

BLACK VOICES MUSEUM

join the conversation

Workshop #1 Summary

On December 12, 2024, 20 members of the community gathered at the Fayetteville Cumberland County Economic Development Corporation building to kick off the Black Voices Museum outreach.

The first Community Advisory Committee workshop, led by the outreach team, featured a variety of interactive exercises and discussions designed to answer three main project questions:

- 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?



Arrival & Welcome

The workshop began with welcoming remarks by Mayor Mitch Colvin, County Commissioner Chair Kirk deViere, and the Project Leadership Team (Michael Gibson, Robert Van Geons, and Bill Cassell) and a brief overview of the Black Voices Museum project.



Introductions

Through a series of introductions and participation in an arrival poster, workshop participants got to know one another. They highlighted a variety of people, historic neighborhoods, movements, churches, cultural festivals, and community organizations that have all played a role in defining the spirit of the Black community in Fayetteville.



Visioning Exercises

The outreach team led participants through several discussions and activities about:

- Project opportunities and challenges
- Potential impact of the museum
- Role of the museum
- Museum trends
- Spaces and places to learn from
- Keys to success of the project

Key Takeaways

01

Storytelling is a powerful tool that fosters understanding, encourages human connection, and inspires discovery.

02

Connecting with longtime residents, as the primary keepers of important stories and their lived experience, would be critical for project success.

03

A transparent outreach process with varying communication methods for diverse age groups will help overcome community skepticism, bridge the intergenerational gap, and give people a sense of ownership over the museum.

04

It is critical to understand the ecosystem of existing cultural institutions and projects in Fayetteville and ensure the Black Voices Museum is aligned with or connected to the overall experience.

05

There is an abundance of local artifacts and stories that should be preserved and shared with younger generations.

06

Fayetteville is host to a range of diasporic communities from all over the world; this diversity is a strength.

07

The future museum site on Person Street is located in close proximity to the Market House and has a strong association with Black-owned businesses, giving it the potential to catalyze development and redefine the area.

08

The museum should serve as a community resource, a multi-generational learning and storytelling destination, and a center for advocacy and policy change focused on lifting Black voices in North Carolina and beyond.

