



**DC**  
**HISTORY**  
**CONFERENCE**

★ ★ ★  
**50TH ANNIVERSARY**  
1974 - 2024



**HumanitiesDC**

# EXPERIENCE DC THROUGH PUBLIC HUMANITIES PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY GRANTS

## CURIOUS MINDS. BOLD QUESTIONS. POWERFUL STORIES

At HumanitiesDC, we connect curious people with bold questions to the powerful stories of our vibrant city. Through our grantmaking and public programs we help build a community where all can engage in intellectual exchange, reflect on our connected stories and celebrate our various cultures.

We partner with local experts, scholars and creatives to design and host unique initiatives, workshops, discussions, performances, storytelling gatherings and more that explore the culture of our nation's capital. Join your fellow inquisitive minds and storytellers today.



**HISTORY LITERATURE ETHICS**  
**LANGUAGES PHILOSOPHY**  
**ARTS APPRECIATION**

To learn more about our work, 2024 opportunities and upcoming events visit us at [HumanitiesDC.org](https://www.HumanitiesDC.org)



# ABOUT THE DC HISTORY CONFERENCE

The DC History Conference is an interdisciplinary, community conference considering the District's past, present, and future. The first conference was organized in 1973 and delivered in January of 1974, marking this as the 50th year of the conference. Since then, the conference organizers have provided a welcoming, educational, and stimulating forum for original research on and engagement with the history of the Washington, DC metropolitan area—prioritizing the local city but including nearby Maryland and Virginia, and the federal government.

The DC History Conference is co-presented by the **DC History Center**, **DC Public Library**, and **HumanitiesDC**, and supported by organizational partners and a volunteer planning committee.

## ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS

**Anacostia Community Museum**  
**DC History Center**  
**DC Historic Preservation Office,**  
    **DC Office of Planning**  
**DC Office of Public Records and Archives**  
**DC Preservation League**  
**DC Public Library**  
**Heurich House Museum**  
**HumanitiesDC**  
**White House Historical Association**

## CONFERENCE BRAINTRUST

**Maren Orchard**, *DC History Center*  
(conference project manager)  
**Kim Bender**, *Heurich House Museum*  
**Asantewa Boakyewa**, *Anacostia Community Museum*  
**Laura Brower Hagood**, *DC History Center*  
**Rob Hartman**, *DC Public Library Foundation*  
**Linnea Hegarty**, *DC Public Library*  
**Maryann James-Daley**, *DC Public Library*  
**Lopez Matthews**, *DC Office of Public Records and Archives*  
**Anne McDonough**, *DC History Center*  
**Lois Nembhard**, *HumanitiesDC*  
**Rebecca Lemos Otero**, *HumanitiesDC*  
**M.J. Rymsza-Pawlowska**, *American University Public History Program*

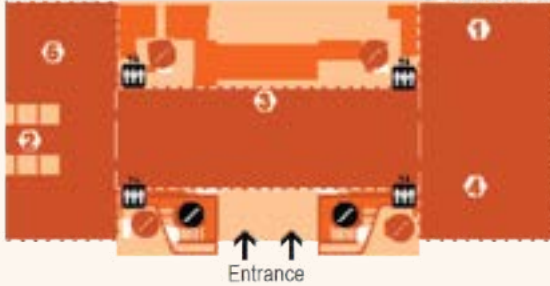
## CONFERENCE WORKING COMMITTEE

**Mariana Barros-Titus**, *DC History Center*  
**Mark Benbow**, *Arlington Historical Society*  
**Lorenzo Bright**  
**Natalie Campbell**, *DC Public Library*  
**Jenna Febrizio**, *Heurich House Museum*  
**Maria Ibañez**  
**Julianna Jackson**  
**Lina Mann**, *White House Historical Association*  
**Kate Morgan**  
**Andrea Pedolsky**  
**Ashley Preston, PhD**, *Howard University*  
**Jessica Rucker**  
**Makala Scurlock**  
**Kasey Sease**, *Albert H. Small Washingtoniana Collection at The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum*  
**Lisa Warwick**, *DC Public Library*  
**Vanessa Williams**, *Teaching for Change*  
**Shae Corey**, *DC Preservation League*  
**Karen Harris**, *DC History Center*  
**Sajel Swartz**, *DC History Center*

## PROGRAM

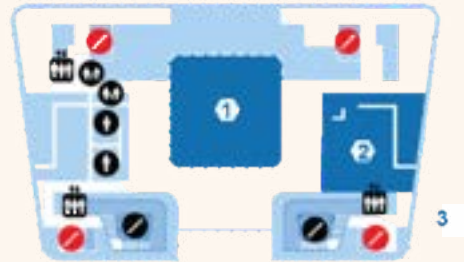
**Kyla Sommers**, *Editor*  
**Alex Fraioli**, *Designer*  
**Shedrick Pelt**, *Photographer*

# MLK JR. MEMORIAL LIBRARY LAYOUT



## GREAT HALL 1ST FLOOR

1. Marianne's Café
2. Co-Working
3. History Network/Poster Session
4. New Books
5. Public Computers



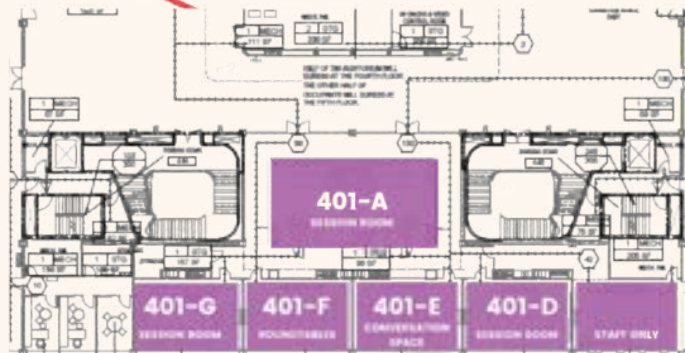
## RECEPTION AREA 5TH FLOOR

1. Auditorium
2. Reception
3. Roof



## CONFERENCE CENTER 4TH FLOOR

1. Auditorium
2. Conference Center
3. Exhibits
4. Local History





## GUIDE TO THE CONFERENCE

### **BUILDING THE PROGRAM**

The DC History Conference call for submissions casts a wide net to DC history researchers, educators, and enthusiasts to submit their topics to the DC History Conference. Conference committee volunteers sitting on the program working group make the final decision on what presentations make it into the program. This results in a conference lineup dedicated to a wide variety of topics, time periods, and approaches. The interdisciplinary nature of this annual conference reflects the rich, diverse history of Washington, DC. We can't include every important and timely topic in this one conference, but we do our best to create a program representative of what issues and histories are on our minds.

The committee considers what issues are of historical and present importance to

Washingtonians. As you choose sessions and listen to these thoughtful conversations, ask yourself: What throughlines are there across the program? Which sessions have similar themes? What questions appear again and again across panels? We encourage you to think about why these subjects resonate with Washingtonians over time, especially as we celebrate 50 years of the conference.

### **PROGRAM CONTENT**

The program is laid out chronologically. The schedule at-a-glance provides a brief overview of the conference.

Sessions types include **panels** and roundtables. Some panels were proposed as a single submission. Combined panels include multiple presentations grouped under a common theme. You can identify

this distinction in the program where 2–3 presentation titles are listed underneath the session name. **Roundtables** provide a forum for audience members to actively participate in a dialogue. **Creative Expressions** are designed to encourage creativity, arts, and unique program formats and are scheduled during the poster session.

Special features—including the **History Network, Poster Session, the Authors’ Corner, and Friday After Hours**—are community-building social opportunities that provide space for attendees to connect with organizations, research projects, scholars, students, and other history enthusiasts about their work.

### PICKING A PANEL

There are so many panels to choose from! Each panel on the main program includes a

title, description, and presenter names to help you quickly find a session of interest. Moderators are responsible for introducing panels, keeping time, and encouraging conversation between presenters. They also guide the Q&A at the end of the session. The **“For Educators”** page highlights education-focused sessions and features teacher professional development opportunities!

Please note that if a room no longer has any seats, it’s best for you to join one of the many other interesting panels taking place during the session.

We are very excited to welcome you to the 2024 DC History Conference, to celebrate our work, and to meet conference presenters and attendees!

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## ACCESSIBILITY

Conference registration is **free!** Keynotes are recorded and will be available on YouTube with closed captioning after the conference. **ASL interpretation** will be provided at keynotes and at one panel per session based on attendee requests. To request a reasonable accommodation, including ASL interpretation, please contact the DC Public Library’s Center for Accessibility seven (7) days in advance at [202-727-2142](tel:202-727-2142) or by emailing [DCPLaccess@dc.gov](mailto:DCPLaccess@dc.gov).



The Center for Accessibility will have a table next to the registration table to provide assistance and answer your accessibility questions. These services were made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

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## SOCIAL MEDIA

Join the fun! Share your unique conference experience with your followers and networks on Facebook, X, and Instagram. Include our handle **@dchistcon** and the conference hashtag, **#DCHistCon**, to join the conversation.



## THEN AND NOW

On January 11, 1974, attendees gathered for the first annual DC History Conference at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. Sponsored by George Washington University and the Columbia Historical Society (now the DC History Center), the seed for the conference can be found in a 1971 memo written by Homer T. Rosenberger:

***It seems to me that Columbia Historical Society should...seek ways to serve two audiences, the general public and scholars, and with a minimum expenditure of dollars.***

Three years later, the two-day conference saw familiar names like Letitia Woods Brown, James Flack, Louise Hutchinson, and others. With a single track through the conference, four sessions on the first day featured 10 presenters on topics from religious institutions to the formation of neighborhood cultures, alley housing, and art history. The

second day was dedicated to a working session focused on graduate research in progress and local history projects of note. Over the years the conference has changed, shrunk, and grown. Kept alive by a dedicated group of volunteers—like those in 1971—the conference organizers consistently recognized the value in creating this annual event to advance scholarship about DC history for the benefit of DC residents and the general public.

