tubman Lifetime Achievement Awardees: (L-R) Patricia Hawkins, Dr. Tuajuanda Jordan, and Dr. Frances "Toni" Murphy Draper | Photo by Christian Smooth

The Banneker-Douglas-Tubman Programs Committee serves as the arm of the Commission dedicated to supporting the work of the museum. Over the past two months, the museum has presented a new exhibition, *She Speaks*, curated by Martina Dodd. The exhibition uplifts the craftsmanship and stories of Black women artists across Maryland—past and present—while encouraging future generations of Black women artists.

On March 21, 2026, the museum hosted the Harriet Tubman Lifetime Achievement Awards Ceremony. A highlight of the evening was an improvisational performance by Maryland State Griot Janice Curtis Green, who embodied the voice of Harriet Tubman. Opening with the words "She speaks," Green wove together historical narrative and contemporary experience, creating a powerful connection with the audience.

The ceremony also honored three recipients of the Harriet Tubman Lifetime Achievement Award. LaToya Jenkins of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore delivered a compelling keynote address introducing the awardees: Patricia Hawkins, a retired disabled U.S. Army veteran, lifelong educator, and advocate for service and historic preservation; Dr. Tuajuanda Jordan, president of St. Mary's College of Maryland since 2014; and Dr. Frances "Toni" Murphy Draper, CEO, publisher, and chair of The AFRO, whose leadership has championed truth-telling as a form of liberation.

Preceding the awards ceremony, an artist panel featuring Charlyn Griffith-Oro, Darlene Taylor, and Savannah G.M. Woods set the tone for the afternoon, creating a space grounded in reflection and presence.

Looking ahead, the Program Committee will host its annual Veterans Day commemoration honoring the U.S. Colored Troops at Loudon Park National Cemetery on May 25, 2026. Plans are also underway for an African American history symposium, scheduled for October 1–3, 2026. To stay informed about upcoming programs and events, join the Banneker-Douglas-Tubman email list.



Commission Updates

HISTORICAL COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Mission Statement: The Historical Communications and Public Relation Committee's mission is to identify areas of Maryland African American history that are marginalized or threatened and seek ways to re-engage the community to preserve, protect, and interpret those areas to increase awareness and appreciation of the rich contributions of African Americans to the development of the state of Maryland. The committee is also to promote advocacy for the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture and the Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum and act as the liaison for audience engagement. The primary vehicle through which we fulfill our mission is The Pendulum. It is the voice of the Commission and shares the rich history and culture of Maryland's African American communities. To fulfill this mission the committee is working on the following initiatives:

- Quarterly publication of The Pendulum (February, April, July, and October)
- We are partnered with the Maryland Department of Transportation to update language for historical roadside markers that relate to African American history. Lookout for announcements on unveilings of The Benjamin Banneker marker in Baltimore County, The Nathaniel "Nace" Hopkins marker in Kent County, and a new marker to recognize Isaac Mason of Dorchester County. This year we are updating markers at Bowie State University, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Freetown (Anne Arundel County), Green Hill Town and Port (Wicomico), and Gorsuch Tavern (Baltimore County).
- The Committee also reviews requests from the public to support projects that align with the Commission's mission and values. Most recently, we wrote a letter of support for a FY2026 AAHPP Grant recipient, Mt. Pleasant Heritage Preservation Inc. for federal earmark funding. We also issued a public statement in support of The Lewis Museum in response to the negative coverage in the Baltimore Sun.
- Let us know what is happening in your community so they can be included in the events section of The Pendulum.

