

BLACK VOICES MUSEUM

join the conversation

Workshop #3 Summary

On March 14, 2025, 21 members of the Fayetteville and Cumberland County community gathered at Taste of West Africa for the third Black Voices Museum Community Advisory Committee workshop.

New and familiar faces joined the conversation to build upon key findings from the first two workshops, offering 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?



Arrival & Welcome

Upon arrival, the outreach team welcomed community members to Workshop 3 and presented a brief overview of the Black Voices Museum engagement to date.



Workshop #2 Reflection

Key takeaways from Workshop #2 were reviewed in the session; participants reinforced the importance of capturing accurate and authentic stories that reflect local voices, providing engaging activities for all ages to learn about history and culture in the museum, and building in flexibility for the museum to evolve over time.



Why Fayetteville?

Mrs. Crystal Edmonds, NAACP Fayetteville's Political Action Chair, spoke about the role the Black Voices Museum might play in supporting advocacy and driving policy change in the area. The group then discussed the historical, cultural, and geographic significance that makes Fayetteville the ideal location for the museum.



Prototyping & Visualizing BVM

Using the four pillars of the museum (Arts & Culture, Centers for Social Equity, Empowerment Hub, and Haven for Healing), participants worked together to identify key space types and programs that could bring each pillar to life. They then selected images that visualized the experiences and ideas they would like to see in the future Black Voices Museum.

Key Takeaways

- 01 The Community Advisory Committee workshops brought community leaders together, creating valuable learning opportunities and fostering strong relationships within the group in advance of physical space existing.
- 02 The Empowerment Hub pillar inspired many of the Community Advisory Committee members; as the focus of half the prototyping groups, programs around skills building, training, small business development, maker spaces, and experiential learning opportunities emerged as key priorities for this pillar.
- 03 Highly flexible spaces are critical for supporting the wide range of functions and programs this space might offer, as well as the ability to evolve and adapt over time.
- 04 There is an urgency in prioritizing how this museum might center youth and, specifically, youth education.
- 05 An emphasis on inclusive design practices, such as accounting for quiet space or low sensory spaces and going beyond ADA requirements for physical accessibility, is critical to create a positive and welcoming environment for a wide range of users.

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.