For the 50th annual DC History Conference, we're hosting roughly 26 sessions with over 100 presenters—all free to attendees. We expect over 600 DC history enthusiasts to fill the halls of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library throughout the weekend to reconnect with old friends, meet new ones, exchange ideas, and learn something new about our city.

CPH 251144

June 21, 1973

Messengers for Dr. Leonard Garibaldi, Dr. Vilensk Z. Kostikov, Francis  
Delmas Rosenberg, Dr. Oliver Samoil Selove, and John  
Solon.

It seems to me that Columbia Historical Society should over each  
year to serve the audience, the general public and scholars, and with  
a minimum expenditure of dollars. Instead is a proposal for two one-  
day institutes that might be held annually, at no money cost, to serve  
the two audiences. The proposal is made in broad strokes so as to es-  
tablish parameters for a committee which it would have much freedom  
to operate.

If the proposal has value at the present time, your comments for its  
improvement will be appreciated greatly.

Sincerely,  
Francis Rosenberg

6-25-73  
Dr. Delmas  
This is important I hope has some merit. Could be an  
exciting project. Want to read Bill if he has any comments  
about such a program. Good.  
Subject to be in DC on Monday or Tuesday & will be in the building

### First Annual Conference on Washington, D.C. Historical Studies

January 11-12, 1974  
Martin Luther King Memorial Library of the District of Columbia

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<p><b>FRIDAY (JANUARY 11)</b></p> <p>9:45 a.m. Conference Opening</p> <p>10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon Religious Institutions in 19th-Century Com- munity Life • Francis Rosenberg, Columbia Historical Society, Chairman "Charles Bulfinch and the Washington Uni- terian Community 1829-30" • Harold Kiker, University of California, Santa Barbara "The Metropolitan A. M. E. Church" • Letitia Brown, George Washington University "The Congregation of Adas Israel" • Evelyn Greenberg, Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington</p> <p>12:15 p.m. Introduction to the Washingtoniana Collec- tion • Wilton S. Ryan, Director, D. C. Public Libraries</p> <p>2:00-4:00 p.m. The Formation of Neighborhood Culture • Charles McLoughlin, American University, Chairman "A Demographic and Photographic Analysis of Alley Life" • James Borchert, University of California, Santa Cruz "Capitol Hill 1870-1900: The People and Their Homes" • Susan Myers, Division of Pre- industrial Cultural History, Smithsonian Institution</p>	<p>"Residential Patterns in the Southwest 1890- 97" • Paul Groves, University of Maryland</p> <p>4:15-4:45 p.m. Illustrated Lecture on Gilbert Stuart in Wash- ington, His Subjects and Their Society • Charles Merrill Mount</p> <p><b>SATURDAY (JANUARY 12)</b></p> <p>10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon Concurrent Working Sessions</p> <p>Workshop A: Graduate Research in Progress • James Flack, University of Maryland and Perry Fisher, Columbia Historical Society, Chairman</p> <p>Workshop B: Major Local Oral History Pro- jects • Roderick French, George Washing- ton University, Chairman Louise Hutchinson, Anacostia Neighbor- hood Museum Martha Ross, University of Maryland Olson Uva, Howard University</p>
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Sponsored by George Washington University and The Columbia  
Historical Society

Organizing Committee: Letitia Brown, Roderick French, Francis  
Rosenberg

PLEASE POST



## WHY DC HISTORY

At the heart of the conference is the question: why DC history? Most Americans view Washington, DC as a place where “movers and shakers” meet to impact the trajectory of the country. And while that’s true, the DC History Conference turns our focus to the residents of the city, the communities we form, our local governance, our position in proximity to power but deprived of representation, and more.

On December 24, 1973 the federal government signed the District of Columbia Home Rule Act into law—a concession for self-governance then implemented in 1974, the same year as the first DC History Conference. Home Rule, while permitting a local government, still limits the power of the people in the nation’s capital. The lack of congressional representation deprives a population of over 700,000 the democratic freedoms believed to be inherent in the United States. Due to that lack of representation, those of us who call the District home watch without recourse as our city is treated as a federal testing ground, a place to experiment with policy, a pawn in national politics. Studying local history puts our stories at the foreground. This is why studying local history matters.

Even more broadly, the DC History Conference encourages the importance of studying history itself as a way to become better citizens. DC is made up of sixth-generation Washingtonians as well as residents who arrived in the city just six days, six weeks, six months, or six years ago. The study of DC history helps newer residents better understand their new home, gives elders the chance to tell their story, and all of us the opportunity to connect and listen to each other.

To make sense of the present issues like gentrification, food deserts, heat islands, and flooded streets, we have to understand the past. To build a more just future, we have to know where we came from. By attending the DC History Conference, we hope you feel empowered to make a difference in your communities.

## A COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

History is not an exclusive club, and in fact our understanding of the past is made stronger by including multiple perspectives. That’s why we strive to offer panels with a range of perspectives, balancing lived experience with scholarly study, and valuing what we learn from different ways of knowing. Community-based history encourages the perspective of community members, gives equal weight to lived experience, values memory, and creates space for dialogue.

The DC History Conference is for everyone with an interest in our city. Presenters range from academic scholars to high school students to community members with curiosity about the past and your neighbor with an interest in their family history. This mix of presenters is intentional because it challenges the idea that only trained professionals can study history and tell us about the past. The tools of history are accessible to everyone and can be used by anyone to understand the past to improve our communities. By hosting the conference at the public library, free to attendees, we’re saying that our history is for everyone—taking it out of the ivory tower of academia to meet people where they are.

# CELEBRATING OUR OWN 50 YEARS OF HISTORY

Throughout the conference weekend, we encourage you to think about what it means to celebrate 50 years of the DC History Conference. At key moments, we will pause for collective reflection to honor the volunteers, presenters, and attendees who have made the conference a success year after year to uphold this five-decade tradition.

The DC History Center is commemorating the conference by digitizing all past conference programs in their collection and creating a database of the dates, location, committee members, Letitia Woods Brown

lecturers, and topics covered since the first 1974 conference.

The DC History Conference wants to hear from you. Our goal is to reflect, celebrate, and even critique the conference to continue building something that evolves with our community and continues to serve our audiences. How has the conference met its goals? Where have we failed? What do you want to see in the next 50 years of the conference? As an institution, it's our role to open the door to this conversation, but it's up to you—our community—to give feedback and interpret our own history.

## ABOUT THE DESIGN

The 2024 conference design is inspired by the look and feel of the 1970s, in particular the work of Lou Stovall. In 1968 Stovall founded Workshop, Inc., initially a community studio which grew into a professional printmaking facility used by many artists in DC.



**WATCH:**  
"Making DC History Awards: Di and Lou Stovall"



Lou Stovall Workshop



Lou Stovall, *Mobilize Against Repression - Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam, 1970*



Lou Stovall and Lloyd McNeill, *Arena Stage '68-68, 1968*



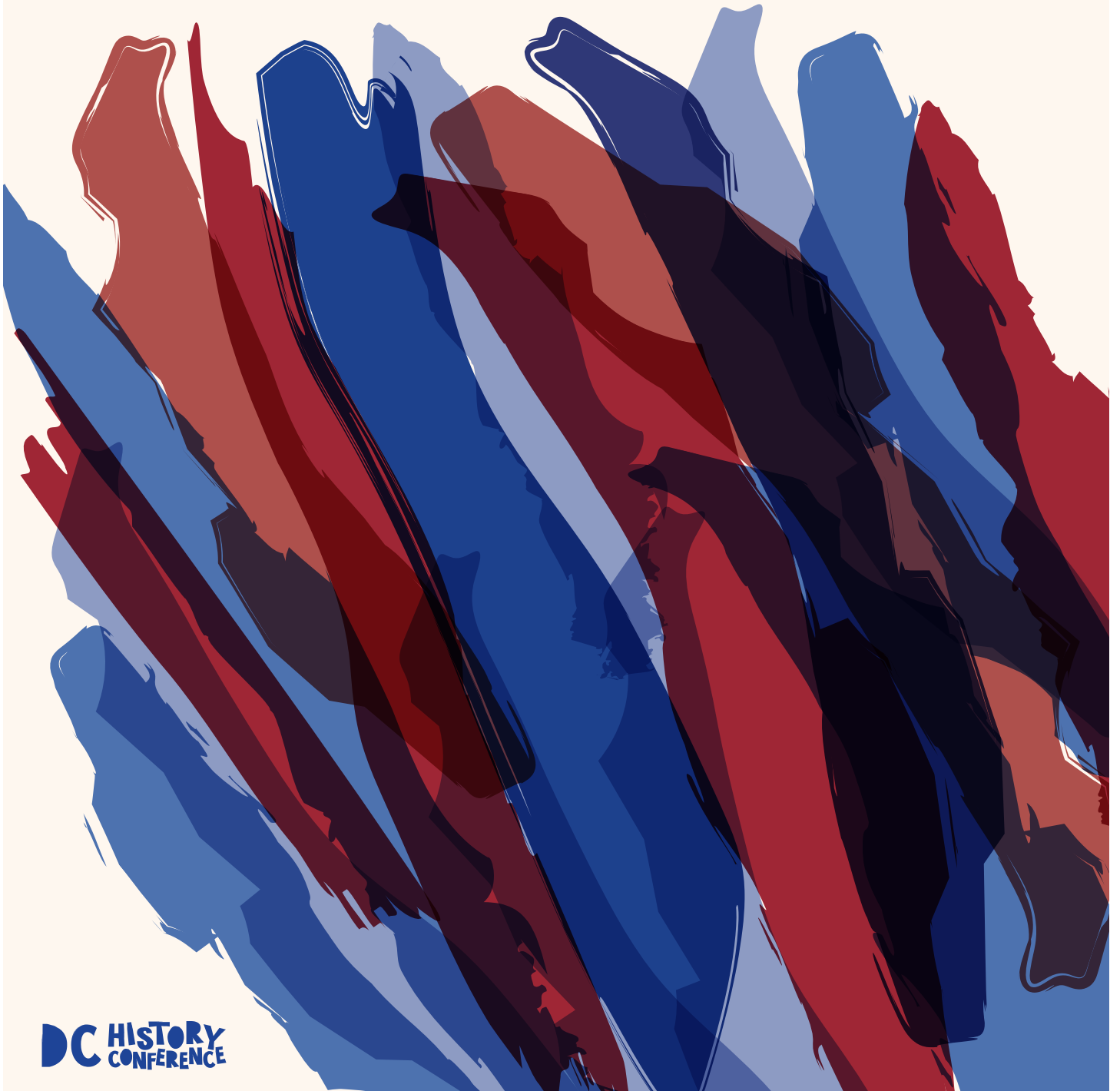
Lou Stovall and Lloyd McNeill, *Workshop-Corcoran, 1969*