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Commission Updates

African American Historical Preservation Program Committee

The AAHP Committee Congratulates the FY26 African American History and Preservation Grant awardees. We appreciate the work they are doing to achieve our shared goal of preserving Black history and culture. As we prepare for the FY27 cycle, we offer our sincerest congratulations to:

- Pennsylvania Avenue Black Arts and Entertainment District for the “Sanaa Center Project” (Baltimore City)
- The Women’s Housing Coalition, Inc. for the “Margaret Jenkins House” (Baltimore City)
- The Havre de Grace Colored School Museum and Cultural Center, Inc. for the “The Havre de Grace Colored School Museum and Cultural Center” (Harford County)
- Donna Nelson and Eric Ashley Bey for the “Point of Rocks Colored Cemetery” (Frederick County)
- Pomonkey High School Alumni Association for the “Old Pomonkey High School” (Charles County)
- The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Maryland & Its Jurisdiction, Inc. for the “American Hall” (Washington County)
- Maryland Department of Juvenile Services for the “Boys’ Village of Maryland Cemetery” (Prince George’s County)
- Chews Memorial United Methodist Church for the “Chew’s Memorial Church and Cemetery” (Anne Arrundel County)
- Bailey-Groce Family Foundation for the “Anna Murray Douglass Heritage & Visitor Center” (Caroline County)
- Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization, Inc. for the “Sumner Cemetery” (Allegany County)
- Hopkins United Methodist Church for the “Hopkins Educational/Community Building” (Howard County)
- Raising the Foundation at St. James Free Methodist Church for the “St. James Free Methodist Church” (Wicomico County)
- Liza Gijanto/St. Mary’s College of Maryland for the “Galilee United Methodist Cemetery” (St. Mary’s County)
- Union Street United Methodist Church for the “Union Street United Methodist Church” (Carroll County)
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Park Service for the “John Howard House” (Montgomery County)
- Mt. Pleasant Heritage Preservation, Inc. for the “Mt. Pleasant Acres Farms” (Caroline County)
- St. James AME Church of Gravel Hill Road, Inc. for the “St. James AME Church Gravel Hill” (Harford County)



Commission Updates

African American Historical Preservation Program Committee

- West Liberty United Methodist Church for the “West Liberty United Methodist Church” (Howard County)
- Alexandria United Methodist Church for the “Alexandria (Alexander) Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery” (Charles County)
- Greater Baltimore Urban League for the “Orchard Street Church” (Baltimore City)
- Catoctin Furnace Friends Group for the “Catoctin Furnace African American Cemetery” (Frederick County)
- Brewer Hill Cemetery Association Inc. for the “Brewer Hill Cemetery” (Anne Arundel County)
- Mander House Museum for the “Mander House Museum” (Kent County)
- Town of Highland Beach for the “Frederick Douglass Summer House” (Anne Arundel County)
- Beautification Club of Sandy Spring for the “Ash Memorial Cemetery” (Montgomery County)
- Goshen Farm Preservation Society, Inc. for the “Goshen Farm” (Anne Arundel County)
- GAR Post 25 Inc. for the “Charles Sumner Lodge No. 25, GAR” (Kent County)
- American Legion Mannie Scott Post 193 for the “American Legion Mannie Scott Post 193” (Caroline County)
- Chesapeake Lodge #48 and Jessie J. Shanks Lodge #137, 6th Masonic District for the “Chesapeake Lodge Number 48 / Jessie J. Shanks Lodge Number 137 (Harford County)

FY27 Grant Cycle is OPEN

Webinars and workshops are now available for the FY27 African American Preservation Program grant cycle. The FY27 application will open open and close on July 1, 2026 at 11:59 PM. Program guidelines and grant application information may be obtained from [MHT's website](#).



Asbury United Methodist Church

*AAHPP
Spotlight*

by Cheryl
Worthington



The Asbury United Methodist Church started as a meeting house in 1828 for enslaved and freed persons living in the White Marsh, Loreley, Perry Hall and Cowenton areas at the present site located at 11501 Philadelphia Road, White Marsh, Md. The land was donated by Dr. Walter T. Allender and his family. The meeting site and its accompanying cemetery were very important to the African American families in the area. A log structure served as the church edifice until 1913 when the present framed structure was built. The log structure was then used as the church hall until 1939 at which time it was demolished. The current church hall was built and attached to the church structure in 1947.

