

# BLACK VOICES MUSEUM

## join the conversation

### Workshop #2 Summary

On January 29, 2025, 32 members of the Fayetteville and Cumberland County community gathered at Taste of West Africa for the second Black Voices Museum Community Advisory Committee workshop, led by the outreach team.

New and familiar faces joined the conversation to build upon key findings from Workshop #1 last December, offering new insights and fresh perspectives on the three main questions guiding the project:

- 01** What are the stories that will be important to host in the Black Voices Museum space?
- 02** What does it mean to empower Black voices?
- 03** What are the possibilities for this museum?



### Want to learn more?

Watch the project introduction video, view workshop summaries, take the community survey, and find out how to stay involved this year at [www.blackvoicesmuseum.com](http://www.blackvoicesmuseum.com).



### Arrival & Welcome

Following welcoming remarks by the Project Leadership Team (Michael Gibson, Robert Van Geons, and Bill Cassell) the outreach team gave a brief overview of the Black Voices Museum project.



### Introductions

Community members introduced themselves and shared what Black History Month means to them. Some highlighted this month as a dedicated time to reflect on and honor the past, and others noted that Black history and heritage are deserving of year round celebration. Despite varying points of view, the room agreed there is still so much to learn about the achievements that have shaped American history and the voices that will write the next chapter.



### Workshop #1 Reflection

The outreach team led participants through a rich discussion about the key takeaways from the December workshop, which brought out themes of trauma, trust, healing, and an urgency to capture untold stories before they are forgotten.



### Case Studies

The group dove deeper into the role of the Black Voices Museum while reviewing precedent museums in the southeastern U.S. and identifying the elements that contribute to a powerful, memorable experience at each.

### Key Takeaways

#### 01

There are many unwritten, hidden, and inaccurate stories that should be uncovered and corrected to further the education of Black history and culture for everyone.

#### 02

The stories gathered for the Black Voices Museum must be treated with respect and care through a trauma-informed outreach approach centered on developing trusting relationships.

#### 03

The role of the museum should evolve over time to meet the community's needs but begin with a focus on elevating local Black voices and supporting advocacy.

#### 04

An impactful museum experience offers something new for all ages to discover, interactive and immersive elements that captivate visitors, space to reflect and decompress along the way, and programming that engages the community.