Lou Stovall and Lloyd McNeill, *Excelsior in Education - Charles Cassel, 1968*

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.  
MEMORIAL LIBRARY

THURSDAY  
APRIL 4TH



DC HISTORY  
CONFERENCE

# LETITIA WOODS BROWN MEMORIAL LECTURE

## VANN R. NEWKIRK II & JERUSALEM DEMSAS: IN CONVERSATION

**6:00 – 7:15 pm**

**Location: Auditorium, 5th Floor**

*Reception to Follow*

*The Atlantic's* senior editor Vann R. Newkirk II and fellow staff writer Jerusalem Demsas discuss the 50th anniversary of Home Rule and Newkirk's related reporting, which looks to the past to navigate our present. In *The Atlantic's* recent *Holy Week* podcast, Newkirk told the story of the 1968 uprisings that followed the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and how the political fallout transformed DC. Newkirk and Demsas will draw from their extensive reporting on the ways that race and class shape the country's and the world's fundamental structures, considering the role of history and memory work as tools to make sense of the present and build a more just future.

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



### VANN R. NEWKIRK II

Vann R. Newkirk II is a senior editor at *The Atlantic*, and the host and co-creator of narrative podcasts *Floodlines* and *Holy Week*. For years, Newkirk has covered voting rights, democracy, and environmental justice, with a focus on how race and class shape the country's and the world's fundamental structures. Newkirk is a 2022 Andrew Carnegie fellow, and was a 2020 James Beard Award Finalist, a 2020 11th Hour Fellow at New America, and a 2018 recipient of the American Society of Magazine Editors's ASME Next Award. In 2021, Newkirk received the Peabody Award for *Floodlines*.



### JERUSALEM DEMSAS

Jerusalem Demsas is a staff writer at *The Atlantic*, where she writes about institutional failure and democracy through stories on housing, infrastructure, and mobility. Her work touches on citizen voice, federalism, and the politics of exclusion, among other topics. Demsas is also a visiting fellow at Johns Hopkins University's Center for Economy and Society. Previously, she was a writer at Vox covering policy stories and co-host of the politics and policy podcast *The Weeds*. Demsas received the American Society of Magazine Editors' 2023 ASME Next Award for journalists under 30.

## ABOUT LETITIA WOODS BROWN



Letitia Woods Brown was born on October 24, 1915, in Tuskegee, Alabama, to a family with strong ties to the Tuskegee Institute—known today as Tuskegee University. She received her BS from Tuskegee Institute and taught elementary school in Alabama before pursuing her graduate studies at Ohio State University and Harvard University. In 1966, Dr. Brown received her PhD in history from Harvard University after completing a dissertation centered on free and enslaved African Americans in Washington, DC. She went on to teach at Howard University and was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship. Dr. Brown joined the faculty of George Washington University in 1971 and taught there until her untimely passing in 1976.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.  
MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

**FRIDAY APRIL 5TH**

**9:30 AM - 7:00 PM**



**DC HISTORY  
CONFERENCE**



**NOTES. THOUGHTS. REFLECTIONS.**

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**Coffee Break | 9:30–10:30 am**

Come to the conference early on Friday morning to get registered (4th floor) and enjoy a free cup of coffee on the 5th floor, courtesy of the Downtown Business Improvement District.

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## **BLACK FREEDOM STRUGGLES IN CHEVY CHASE, 1725 – TODAY**

Black Washingtonians have resided in and shaped DC's Chevy Chase neighborhood for centuries, but this multiracial history is too often ignored. For example, generations of African Americans were enslaved on plantations in DC's northwest corner. Later, Black families were displaced from their land to create Lafayette Elementary School. This panel brings together descendants, scholars, and advocates to reflect on this fraught history and envision productive pathways forward towards restorative justice.

### **PANELISTS:**

**Mark Auslander**, *Anthropologist*, Mount Holyoke College

**Carl Lankowski**

**Jocelind Julien**

**Sharon Fletcher**

**MODERATOR: Cate Atkinson**

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## **EXPLORING BLACK DEAF HISTORY THROUGH THEATRE: VISIONARIES OF THE CREATIVE ARTS AND THE CENTER FOR BLACK DEAF STUDIES**

Both the Black Deaf Theatre on H Street and the Center for Black Deaf Studies at Gallaudet University emerged in the last five years. They provide a creative way for scholars and educators to center historical narratives about Black deaf communities. These organizations make space for the neglected experiences and unknown talent of their communities. This work is especially important as the move to suppress and revise the teaching of the history of marginalized and diverse populations grows.

### **PANELISTS:**

**Carolyn McCaskill, PhD**

**Michelle Banks**

**Evon Black**

**Lindsay Dunn**

**MODERATOR: Sandra Jowers-Barber, PhD** *Division Director*, Humanities and Criminology District of Columbia Community College



## MONUMENTS AND MEANING

American history, politics, and identity are embedded in the creation and legacies of our national monuments. This panel explores how American monuments—and the public's experiences visiting them—connect to American civics and controversies.

### COMING TO WASHINGTON: TRACING THE HISTORY OF VISITORS TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL

**M.J. Rymsza-Pawlowska**, *Associate Professor of History*, American University  
Drawing from a larger research project, this presentation shows how expectations and experiences of the city and its residents have changed drastically over time, fueled by depictions in popular and political culture as well as decisions by local and federal officials. Many who visit DC don't interact with locals and end up with an understanding of the city as a mixture of a company town for politics and a staging ground for changing practices of citizenship.

### THE FORGOTTEN, CONTROVERSIAL HISTORY OF WASHINGTON'S FIRST MONUMENT

**Matthew Goetz, PhD**, *Visiting Lecturer*, George Washington University  
In 1808, American naval officers erected a monument in DC's Navy Yard dedicated to officers who died in the Tripolitan War (1801-1805). Both the monument and the war it commemorated were enmeshed within debates over slavery and liberty. On the eve of the Civil War, Congress decided to move the monument from its second location on the Capitol grounds to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland where it remains today.

### IN BETWEEN: THE LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON MEMORIAL GROVE ON THE POTOMAC

**Angelina Ribeiro Jones**, *Historical Landscape Architect*, National Park Service  
Located close to DC's monumental core but separated from it by the Potomac River, the LBJ Memorial Grove was designed to be a "living memorial" inviting visitor interaction and engagement, while simultaneously providing opportunities for reflection. Envisioned by former First Lady Claudia "Lady Bird" Johnson and designed by landscape architect M. Meade Palmer, the grove sits in a liminal space physically due to its location and conceptually as both a commemorative and a civic space.

**MODERATOR: Kasey Sease**, *Curator*, Albert H. Small Washingtoniana Collection at The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum

THIS SESSION WAS ADOPTED BY THE **HEURICH HOUSE MUSEUM'S HUMANITIES SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE FELLOWSHIP** AND **PATRICK MALONE, MONUMENTAL-DC.COM.**

## CAPITAL ARTS AND ITS PATRONS

What can we learn about DC's history from the visual arts and its patrons? Contemplate this question by learning more about a little-known glass plate negative collection and a personal take on an artist's history.

### THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS: ROBERT SADLER'S PLATE NEGATIVES

**Ann Bennett**, *Anthropologist and Executive Director*, Laurel Historical Society  
This presentation explores a little-known glass plate negative collection held at the Laurel Historical Society, taken by photographer Robert H. Sadler, Jr. in the first decades of the 20th century. The collection showcases the people and places of Laurel, Maryland, and Washington, DC, and reveals hidden histories of some of its subjects.

### MAX WEYL, IMMIGRANT AND NOTED 19TH CENTURY DC LANDSCAPE PAINTER: THE PERSONAL STORY TOLD BY HIS GREAT-GRANDSON

**Chris Wolf**, *Board Chair*, DC History Center  
Jewish immigrant Max Weyl, founder of the Washington Landscape School, made his way to Washington in 1860. He got his start peddling jewelry before opening a storefront on 7th Street NW, where his amateur paintings caught the eye of Samuel Kauffman—his future patron. Told through the lens of his great-grandson, this presentation features Weyl's work and tells the story of how Wolf came to acquire many of his paintings.