For years, Asbury United Methodist Church held the distinction of being the only United Methodist Church in the community. It served several distinct hamlets where African Americans resided such as Loreley Woods and Couplin Town. Families knew each other, frequently married members of the church and were related. The church was the center for religious and social life in the community. Many of the African American families in the communities were enslaved persons and employees of the ironworks

villages where the bulk of the work was done by black people. The enslaved church members had direct linkages to the historic Hampton Mansion, a Federal Historic Site in Towson, Maryland. The Hampton Mansion was the second largest slave plantation in Maryland.

The Asbury United Methodist Church stands as one of the few remaining monuments of African American History in the Loreley, White Marsh, Cowenton and Perry Hall communities. Much of its history can be traced to the Hampton Mansion National Historic Site, the second largest plantation in the state of Maryland. Information about Asbury is included in historic tours of the federal site and in the tours of Baltimore County highlighting African American historic sites. Former enslaved persons are buried in the cemetery such as Charles T. Jones (1844-1934) whose descendants still reside in the area, and veterans of foreign wars.

The church was and remains active in recognizing and acting upon social concerns. In 1872, members of the Asbury United Methodist Church founded the Union of Brothers and Sisters of Ford's Asbury Lodge #1 for the

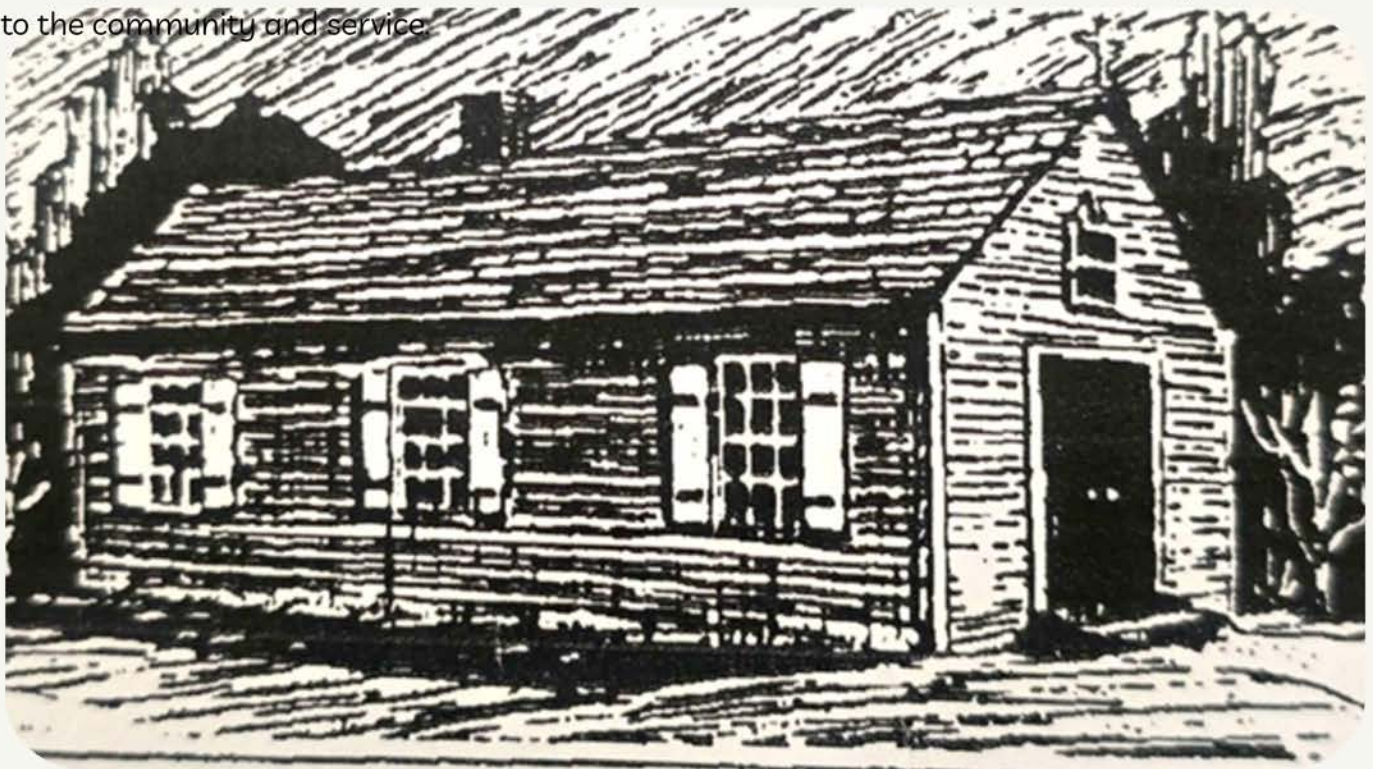


Asbury United Methodist Church

purpose of meeting benevolent needs for community members and providing burial assistance. The Lodge is the oldest African American Lodge in the State. In addition, the church has sponsored voter registration drives; has participated in housing demonstrations to protest discrimination in housing; food pantries; was spiritual home to many veterans of wars since the civil war and active duty veterans; has participated in Baltimore County Council and Baltimore County Public Schools meetings to discuss issues pertinent to the community and African Americans; and, has opened the doors of the church for community meetings. The church has been instrumental in other communities that extend beyond Baltimore County into Harford County.

Church services and Bible study take place weekly and the church opens its doors to many community activities.

Funds received from the African American Historic Preservation Program will preserve the existing exterior structure and assure that the church will continue its outstanding memorialization to the community and service.



*AAHPP
Spotlight*

Asbury United Methodist Church appeared in the 1850 map of Baltimore City and County as the "Colored Meeting House". The original log structure was built in the 1830s and was demolished in 1947.



BANNEKER-DOUGLASS-TUBMAN MUSEUM UPDATES