**MODERATOR: Robert DeHart**, *Curator*, Tudor Place Historic House & Garden



### THE LEGACY OF LEE'S FLOWER SHOP

Lee's Flower Shop is the oldest Black-owned flower shop in Washington, DC. It has planted seeds of wisdom and perseverance in the District since 1945. Local filmmaker Kamilah Thurmon's short documentary shares the legacy of this community cornerstone and preserves the stories of new and old Washingtonians. This session includes a screening and a discussion.

#### PANELISTS:

**Kamilah Thurmon**, *Filmmaker*

**Stacie Lee Banks**

**Rick Lee**

**Kristie Lee**

## **WINNING WITH WISH: TENANT ORGANIZING IN WASHINGTON, DC, 1978–2003**

Washington Inncercity Self Help (WISH) was founded in 1978 as a way for low-income Washingtonians to organize around issues of importance to them. Housing was consistently a critical issue for their members. WISH helped tenants turn their buildings into housing cooperatives and helped dozens of low-income tenant associations take ownership over their buildings. WISH disbanded in 2003, but its work lives on through its housing cooperatives that still exist throughout the city. In this panel, four members of WISH's staff reflect on their work and its relevance for today.

### **PANELISTS:**

**Linda Leaks**

**Benito Diaz**

**Martha Davis**

**Rozanne Look**

**MODERATOR: Amanda Huron**, *Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences and Political Science, University of the District of Columbia*

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## **CELEBRATING DC HISTORY THROUGH CHINESE POETRY AND ART**

In 1851, Mr. Chiang Kai was the first Chinese person to register an address in DC on Pennsylvania Avenue. Immigrants of Chinese heritage have made DC and the metro area home ever since. Mr. Bing Huang, a renowned local calligrapher and artist, will present an artwork series spotlighting historic sites in DC. Ms. Xia "Jenny" Gao, a prolific local poet, will share poems highlighting lived DC history written in Chinese by members of the local Chinese-American Community. Lily Liu will read the English translations of the poems.

**MODERATOR: Lily Liu**, *Writer and Literary Translator*

### **PANELISTS:**

**Bing Huang**, *Calligrapher and Artist*

**Xia "Jenny" Gao**, *Poet*

THIS SESSION WAS ADOPTED BY **AARP MARYLAND**.

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## ACTIVISM AND PROTEST

This panel discusses activism for gay rights and DC self-determination as well as the fight against anti-Semitism. Panelists will discuss how Washingtonians fought for their causes and what challenges they faced. Each of these presentations about activism of the past offers insight into activism in the present.

### **GAY RIGHTS AND THE RISE OF THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT IN WASHINGTON, DC, 1970-1980**

**Danny Ballon-Garst**, *PhD Candidate, Emory University, DC History Center Totman Fellow*

This presentation traces the role of religious people and institutions in the gay rights movement—and its opposition—in 1970s DC. Public displays of gay liberation and local legislative successes in 1976 and 1977 elicited the anti-gay backlash of the increasingly powerful and dominating Religious Right. This rise was a response to a brief moment in time when it looked like the gay rights movement, and the gay Christian movement in particular, just might win.

### **SELF-DETERMINATION, EQUALITY, AND THE 1982 DC STATEHOOD CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**

**Tim Kumfer**, *Fellow, Georgetown University*

The all but forgotten 1982 District of Columbia Statehood Constitutional Convention adopted the New Columbia Constitution which guaranteed employment or income, protected reproductive and sexual freedom, and upheld affirmative action. Local elected officials and media commentators cited this as a key reason that statehood found few backers on Capitol Hill. Drawing on transcripts of the convention proceedings and oral history interviews, this presentation offers a different perspective on the New Columbia Constitution and the process that led to its ratification.

### **"THE ROCKWELL MADNESS": JEWS ENCOUNTERING THE AMERICAN NAZI PARTY IN 1960S WASHINGTON, DC**

**Andrew Sperling**, *Phd Candidate, American University*

George Lincoln Rockwell launched the American Nazi Party in Arlington in 1959 and sought publicity for his organization through pickets and demonstrations in DC. Jewish leaders in Washington disagreed on the best strategic approach to combating this hatred, from militancy to ignoring the neo-Nazi menace. Washington Jewry entered bitter disputes over the complexities of free speech and civil liberties. Some defended Rockwell's rights, leading to debates about how fascism succeeds in democratic societies.

**MODERATOR: Benji de la Piedra**, *Writer, Oral Historian*

THIS SESSION WAS ADOPTED BY **DC LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**.

# HISTORY NETWORK 1:15 - 3:15

**The History Network provides conference attendees with the opportunity to meet representatives from organizations doing humanities-based work across the DMV. Learn about an organization, project, or initiative you'd like to follow, volunteer with, or join and pick up information and swag from participating organizations and individuals.**

## SESSION C 3:30 - 4:45

### **CITIZEN STRUGGLES TO IMPROVE HOUSING IN WASHINGTON DC, 1983 AND 2023**

How do housing struggles in 1983 compare to those in 2023 and what does that tell us about economic opportunity, social mobility, and public revenue in the capital? How do the disorientation, loss, and opportunity that accompany gentrification shape these issues? How can the District create policies that include rather than exclude? This panel engages these questions by revisiting the 1983 paper "Safe, Decent and Affordable: Citizen Struggles to Improve Housing in the District of Columbia, 1890-1982 " and discussing the direction of activism and policy today.

#### **PANELISTS:**

**Jerome S. Paige**, *Board Chair*, DC Fiscal Policy Institute

**Erica Williams**, *Executive Director*, DC Fiscal Policy Institute

**Amanda Huron**, *Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences*, University of the District of Columbia

#### **MODERATOR:**

**Phylcia Fauntleroy Bowman**, *former DC Public Service Commission Executive Director*

THIS SESSION WAS ADOPTED BY **CHRIS WOLF**.

## ORAL HISTORIES AND HEIRLOOMS

Collecting first-hand accounts of a community's experiences is a vital way to appreciate and preserve a group's history. Learn about efforts to gather oral histories of DC's Black Pride and Black literary arts community—and how to research family heirlooms.

### DC BLACK PRIDE, COMMUNITY SPACE AND RADICAL POSSIBILITY

**Orilonise Yarborough**, *Public Historian*, National Museum of African American History and Culture

A party is more than just a party and nowhere is this better illustrated than in the history of Pride celebrations. Black Pride programming, auxiliary events, and culture showcase the expansiveness of the local Black queer and trans communities. These communities make and remake traditions to respond to the needs of its people. This presentation will focus on the development of an oral history collection focused on DC Black Pride and the radical possibility of celebratory spaces.

### THE IMPACT OF THE DC YOUTH WRITERS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

**Khadijah Ali-Coleman, EdD**, Hurston/Wright Foundation  
**DeAndrea Johnson**, Hurston/Wright Foundation

The Hurston/Wright DC Youth Writers Oral History Project debuted July 2023 on the campus of Howard University. The project provides youth participants with training on how to conduct effective interviews, research, and gather historical data on the Black literary arts community in DC. This session shares the strategy for designing the program and discusses the impact of implementing oral history projects that showcase aspects of the Black experience.

### LOVE LETTERS, HEIRLOOMS, AND TREASURES

**Wanda Alderman, PhD**, *Urban Sociologist and Author*

For nearly 100 years, 45 love letters stayed in a cardboard box. Every word described a Black couple's journeys and secrets during the Great Migration. The presenter outlines how to research and write family history with heirlooms and treasures gathered by ancestors. When family histories are overlooked, there is no ability to link family roots, heritage, and one's place in the world.

**MODERATOR: Shilpi Malinowski**, *Writer and Oral Historian*

## DC'S BUILT ENVIRONMENT

From alleys to sewers to bike lanes, the city's infrastructure is the product of American culture and politics. Learn about the history of the sanitation system, sustainability projects, and bicycle lanes that are part of DC's built environment.

### **SANITATION SYSTEMS AND SLUMS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF WASHINGTON, DC**

**Carmen Bolt**, *PhD Candidate*, American University

At the turn of the 20th century, government entities worked to expand public services and to address alley dwellings as part of the effort to implement the McMillan Plan, a design for the model capital city. Officials aimed to remove raw waste from the streets into the rivers and to displace predominantly Black residents from alley dwellings. Municipal officials believed in their capacity to address sanitation issues through public services but only for certain demographics and neighborhoods.

### **THE HISTORY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CAPITAL**

**Jaleel Shujath**, *Graduate Student*, University of the District of Columbia

How have sustainable development initiatives in Washington, DC transformed from the post World War II era to today's Sustainability 2.0 initiative? Charting the evolution of policy frameworks, urban planning, and community-driven endeavors, this presentation sheds light on the intricate balance between socio-economic growth and environmental preservation in an iconic urban setting. Learn how sustainable development has shaped and continues to shape Washington, DC.

### **THE GROWTH OF BICYCLING IN WASHINGTON, 1970 TO TODAY**

**Peter Harnik**, Washington Area Bicyclist Association

Learn about the 50-year political struggle to improve Washington's bicycling facilities, increase the number of cyclists, and reduce the tyranny of auto traffic. How can we boost this environmentally friendly urban transportation mode and protect cyclists' safety? The presentation will discuss bike lanes, trails, Bikeshare, bikes-on-Metro, bike parking, making Beach Drive a car-free road, river crossings, and more.

**MODERATOR: Dominique Hazzard**, *PhD Candidate*, Johns Hopkins University

## HONORING THE LEGACIES OF THREE DC WOMEN

This panel examines the impacts of three Washington women on education, diplomacy, and religious institutions. Each woman navigated different eras and circumstances, and their biographies offer valuable lessons about DC's past.

### **LUCY DIGGS SLOWE: A LEGACY OF SISTERHOOD AND INFLUENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Amy Quarkume**, *Associate Professor*, Howard University

Lucy Diggs Slowe was a trailblazing presence in Washington, DC, whose life and contributions were characterized by a profound commitment to unity and solidarity among college-educated Black women. Her enduring impact, both as an individual and as a symbol of communal empowerment and advocacy for women in academic circles, left an indelible imprint on the higher education landscape, influencing generations for years to come.

### **VIRGINIA MURRAY BACON: POLICY WHISPERER AND POWER HOSTESS**

**Elizabeth Warner**, *Archivist*, Bacon House Foundation

Virginia Murray Bacon (1890–1980), the last private owner of the historic DACOR Bacon House, spent her life dedicated to international diplomacy, democracy, and the political process. Roles for women were highly restricted in her day, but she exercised considerable power and influence through the channels available to her which included hosting fabulous dinner parties as well as speaking at political rallies and sponsoring conferences on how to deal with nuclear weapons.

### **BLACK CATHOLIC RESILIENCY THROUGH THE LONG LIFE OF AUNT PIGEON**

**C. Walker Gollar**, *Historian*, Xavier University

Aunt Pigeon served the Georgetown Jesuits both as an enslaved and a free individual. Her long story began generations before she was born, spanned centuries of injustice, and runs through the early history of Washington, DC. Her history indicts Catholics for fostering her ongoing oppression and challenges Catholic admirers, and all people of faith, to speak more honestly about the past.

**MODERATOR: Daraja Carroll**



# FRIDAY AFTER HOURS

**5:00 – 7:00 PM**

**LOCATION: 5TH FLOOR ROOFTOP**

Join us after Friday's final session for an evening of food, drink, music, and dancing! Our "after hours" party will include a short address from the conference partners, a cash bar, light bites, and a DJ to get us grooving. Take this opportunity to connect with friends old and new, and raise a glass to 50 years of the DC History Conference!



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.  
MEMORIAL LIBRARY

SATURDAY  
APRIL 6TH

9:30 AM - 6:00 PM



DC HISTORY  
CONFERENCE



**NOTES. THOUGHTS. REFLECTIONS.**

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**Coffee Break | 9:30–10:30 am**

Come to the conference early on Saturday morning to get registered (4th floor) and enjoy a free cup of coffee on the 5th floor, courtesy of EHT Traceries.

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## QUEER IDENTITY AND EARLY DC WRITERS

What are the ethical issues that arise from using modern labels to identify writers of earlier periods who were living before the words “homosexual” and “gay” came into widespread use? Why does this kind of discovery and uncovering feel so compelling and significant? This panel will discuss specific examples of early DC writers including Benjamin Banneker, Walt Whitman, Mary P. Burrill, Alice Dunbar-Nelson, and Angelina Weld Grimké. Panelists will explore issues of public denial, personal safety, and hidden references to “othering” identities that are revealed in these authors’ writing.

### PANELISTS:

**Shay Dawson**, *Writer/Researcher and Museum Professional*

**Kim Roberts**, *Poet and Literary Historian*

**Dan Vera**, *Poet and Literary Historian*

### MODERATOR:

**Peter Montgomery**, *Writer/Researcher*

THIS SESSION WAS ADOPTED BY **HAROLD M. LEICH**.

## CHANGING CHALLENGES INTO POSSIBILITIES: MULTIGENERATIONAL PERSPECTIVES FROM BLACK MEN IN WARD 7

Life Pieces To Masterpieces (LPTM) is an arts-based youth development and mentoring organization for Black and Brown boys and young men ages 3–25 in Ward 7. Since its 1996 founding, 2,000+ young men have shaped LPTM’s Human Development framework. Panelists—current participants, alumni, and elders—will illuminate how LPTM’s unique framework provides tools to overcome community challenges rooted in systemic inequities. They will share their visions for the future of their city, and highlight how LPTM’s Human Development framework has already impacted Ward 7, Washington, DC, and the world.

### PANELISTS:

**William “Elder Bill” Pitts**, *LPTM Counselor and Family Engagement Advisor*

**Andre Johnson**, *LPTM Alum and Educator*

**Cateo Hilton**, *LPTM Alum and Sophomore at Delaware State University*

**Ricquan Greenfield**, *LPTM Junior Mentor and High School Student*

**Jevah Hubbard-Dance**, *LPTM Junior Mentor and High School Student*

**Josiah Maultsby**, *LPTM Junior Mentor and High School Student*

### MODERATOR:

**Raymond Covington**, *LPTM Board President*

## ROUNDTABLE: THE ANC RAINBOW CAUCUS AND 50 YEARS OF LGBTQ+ ELECTED OFFICIALS

2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission, DC's non-partisan neighborhood representative system. Members of the LGBTQ+ community have served as ANC commissioners from the very beginning. This panel discusses this history and the ANC Rainbow Caucus, a recent organization that helps LGBTQ+ ANC commissioners build community and support. Panelists will reflect on their experiences as "out" elected officials, evaluate the work of the Rainbow Caucus, and discuss an upcoming oral history project designed to preserve DC LGBTQ+ history.

### PANELISTS:

**Vincent Slatt, Kent Boese, Monika Nemeth, Phil Pannell, Rayceen Pendarvis, Brian Glover, Salvador Saucedo-Guzman, Mike Silverstein**

### MODERATOR:

**Ra Amin, ANC Commissioner**



## NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY AND HOUSING

What can we learn by narrowing our focus to a specific neighborhood or housing development? Gain an appreciation for neighborhood history as these presenters discuss white flight, housing development, and Black home ownership.

### **REAL ESTATE SPECULATION AND WHITE FLIGHT IN BRIGHTWOOD PARK, DC**

**Tanya Golash-Boza, PhD**, *Executive Director of the University of California Washington Center*

In 1940, Brightwood Park had no Black residents. By 1990, 96% of the neighborhood's residents were Black. What changed during those 50 years? Many scholars argue that white flight was provoked by real estate agents' block-busting—convincing white families to sell their homes by telling them that Black people were moving there—and the accompanying profits. Based on hundreds of real estate transactions, oral histories, and archival records, this presenter found there's more to the story.

### **HOUSING WASHINGTON DURING WORLD WAR I**

**Neil Flanagan**, *Public Historian*

The United States Housing Corporation was created during World War I to address housing shortages. In DC, the war workers in need of housing were overwhelmingly white-collar, and many were educated single women and politically active members of the Black bourgeoisie. The USHC's leadership navigated this political landscape for eleven frenetic months before largely abandoning the housing projects. Nonetheless, relationships formed during this effort were essential to transforming DC into a monumental National Capital in the two decades that followed.

### **HYPER LOCAL DC HISTORY AND THE BLACK HOMEOWNERS OF TRUXTON CIRCLE**

**M Marie Maxwell**, *Neighborhood Historian*

This presentation is based on research examining Black home ownership during the early part of the 20th century and it will touch upon the issues of redlining, disinvestment, and attempts at renewal. Using resources such as Ancestry.com, deeds, newspapers, and traditional archival resources, this presentation will discuss African American homeowners in Truxton Circle from 1880-1950.

**MODERATOR: Daniel del Pielago**, *Housing Director, Empower DC*

THIS SESSION WAS ADOPTED BY THE **HEURICH HOUSE MUSEUM'S HUMANITIES SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE FELLOWSHIP** AND **JOE HIMALI, BEST ADDRESS.**



## ROUNDTABLE: 50 YEARS OF LGBTQ PRIDE ACTIVITY IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

In June 2025, Washington will host World Pride to coincide with the 50th anniversary of DC's first Gay Pride Day in 1975. The Rainbow History Project (RHP) is spearheading an 18-month initiative to create an exhibit on the history of Pride in DC. This roundtable will present the research findings and exhibit themes and solicit public feedback. Historians, activists, and community members are invited to review the progress, provide suggestions, and identify images and oral histories to include. Feedback will be critical before RHP designs the exhibit graphics in fall 2024.

### PANELISTS:

**Paul Kuntzler**, Mattachine Society, White House Picket Participant, 1965

**Leigh Mosley**, *Photographer*, 1966 – Present

**Lynne Brown**, *Washington Blade*, 1987 – Present

**Chris Dyer**, Youth Pride Alliance, co-founder, 1997

**Kenya Hutton**, Center for Black Equity, 2013 – Present

**MODERATOR: Vincent Slatt**, *Director of Archiving*, Rainbow History Project

## FROM ATLANTIS TO THE 9:30 CLUB

The 9:30 Club has been an incubator and important part of DC's music scene for more than four decades. It has inspired countless musicians and music fans, fostered community, and continues to inspire future generations to be involved in artistic expression and creativity. But how did this DC institution start? This roundtable discussion brings together the people who turned the short-lived Atlantis into the legendary venue that continues to inspire new generations of music lovers. Join this entertaining and informative conversation.

### PANELISTS:

**Bob Boilen**, Tiny Desk Unit/NPR

**Dody DiSanto**, 9:30 Club/The Center

**Kevin Duplain**, Atlantis Nightclub

**John Paige**, Interzone/Universal Media, Inc.

**Chris Thompson**, Interzone/Tiny Desk Unit

### MODERATOR:

**Ian MacKaye**, Dischord Records/Fugazi/Coriky

SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH

## PLANNING PIONEER OR PARIAH? RETHINKING HARLAND BARTHOLOMEW'S LEGACY

As a planning consultant and later the National Capital Planning Commission Chair, Harland Bartholomew profoundly shaped the physical and social landscape of Washington, DC. His work set the stage for urban renewal and the construction of major highways within the city. However, his projects institutionalized segregation, racialized displacement, and physically disconnected communities. This discussion highlights his work, the complex and disturbing legacy, and the racially inequitable impacts of his planning work on the city's residents and the physical form of the city. How do we recognize and confront these historic inequities in meaningful ways today, including through reform and thoughtful re-development?