A SEASON OF ARTS CELEBRATION AT THE BANNEKER-DOUGLASS-TUBMAN MUSEUM

Spring has arrived, and so has an exciting season of art, community, and culture at the Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum.

As the state's official repository for African American heritage, the Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum (BDTM) in historic Annapolis continues to serve as a vital gathering place where art, history, and community converge.

A Major Grant Award: \$100,000 from the National Trust for Historic Preservation

We are thrilled to share a significant milestone for the museum. The BDTM has recently been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in support of an artist in residency program. This investment is a powerful affirmation of the museum's role not only as a keeper of history, but as an incubator for contemporary African American art and culture. We are deeply grateful for this support and look forward to sharing more details about the residency program as it takes shape.

Joining the Celebration of Anne Arundel County Arts Month & Annapolis Arts Week

Joining the Celebration of Anne Arundel County Arts Month & Annapolis Arts Week

June is a milestone month for the arts in Anne Arundel County, and the BDTM is stepping fully into the festivities. As part of both Anne Arundel County Arts Month and Annapolis Arts Week, the museum will host two standout events that invite the broader community to engage with art in meaningful and transformative ways.

First, mark your calendars for **ArtWalk on Thursday, June 11, from 5 to 8 p.m.** This beloved tradition where the galleries stay open late brings residents and visitors together to experience the vibrant cultural landscape of Annapolis's arts gallery community.

Then, on **Saturday, June 13, from 12 to 4 p.m.**, the museum will present a truly extraordinary experience: the **Alisha Wormsley Installation and Artist Talk for A Temple of Our Survival**. Alisha Wormsley is a multidisciplinary artist whose work confronts themes of memory, identity, and the resilience of Black communities with striking visual and conceptual power. *A Temple of Our Survival* is a meditation on what it means to endure, to create, and to reclaim space. Visitors are invited not only to witness the installation but to hear directly from Wormsley herself as she discusses her process, her vision, and the deeper meaning embedded in the work.

On **Saturday, June 27**, the BDTM invites the community to join in celebrating the young people of its **Youth Arts & Leadership Program** as they complete their journey for the season and prepare to travel to Senegal on an expeditionary learning experience in July. This send-off is a moment of pride — for the youth who have worked hard to develop their artistry and leadership skills, for their families, and for a community that knows its future is bright when young Black voices are nurtured and celebrated. Details are forthcoming, so stay tuned!