### PANELISTS:

**Kael Anderson**, *Community Planner, NCPC*

**Brittney Drakeford**, *Community Planner, NCPC*

**Carmen Bolt**, *PhD Candidate, American University*

**MODERATOR: Angela Dupont**, *Senior Community Planner, NCPC*





## STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS

This panel will discuss what the history of three DC schools—the physical buildings, students, and educators—can teach us about our city. Themes will include architectural design, Black history, and neighborhood history.

### OPEN-PLAN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY CONTROL IN “CHOCOLATE CITY”

**Esa Syeed**, *Assistant Professor of Sociology, California State University–Long Beach*  
From its origins as a Black community-controlled school in the late 1960s, Marie Reed Learning Center (formerly the Thomas P. Moral School) was redesigned as an open-plan school and community center in the 1970s. The school's various incarnations speak to the critical connections between race, education, and space. This presentation re-frames school design as an antiracist practice that can build community identity as well as power.

### UPTOWN: THE HISTORY OF BELL VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

**Christopher Stewart**, *Librarian*

Bell Vocational High School is located in DC's Columbia Heights neighborhood. This presentation will discuss the school's history from the early 1900s to today and how national and local trends have shaped the school. Learn from the school's senior librarian about Bell's students, the communities they come from, what they've done after graduation, and how the school has changed over time.

### THE MCKINLEY TECH YEARBOOK COMMITTEE AND THE 1969 TECHITE

**Marya McQuirter**, *Independent Historian*

This presentation focuses on the 1969 Techite, a yearbook produced by students at McKinley Technical High School. Through its "black awareness" theme, students collectively produced a rich text that researchers can mine for understanding Black aesthetics and Blackness in the late 1960s. While much of the scholarship on Black studies focuses on colleges and universities, this yearbook highlights how teenagers were artistically, intellectually, and physically producing Black aesthetics through their yearbook.

**MODERATOR: Erica Sterling**, DC History Center

# POSTER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

## **HONORING BLACK FUGITIVE FOLKLORE THROUGH CREATIVE STUDY**

*Workshop 1:30–3:00, 5th Floor Event Space*

**Jessica Valoris**, Artist, Community Facilitator

The histories of slavery, abolitionist organizing, free Black towns, and Black liberatory practice are too often neglected in DC’s public discourse. Using archival documents and materials, this session will invite participants to engage local stories, people, and sites; and to reflect on their significance through creative writing and song. Through guided creative study and writing, this special poster session feature will honor local histories of Black resistance to slavery and the legacies of community care that they activated.

## **WE WHO BELIEVE IN FREEDOM: BLACK FEMINIST DC COMMUNITY VOICE PROJECT**

*Guided Experience at 1:30 and 2:30 First Floor West*

**Rebecca Ljungren**, Educational Programs Manager, National Women’s History Museum

Attendees can experience an interactive audio tour inside the exhibition *We Who Believe in Freedom: Black Feminist DC* and hear more about co-creating interactive tours in public spaces during the poster session, a project presented as a collaboration between the DC Public Library, The Playful City Lab at American University, and the National Women’s History Museum. With the goal of democratizing the process of creating interactive, low-tech experiences in public spaces, this special audio tour uses the tool “Hive Mechanic,” which empowers anyone to create outdoor and immersive experiences from ordinary phones – no coding or programming skills required.

## **REIMAGINING DC THROUGH ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY**

**Nikki Grigg**, Archaeologist, PhD candidate at the University of Chicago

Archaeology can help us recover the histories of ordinary people whose lives aren’t included in the documented or oral record. This special poster session feature invites participants to connect to neighborhood histories through archaeological artifacts. Reflect through drawing, painting, collage, and writing on DC’s past through neighborhood and household histories. Notice what themes reappear then and now: gentrification, immigration, and statehood. What District histories are remembered, forgotten, or obscured? How can DC’s past—and our own memories of the city—help us reimagine its future?

**LEARNING FROM MEMORY: SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON ORAL HISTORY**

*Location: People's Archive 1:30 - 3:00 PM*

Listen—no, really, listen to a sampling of oral history clips from the DC Oral History Collaborative and other DC-focused collections. Participants will immerse themselves in interviewees' stories and then will discuss them in small groups led by community oral history experts. What do we gain by closely listening to someone's memories? What might we hear? What might we learn: about history, about ourselves? Take this opportunity to explore, with us, oral history's incredible value as a medium for understanding life experiences beyond our own.

**FACILITATED BY HUMANITIESDC:**

**Jasper Collier**

**Izy Carney**

**Dominique Hazzard**

**John Johnson**



**PROGRESSIVE BLACK FEMINIST ORGANIZING IN DC FROM 1960-1990S**

This panel will uplift the stories of five Black women who were involved in the Black feminist movement in DC from the 1960s through the 1990s. Panelists will discuss the organizations they founded and were members of; ways they organized folks; how they lived, found joy, and built community; and how they ultimately modeled the kind of world they wanted to live in. These stories can be fuel for the next generation of liberation fighters.

**PANELISTS:**

**Tania Abdulahad, MSW, Co-founder, Sapphire Sapphos**

**Linda Leaks, Organizer, MSCED, Inductee into the Cooperative Hall of Fame, 2023**

**Loretta J. Ross, Activist and Author Smith College, 2022 MacArthur "Genius" Awardee**

**Ajowa Nzinga Ifateyo, MSNIH, MBA, MSCED**

**Nkenge Toure, Founder, WPFW's In Our Voices, Member, Sophie's Parlor**

**MODERATOR:**

**Elizabeth Tibebu**

## CAPITAL CULTURE

How have Washingtonians historically worshiped, danced, and created music? Learn more about three pillars of DC culture at the turn of the twentieth century.

### WASHINGTON, DC'S FULL GOSPEL ASSEMBLY 1907-1934

**Donald Kammer, PhD**

Full Gospel Assembly was a local church that offered some of the most dynamic and well-attended religious activities through the Roaring Twenties and Great Depression years. The church grew out of interracial meetings during the Jim Crow Era and it later welcomed some of the most dynamic female preachers to its pulpit. Despite skepticism of Pentecostalism at the time, the church grew and received positive press coverage in the city.

### PLACES FOR DANCING ON U STREET, 1903-1910

**Bridget Jamison**, Graduate Student, University of Maryland

This presentation will discuss the opening of two U Street institutions—the True Reformer Building (1903) and the Howard Theatre (1910)—as the area took its first steps towards becoming “Black Broadway.” Washingtonians created these spaces to dance and watch dance performances. These spaces also fulfilled community needs for engaging with the arts.

### THE MUSIC BUSINESS IN DC IN THE GOLDEN AGE OF PIANOS

**John DeFerrari**, DC History Center

Pianos were a versatile and ubiquitous home entertainment mechanism in late Victorian and early 20th century homes. DC piano merchants mostly clustered downtown on G Street NW around 13th Street, which became a center for the music business. The presentation will offer portraits of some of the most prominent DC piano dealers and explore their rise in the 1880s and ultimate decline beginning in the 1910s.

**MODERATOR: Dwayne Lawson-Brown**, Community Engagement Specialist, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities

## BURIED HISTORIES OF SLAVERY AND THE CIVIL WAR

A house buried beneath a garden; a forgotten freedom fighter; and the stories of Civil War sex workers. Learn more about the antebellum and Civil War eras in DC through three presentations.

### THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF AN ENSLAVED HOME SPACE IN GEORGETOWN

**Ianna Recco**, *Collections Manager, Tudor Place Historic House*

Invisible to the eye and buried beneath the Tudor Place Gardens in Georgetown lies what archaeologists in 2022 determined to likely be a dwelling used by enslaved individuals. Enslaved home spaces were built on foundations of bondage and oppression but were also homes where culture, community, and family bonds persevered. Although this home space was forgotten long ago, the stories contained within it continue to unfold as the legacy of its enslaved community persists.

### THOMAS SMALLWOOD: AN ANTISLAVERY WASHINGTON HERO LOST TO HISTORY

**Scott Shane**, *Journalist and Author*

After Thomas Smallwood bought his freedom, he became a shoemaker near Navy Yard in Southeast and in 1842 started organizing mass escapes from slavery. Smallwood wrote about these escapes in real-time satirical dispatches for a newspaper, using the real names of the enslavers he mocked and the escaping people he celebrated. He also gave the underground railroad its name. Learn more about this fascinating figure who has largely been left out of history.

### SEX WORK IN CIVIL-WAR WASHINGTON AND BEYOND

**Katie Kirkpatrick**, *Founder, Off the Mall Tours*

Washington, DC saw an unprecedented rise in sex work during the Civil War due to the thousands of Union soldiers who flooded into the city for training. Brothels provided income, shelter, and independence for women who in some cases had few other places to turn. They built businesses and turned access to politicians into influence. This presentation focuses on these sex workers' stories.

**MODERATOR: Lisa Fager**, *Executive Director, Black Georgetown Foundation*

## COMMUNITY AND REPRESENTATION: THE 1960S AND 1970S IN DC

How did Washingtonians organize and fight for their communities and for political representation in the 1960s and 70s? Learn about DC's fight for democratic representation, the understudied stories of DC Latinos, and the power of go-go.