OUT OF SCHOOL TIME IS FORGING FUTURE LEADERS

By Sabriyah Hassan-Ismail



Left to right, Khailee Williams, Khaleece Williams, Kwame Abney, Spirit Adams, Teaching Assistant, Demonte Blake, Jazzlyn Gladden, and Zarian Lovelle, Teaching Assistant.

The Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum is proud to foster its Youth Leadership Out-of-School Time (OST) Program, a dynamic and expanding initiative. For three years, our core partnership with the City of Annapolis and the County Executive's Office has empowered middle and high school students to go beyond the classroom and use out of the box thinking to expand their knowledge of Black history in Maryland and beyond. The Program's mission is to immerse young people in the rich history and cultural contributions of Black Americans through the engaging lenses of art and culture.

Student Khaleece Richardson captures the programs essence: "I love the program because it gives us creative freedom and structure, but in a relaxed environment." This philosophy grounds the student's work, which typically either uses the walls of the museum or spaces in the student's community as their creative backdrop.

Youth participants have engaged in profound local and out-of-state travel to Brooklyn, New York and Charleston, South Carolina. Demonta Blake said "I enjoyed experiencing African American history of Brooklyn with my friends. I cannot think of a better group to travel with." Khaleece Williams said "Experiencing the culture of the Gullah Geechee people in the Carolinas was amazing and meaningful, and I left wanting to learn

more. I look forward to upcoming opportunities to travel with the group."

Participants in the 2025-2026 after-school program are Demonta Blake, Jazzlyn Gladden, Blessyn Glover, Kwame Abney, Quencil Scott, De'Monte Smith, Khailee Williams, Khaleece Williams, and Aubri Young. The young people have received instruction from famed teaching artists Noreen Smith and Zsudayka Terrell. They will finish the year with workshops led by Baltimore-based artist, Spirit Adams. Positive adult interactions are paramount and through the program we have been able to connect the young people to adults making strides in the community. St. John's College student Zarian Lovelle serves as the program's teaching assistant and often boasts about the uniqueness he sees in all of the students.

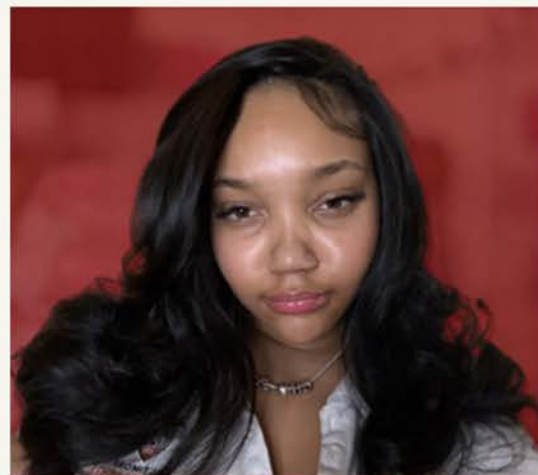
We are thrilled to plan our most ambitious excursion yet: a cultural exchange trip to Senegal, West Africa. This journey represents the pinnacle of our commitment to educating, inspiring, and building the next generation of empowered leaders and cultural stewards. Regular OST sessions are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM. To learn more about the OST program and how you can be part of upcoming initiatives, contact Sabriyah Hassan-Ismail, Director of Programs, at Sabriyah.hassan@maryland.gov.



YOUTH TAKEOVER FEBRUARY PUBLIC MEETING



Pictured in the back row, left to right are Braelyn, Karon, Teresa Folks, teacher, John, Dr. Denise L. Folks, Founding Principal. Front row, left to right are Amir, Nylah, Aliya, Charm, Camiyah.



Chase DeGross, Singer, Baltimore City College Senior

Unfortunately, the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture’s February public meeting had to switch to a virtual format. We had a number of youth that were scheduled to participate. The students and their teachers went above and beyond to contribute to the success of the meeting. The meeting was opened with a masterful performance of “Lift Every Voice” and Sing by Chase DeGross from Baltimore City College High School. The students from Positive Youth Expressions school’s oratorical and poetic skills were on full display. A tremendous thanks goes out to Mr. Nathaniel Larimore and his history class at Baltimore City College High School for their participation as well.



First row, left to right, Camari Stewart, Jada Carter, Kamora Mitchell, Alexuis Edmonds, Jabelle Moffatt, Anthony Ventura Cruz, Carolina Chica Ramas, Danae Hernandez. Second row, left to right, Victoria Melbourne, Rahniah Smith, Abdul Rahman Asunmo, Khalil Cutchember, Ava Hodge, Ricky Smith, Ra'shad Cure, Amira Tillman, Justin Johnson.



MCAAHC JUNE 2026 PUBLIC MEETING



Date: Monday, June 1, 2026

Time: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: TBD

Join us for the MCAAHC Public Meeting to learn about upcoming initiatives, and to hear from engaging speakers in the heritage and preservation community!

To register for the public meeting, visit bit.ly/MCAAHCJune2026PublicMeeting, click the button below, or scan the QR code!

REGISTER



COMMUNITY EVENTS

April/May

Thursdays at 5:00 PM, The Enoch Sankofa 2026 Film Series: “Fear of the Black Hat,” April 23; “Best of the Southern Wild,” May 21; “The Wound (Inxeba),” June 18; “Black Panther: Wakunda Forever,” July 23; “The Nichel Boys,” August 20; “The Piano Lesson,” September 23; “Black Orpheus,” October 17. Enoch Pratt Library, 400 Cathedral St., Baltimore. Free.

Thursday, April 23, 7:00 PM, Writers Live: Ashante Reese. Gather, is a vibrant vision of food justice that celebrates Black food and recognizes the power of gathering to create sustainable, systemic change. Joined by Rev. Heber Brown. Enoch Pratt Free Library, 400 Cathedral St. Baltimore. Free.

Thursday, May 7, 7:00 PM, Writers Live: Lerone Martin. Young King. From a preeminent King scholar, the origin story of the man, minister, and civil rights hero who would lead the nation and change the world. Enoch Pratt Library, 400 Cathedral St., Baltimore. Free.

Saturday, May 9, 1:00pm – 3:30pm, Mother’s Day Program – The StoryDancer. During Mother’s Day Weekend, the Lewis Museum invites you to a special screening of The StoryDancer. This film offers a profound meditation on healing, authenticity, and the bravery required to pursue one’s genuine vocation. In 1977, Maria Broom made the pivotal decision to leave her prominent role at a local Baltimore news station to honor an internal pull toward dance. Museum Admission



COMMUNITY EVENTS



HAVRE DE GRACE COLORED SCHOOL

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE PRESERVATION PROGRAM

UPCOMING GRANT WORKSHOP & WEBINARS

<p>VIRTUAL SESSIONS:</p> <p>General Overview March 27 1:00 PM via Zoom</p> <p>General Overview April 27 1:00 PM via Zoom</p> <p>Application Q&A Workshop May 19 10:00 AM via Zoom</p>	<p>IN-PERSON SESSIONS:</p> <p>General Overview April 14 11:00 AM Calvert County Public Library Fairview Branch</p> <p>Application Q&A Workshop June 4 10:30 AM Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum, Annapolis</p>
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REGISTRATION REQUIRED
 AT [BIT.LY/AAHPP-MHT](https://bit.ly/AAHPP-MHT)

Thursday, May 28, 7:00 PM, Brown Lecture Series, Eddie Glaude. America, U.S.A. This is a groundbreaking analysis of the vicious cycles of American history and the country's enduring refusal to face its true nature. A free copy of the book will be given to all registered in-person attendees while supplies last. Free.

Saturday, June 13, 12 Noon to 4:00 PM, 5th Annual Kensington Juneteenth Celebration. Come join in a day of unity, history, food, and joy. St. Paul Park, Kensington. Free.

Friday through Sunday, June 19-21, AFRAM Festival. This is one of the largest African American festivals on the East Coast. Druid Hill Park, 900 Druid Park Lake Drive, Baltimore. Free.