### DC'S NONVOTING SENATOR: A LOST DREAM OF HOME RULE

**Elliot Mamet**, *Political Scientist*, Princeton

The DC Home Rule Act of 1973 included a provision awarding DC a non-voting Senate seat. While non-voting delegates date back to 1794, never before had a non-state entity been awarded a non-voting Senate seat. This provision was struck only at the very last minute. Fifty years after Home Rule, this presentation reconstructs that history.

### DC LATINO HISTORY, 1968-1975

**Arturo Griffiths**, *Activist and Organizer*

DC Latinos who organized and worked in the community prior to the 1980s wave of Central American immigration have stories to tell. While little has been written on this era of DC Latino history, valuable resources exist in living room archives and oral histories. This presentation will discuss the experiences of those who worked and lived during the period 1968-1975.

### GO-GO AND COMMUNITY IN THE LATE 1970S AND EARLY 1980S

**Alan Parkes**, *PhD Candidate*, University of Delaware

This presentation will uncover how go-go music both reflected and challenged racial politics. How did the political landscape of the late 70s—including the tension between local and national politics—inspire the go-go scene? Go-go scene members constructed a community in response to DC's political climate as well as a history of black suppression in the US.

**MODERATOR: Jerome Paige**, *Board Chair*, DC Fiscal Policy Institute

# SATURDAY KEYNOTE ADDRESS

## CRIME CAPITAL?: A HISTORY OF POLITICIZING DC CRIME AND HOW WASHINGTONIANS FOUGHT BACK

**Kyla Sommers, PhD**, *Independent Historian*

**5:00 – 6:00 pm**

**Location: Auditorium, 5th Floor**

Since desegregation, politicians have stoked fears of urban crime in Washington, DC to rally white voters and undermine civil rights. This reached a fever pitch after the 1968 rebellions. Richard Nixon turned the capital into an anti-crime policy laboratory and his “law and order” measures were modeled across the country. Yet amid rising crime rates and public panic, the DC Council ignored calls to expand police authority and instead launched initiatives to grant citizens more control over law enforcement. As DC crime dominates headlines today, this presentation examines the efforts of Washingtonians who fought to make the city a more equitable, safe, and democratic community.



## Friday, April 5th 1:15 – 3:15 PM Great Hall, 1st Floor

The History Network provides conference attendees with the opportunity to meet representatives from organizations doing humanities-based work across the DMV. Learn about an organization, project, or initiative you'd like to follow, volunteer with, or join and pick up information and swag from participating organizations and individuals.

- A Tour of Her Own
- A Train Runs Through It: The Life and Loves from Columbian Harmony Cemetery
- African American Holiday Association (AAHA)
- Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society - James Dent Walker Chapter
- Albert H. Small Center for National Capital Area Studies
- Alliance to Preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington
- Anacostia Community Museum
- AOI of DC (The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of DC)
- Archives Advisory Group
- Arlington Historical Society
- Bethesda African Cemetery Coalition
- Black and White People in Washington DC Getting Along Together
- Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives
- Coming to Washington Project / Humanities Truck
- DACOR Bacon House Foundation
- DC Alliance for Response
- DC Collaborative
- DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
- DC Historic Preservation Office, Office of Planning
- DC History Center
- DC Office of Public Records and Archives
- DC Preservation League
- Diversity Equity and Inclusion Programming, Woodrow Wilson House
- DMV Filipino History (Community Project)
- Events DC Cultural Affairs Department
- Exposed DC
- Female RE-Enactors of Distinction (FREED)
- Friday Morning Music Club
- Georgetown Heritage
- Georgetown University Press
- Georgetown-Howard Center for Medical Humanities and Health Justice
- Heurich House Museum
- Historic Chevy Chase DC
- Historic Congressional Cemetery
- History of the American Fazl Mosque
- HumanitiesDC
- Indivisible - An Alternate History
- Master Calligrapher Bing Huang
- Mayor's Office of Racial Equity (ORE)
- Military Road School Preservation Trust
- National Capital Planning Commission Centennial
- National Postal Museum
- Rainbow History Project
- Rock Creek Park and the Friends of Peirce Mill: William Beckett Project
- Rorschach Theatre's Psychogeographies Projects
- The Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum
- University of Virginia Press
- U.S. Capitol Historical Society
- Veterans Curation Program
- Washington Walks
- Washingtonia Collection of Marc David Miller
- WETA Boundary Stones
- White House Historical Association
- Women's History and Resource Center at the General Federation of Women's Clubs





## **Saturday, April 6, 1:15 – 3:15 PM Great Hall, 1st Floor**

At the DC History Conference Poster Session, presenters share their research visually with attendees in small groups. Visit poster presenters to learn about their work and ask questions! Continue the conversation on social media, sharing your favorites and connecting with presenters.

**25 Years of DC Archaeology Guidance**, *Ruth Troccoli, Christine Ames*

**Afrocentric Expression at the Malcolm X Park Drum Circle**, *Rami Stucky*

**All Things Great and Small: Conducting Collection Inventories**, *Julie Botnick*

**Beyond Granite**, *Lauren Wilson, Johanna McCrehan*  
**Chocolate City Life Histories: DC's Long 1970s Through the Words, Work, and Worlds of Gil Scott-Heron and Herbert Denton**, *Benji de la Piedra*

**DC Archaeology Month Poster Process**, *Ambria Safford, Beth Pruitt*

**DC's Catholic Church in Spanish**, *Elisabeth Macias*  
**Educating Our Youth: Explaining Sensitive Topics In Our History**, *Melissa Havran*

**Epiphany Church's Tuesday concerts**, *Carol Morgan*  
**From Environmental Histories to Environmental Futures: A Collaborative Practice**, *Sydney Luken, Jason Farr, Minji Jang*

**History of the American Fazl Mosque**, *Maliha Luqman, Yahya Luqman*

**History of the Rollingwood Burial Ground for Enslaved People in Chevy Chase, Maryland**, *Renata Lisowski*

**Latino/a/x Advisory Group & Community Engagement: Addressing Archival Silences Through Comunidad**, *Mariana Barros-Titus, Jose Gutierrez, Leti Gomez, Kristy LiPuma, Daniel del Pielago*

**Leafing Through the Pages: The Role of Gay and Lesbian Bookstores in LGBTQ+ D.C.**, *Colette Combs*  
**Legacies, Contributions, Past and Present of African American Architects/Builders on the Built Environment**, *Michelle Jones*

**Mapping DC's LGBTQ+ Religious History: An Exploratory Conversation**, *Elisabeth Macias*  
**Mapping Foggy Bottom: An Innovative Neighborhood House History Project**, *Frank Leone, Denise Vogt*

**"Mi Legado Familiar" DC History Through Our Students' Family Histories**, *Rosalyn Lake*  
**NURSES SAVE LIVES: Train the Trainer: The Secret Weapon Program of Washington, DC (SWC)**, *Alicia Rucker*

**SWANN QUEEN: Film Screening + Community Conversation**, *L Cedeño Miller*

**The Nation's Guest: Lafayette in Washington DC**, *Elizabeth Reese*

**The Strange Case of Earl McFarland; or The Lonely Life of Dorothy Berrum**, *Vina Hutchinson Roberts*

**Weird DC: Strange Tales From the District**, *D Black*  
**Women on the Home Front WWI: The Four Minute Men**, *Stephanie Vickers*

**"You Have to Make Yourself Happy,"** *Okella Trice*



# AUTHOR'S CORNER

**Saturday, April 6, 1:15 – 3:15 PM Great Hall, 1st Floor**

New to the conference this year, the Authors' Corner, takes place during the Poster Session and features some of the best books about Washington history that have been published since 2022. Meet and mingle with your favorite DC historians, buy a copy of their books or have yours signed, and discover new authorship!

Tanya Golash-Boza, *Before Gentrification: The Creation of DC's Racial Wealth Gap* (2023, University of California Press)

Jessica Grieser, *The Black Side of the River: Race, Language, and Belonging in Washington, DC* (2022, Georgetown University Press)

Barry Harrelson, *Dirt Don't Burn: A Black Community's Struggle for Educational Equality Under Segregation* (2023, Georgetown University Press)

Edwin B. Henderson II, *The Grandfather of Black Basketball: The Life and Times of Dr. E B Henderson* (2024, Rowman & Littlefield)

A. Kim Hoagland, *The Row House in Washington DC* (2023, University of Virginia Press)

Armand Lione, *Native American History of Washington DC* (2023, Arcadia)

Shirley Marshall, *A Radical Suffragist in DC: An Inside Look* (2024, The History Press)

Shahan Mufti, *American Caliph: The True Story of a Muslim Mystic, a Hollywood Epic, and the 1977 Siege of Washington, DC* (2022, Farrar, Straus & Giroux)

Chip Py, *DC Go-Go: Ten Years Backstage* (2022, The History Press)

Elizabeth Reese, *Marquis de Lafayette Returns: A Tour of America's National Capital Region* (2024, The History Press)

Kyla Sommers, *When the Smoke Cleared: The 1968 Rebellions and the Unfinished Battle for Civil Rights in the Nation's Capital* (2023, The New Press)

Robert Watson, *When Washington Burned: The British Invasion of the Capital and a Nation's Rise from the Ashes* (2023, Georgetown University Press)

Katie J. Wells, Kafui Attoh & Declan Cullen, *Disrupting DC: The Rise of Uber and the Fall of the City* (2023, Princeton University Press)



# A GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

The DC History Center and other museums, nonprofits, and cultural institutions in Washington, DC offer various educational resources to assist educators with incorporating local history into the classroom. Below are just a few examples of the vast amount of resources and subject matter that organizations in DC offer to educators.