Saturday, June 13, 12 Noon to 5:00 PM, Prince Georges County Juneteenth Celebration. Watkins Regional Park, Prince Georges County. Free.

Friday, June 19, 11am to 5pm, National Harbor Juneteenth Celebration. Freedom Day Black-owned Marketplace. 166 Waterfront Street National Harbor, MD. Free

Saturday, June 20, 2pm to 10, Montgomery County Juneteenth Celebration. Blackrock Center for the Arts 12901 Town Commons Dr. Germantown, MD. Free.

Saturday, June 27, 10am to 4:30pm, Juneteenth in Carroll County. McDaniel College 2 College Hill Westminster, MD Free.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Maryland Office of the Attorney General
The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights
Presents



UPPER-TO-MID EASTERN SHORE REGION

HATE BIAS REPORTING FORUM

SATURDAY
May 16, 2026

EVENT TIME
9:00am - 3:00pm

Queen Anne's County Library
Centreville Branch
121 South Commerce Street
Library Meeting Room
Centreville, Maryland 21617

This **Hate Bias Reporting Forum** will provide community leaders and members with important information in response to the 2024 Hate Bias Report for the State of Maryland. We will engage community leaders and members in discussions and information sharing on methods to facilitate more effective reporting as well as responding to bias incidents and hate crimes.


TO REGISTER

SCAN ME! 

bit.ly/Upper-Mid-EasternShore

The Aura Foundation Presents

THE



JOYFUL NOISE GOSPEL Brunch

DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 16TH
RECEPTION & SILENT AUCTION: 11:00AM
BRUNCH AND LIVE PRAISE: 12-1:30PM
MUSIC MIX & MINGLE: 1:30-3PM

TICKETS: \$65
www.EVENTBRITE.COM/

The Mansion at the Museum
1649 E. North Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland

Proceeds to benefit the Sisters of the East
& The National Great Blacks In Wax Museum

FILM SCREENING | THE STORYDANCER

Saturday | May 9 | 1:00 PM-3:30 PM




THE LEWIS

PROTECTING
BLACK ART
HISTORY &
CULTURE



COMMUNITY EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE
THE ANNUAL SCOTLAND
JUNETEENTH
heritage festival

SATURDAY JUNE 13

OPENING NIGHT

HEZEKIAH WALKER
BETHESDA THEATER
7:00PM-9:00PM

SUNDAY JUNE 14

SUNDAY SERVICE

SCOTLAND AME ZION CHURCH
DR. JOHN PAUL MCGEE
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

MONDAY JUNE 15

INTERFAITH THROUGH THE ARTS

BLACK ROCK PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
6:00PM-8:30PM

JUNE 16-18

SPORTS CLINICS

FOOTBALL - TUESDAY 06/16 | 6:30-8:30 PM
CHEER - WEDNESDAY 06/17 | 6:30-8:30 PM
BASKETBALL - THURSDAY 06/18 | 6:30-8:30 PM

FRIDAY JUNE 19

ALL DAY EVENTS

5K RUN | 8:00AM
WELLNESS PAVILION | 9:00AM-1:00PM
HISTORY LECTURES | 11:00AM-1:00PM
FAMILY CARNIVAL | 11:00AM-5:00PM
BASEBALL & FIREWORKS | 5:00PM-9:00PM
MORE INFO: JUNETEENTHSCOTLAND.ORG



LETTERS TO THE PENDULUM

Kudos to MCAAHC's February 2026 virtual meeting. Today's program was worthy of an entire school's participation if not district wide. The truths stated are essential to the uplift of our students and the City of Baltimore. The culture, expressions, and youthful vitality was invigorating. If recorded, it might be worthy of creating an orientation video for new teachers and a refresher for the existing ones. GREAT WORK!

Al Robinson, Waverly Baltimore

Reading The Pendulum and learning more information about the "Father of Black History," has reminded me that progress isn't only about moving forward but about reclaiming what has been left behind. Black history is the history that has been removed from American history. However, through the long-lasting contributions of Dr. Carter G. Woodson our generation and the ones to come will have a firm foundation of our ongoing history.

Chantel Masade, Baltimore City College High School Senior

One powerful takeaway from the article on Dr. Carter G. Woodson is how he transformed his struggles into a sense of purpose. Learning about his academic background highlights his deep dedication to education. This provides a clearer understanding of why he devoted his life to studying Black history and ensuring that Black narratives were recognized and included in history.

Clayton Thomas, Baltimore City College High School, Senior

The Pendulum is a first-class newsletter chock-full of important aspects of Black History that is accessible to both lay readers and academics alike. The Pendulum is a must read for anyone with a thirst for knowledge, especially as it relates to the state of Maryland.

Dr. Judson Jeffries, Professor of African American and African Studies at The Ohio State University, former Baltimore City resident

PLEASE SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO URBANPROFESSOR@AOL.COM.

[CLICK TO SHARE](#)



PUBLIC RELATIONS AND HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Thank you for reading this quarter's issue!

Commissioner Brian Morrison, PhD
Committee Chair

MCAAHC Chair Kali-Ahset Amen, PhD
Commissioner Walter Gill, PhD
Commissioner Lori Bradford
Commissioner Mark Glaze
Commissioner Jyoti Mohan, PhD

Commissioner Kennedi Wilson
Vice Chair

Tahja Cropper, BDTM Marketing Coordinator
Jan F. Lee, BDTM Director of
Marketing & Communications
Commissioner Alethea Roselyn Smith-
Withers, DMin
Commissioner Wesley Wood



REFERENCES

Statement on Recent Coverage of The Reginald F. Lewis Museum

[1] Preservation Maryland Urges Support for Maryland's Museums and Historic Sites, Preservation Maryland, (Mar 24, 2020), <https://preservationmaryland.org/preservation-maryland-urges-support-for-marylands-museums-and-historic-sites/>

[2] After an Audit Found Irregularities, Baltimore's Lewis Museum Says It's On the Road to Compliance, ARTnews (January 2, 2026), <https://www.artnews.com/art-news/news/audit-irregularities-baltimore-lewis-museum-1234768649/>

Benjamin Banneker

Allen, Will W. (1971/1921). *Banneker: The Afro-American Astronomer*. Salem, New Hampshire: Ayer Company.

Bedini, Silvio A. (1972). *The Life of Benjamin Banneker*. Rancho Cordova, CA: Landmark Enterprises.

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Interview with Charles Calaman, March 1, 2026

Jefferson, Thomas (October 8, 1809). "Thomas Jefferson to Joel Barlow, October 8, 1809." The Thomas Jefferson Papers at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC: Library of Congress. Retrieved March 2, 2026.

Anne Joice, The Georgetown Memory Project, and Me

"Unearthing Freedom's Song," a position paper by Dr. Lynn Locklear Nehemiah, and interviews March 7, and 31, 2026. Dr. Nehemiah is a retired dentist and a Founding Board Member of the White Marsh Historical Society.

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Funding for this issue of The Pendulum was made possible by: Dr. Kali-Ahset Amen, Dr. Walter Gill, Dr. Lawrence Jackson, Mr. Mitchell McPherson, Que Mentors, Pi Omega Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Mr. Melvin Truitt, and Ms. Gabrielle Whitehurst.

Connect With Us



WE STAND WITH *THE LEWIS*!



STATEMENT ON RECENT COVERAGE OF THE REGINALD F. LEWIS MUSEUM

EXCERPT 1

The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture stands firmly in support of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture and urges the public and policymakers to consider the full context of recent media coverage.

EXCERPT 2

Black institutions, such as the Lewis Museum, are a civic imperative. The Lewis Museum documents, interprets, and preserves the complex experiences, contributions, and culture of Black people in Maryland, **housing more than 14,000 objects spanning 400 years of history.** Institutions like this exist because the mainstream historical record has too often excluded Black voices. Allowing them to be undermined by selective scrutiny would be a disservice to all Marylanders.



SEE THE FULL STATEMENT ON PAGE 4