The **DC History Center** offers lesson plans to support DC history topics found in the DC Public Schools curriculum for grades 3-12. Examples include the Clarice Smith Neighborhood History program; materials to support Black Lives Matter at School; and standalone downloadable activities relating to DC history topics. Apply for the Summer 2024 Teach the District professional development cohort for hands-on experience with materials and training implementing them!

[dchistory.libguides.com/teach-the-district](https://dchistory.libguides.com/teach-the-district)  
[dchistory.libguides.com/educator-resources](https://dchistory.libguides.com/educator-resources)

**DC Public Library** has a wide variety of services and resources to support educators and their students, including the People's Archive which connects users to resources that illuminate DC's local history and culture.

[dclibrary.org/thepeoplesarchive](https://dclibrary.org/thepeoplesarchive)

**Anacostia Community Museum** provides online teaching resources in history, art, and culture available via the Smithsonian's Learning Lab, an online learning platform.

[learninglab.si.edu](https://learninglab.si.edu)

**Teaching for Change's** D.C. Area Educators for Social Justice compiles resources for educators to teach local history, lists of books for the classroom in Washington, DC, and strategies for teaching DC history, among many other resources.

[dcareaeducators4socialjustice.org/local-history](https://dcareaeducators4socialjustice.org/local-history)

# SCHEDULE & STANDARDS AT-A-GLANCE

And the teacher becomes the student: Here's a cheat sheet aligning conference sessions with selected District of Columbia K-12 Social Studies Standards as approved by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) in June 2023.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 4

### LETITIA WOODS BROWN MEMORIAL LECTURE 6:00 – 7:15 pm

Vann R. Newkirk II & Jerusalem Demsas in Conversation

*DC.36 Evaluate the efforts and opposition to the struggle for greater self-determination and suffrage for Washington, DC residents in the 1960s and 1970s, culminating in the passage of the Home Rule Act of 1973.*

## FRIDAY, APRIL 5

### SESSION A 10:15 – 11:30 am

**Black Freedom Struggles in Chevy Chase, 1725 – Today**

*3.7 Analyze how populations in Washington, DC have changed over time, including population increases, immigration and examples of racial and ethnic integration, segregation, and displacement (e.g., in Southwest DC).*

**Exploring Black Deaf History Through Theatre: Visionaries of the Creative Arts and the Center for Black Deaf Studies**

*3.38 Analyze how groups maintain their cultural heritage and how this heritage is manifested in the symbols, traditions and culture of Washington, DC.*

**Monuments and Meaning**

*3.11 Evaluate the utility of different representations of Washington, D.C. and the Chesapeake region, and use them to answer specific questions about the past.*

*3.41 Analyze the history and legacy of major monuments and historical sites in and around Washington, D.C..*

**Capital Arts and Its Patrons**

*3.39 Analyze the impact of significant local organizations and businesses on the history of Washington, D.C..*

### SESSION B 11:45 am – 1:00 pm

**The Legacy of Lee's Flower Shop**

*3.25 Evaluate the cultural and civic impact of significant people and institutions that comprised the Black U Street community in the 1920s and 1930s.*

**Winning with WISH: Tenant Organizing in Washington, DC, 1978–2003**

*DC.38 Evaluate the roles different grassroots community organizations played in fighting for the expansion of political and economic power in the District and nation from the mid- to late 20th century, including local organizing for tenant protections, LGBTQ+ rights and immigrant rights; national struggles for welfare rights and against poverty; and international fights against the Vietnam War, Apartheid and US imperialism in Latin America.*

**Celebrating DC History Through Chinese Poetry and Art**

*DC.24 Analyze the reasons for the growth of the Asian American community in Washington, DC, and evaluate the methods used by the community to resist displacement resulting from urban planning and federal policy.*

**Activism and Protest**

*DC.26 Analyze the impact of the Lavender Scare on LGBTQ+ life in Washington, D.C., and the actions taken by specific individuals and organizations (e.g. William Dorsey Swann and the Gay Liberation Front-DC), to increase the visibility and equality for LGBTQ+ individuals in Washington.*

### HISTORY NETWORK 1:15 – 3:15 pm

#### SESSION C 3:30 – 4:45 pm

**Citizen Struggles to Improve Housing in Washington DC, 1983 and 2023**

*3.42 Evaluate the different perspectives on the challenges facing current residents, and develop a plan for action to address one of those challenges.*

*3.35 Identify multiple ways people in the Washington community can influence their local government.*

**Oral Histories and Heirlooms**

*1.3 Explain the ways in which different populations including but not limited to Latinx, Black, Asian, white, immigrant, religious, LGBTQ+ and Indigenous communities, have shaped and defined the community of Washington, D.C..*

*3.12 Create a personal history of Washington, DC using oral histories, written sources and artifacts collected from family or community members.*

*DC.26 Analyze the impact of the Lavender Scare on LGBTQ+ life in Washington, D.C., and the actions taken by specific individuals and organizations (e.g. William Dorsey Swann and the Gay Liberation Front-DC), to increase the visibility and equality for LGBTQ+ individuals in Washington.*

**DC's Built Environment**

*3.9 Explain the impact of at least one significant urban planning decision in the history of Washington, D.C. on the health and composition of different communities in Washington, D.C. (e.g. redlining, public transit planning, the construction of highway 295).*

**Honoring the Legacies of Three DC Women**

*3.22 Analyze the lived experiences of different Washingtonians in the 19th century, including efforts to resist enslavement and the growth of a free Black community in the District.*

*US2.45 Analyze the social, political and economic impact of World War II on American society, including the contributions of and discrimination faced by different Americans, including women, Black Americans, Indigenous Nations, Asian Americans and Latinx Americans.*

# SATURDAY, APRIL 6

## SESSION D 10:15 – 11:30 am

### Queer Identity and Early DC Writers

1.3 Explain the ways in which different populations including but not limited to Latinx, Black, Asian white, immigrant, religious, LGBTQ+ and Indigenous communities, have shaped and defined the community of Washington, D.C..

### Challenges into Possibilities: Multigenerational Perspectives From Black Men in Ward 7

3.42 Evaluate the different perspectives on the challenges facing current residents, and develop a plan for action to address one of those challenges.

### The ANC Rainbow Caucus and 50 Years of LGBTQ+ Elected Officials (Roundtable)

3.28 Evaluate the impact of significant political movements, including labor movements, the Civil Rights movement, the Disability Rights movements, LGBTQ+ liberation and women's suffrage on life for District of Columbia residents.

DC.44 Assess the multiple ways District residents can influence the DC local government.

### Neighborhood History and Housing

US2.60 Evaluate the impact of federal and local policies in housing, infrastructure and economic development, such as redlining and housing covenants on the distribution of economic opportunity in the early 20th century.

DC.21 Evaluate the impact of city planning and federal policy on the geography of Washington, DC in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including the city's alley dwellings, local efforts at housing reform, and the development and displacement of the city's first Chinatown.

DC.25 Analyze the impact of World War I, the New Deal, and World War II on the District's population, geography and residents.

## SESSION E 11:45 am – 1:00 pm

### 50 Years of LGBTQ Pride Activity in the Nation's Capital (Roundtable)

1.3 Explain the ways in which different populations including but not limited to Latinx, Black, Asian, white, immigrant, religious, LGBTQ+ and Indigenous communities, have shaped and defined the community of Washington, D.C..

3.28 Evaluate the impact of significant political movements, including labor movements, the Civil Rights movement, the Disability Rights movements, LGBTQ+ liberation and women's suffrage on life for District of Columbia residents.

DC.26 Analyze the impact of the Lavender Scare on LGBTQ+ life in Washington, D.C., and the actions taken by specific individuals and organizations (e.g. William Dorsey Swann and the Gay Liberation Front-DC), to increase the visibility and equality for LGBTQ+ individuals in Washington.

### From Atlantis to the 9:30 Club

3.39 Analyze the impact of significant local organizations and businesses on the history of Washington, D.C..

### Planning Pioneer or Pariah? Rethinking Harland Bartholomew's Legacy

3.9 Explain the impact of at least one significant urban planning decision in the history of Washington, D.C. on the health and composition of different communities in Washington, D.C. (e.g. redlining, public transit planning, the construction of highway 295).

### Schools and Students

DC.32 Analyze the successes and unfinished work of the fight to desegregate schools in Washington, DC, including the role of *Bolling v. Sharpe*.

DC.33 Analyze the rationale for and the impact of urban planning decisions – including urban renewal policies and city infrastructure – on communities in Washington, DC, as well as how communities resisted some of these policies.

DC.35 Evaluate the reasons for and impact of immigration to Washington, DC at the end of the 20th century, including the impact of immigration from Central America, Asia and Africa.

## POSTER SESSION 1:15 – 3:15 pm

### Special Feature: Honoring Black Fugitive Folklore through Creative Study

3.22 Analyze the lived experiences of different Washingtonians in the 19th century, including efforts to resist enslavement and the growth of a free Black community in the District.

7.69 Analyze the methods of abolition and emancipation undertaken by enslaved people during the Civil War.

### Special Feature: We Who Believe in Freedom: Black Feminist DC Community Voice Project

US2.69 Analyze the contributions of different groups to the Civil Rights Movement and how it inspired and intersected with various other civil rights movements and events including but not limited to the gay rights movement, the Stonewall Uprising, the American Indian Movement (AIM), the United Farm Workers, the Women's Liberation Movement, the Asian American Movement, disability rights movement, Chicano Movement, Latinx resistance and the anti-war movements.

### Special Feature: Reimagining DC through Art and Archaeology

3.12 Create a personal history of Washington, DC using oral histories, written sources and artifacts collected from family or community members.

### Special Feature: Learning from Memory: Small Group Discussions on Oral History

3.12 Create a personal history of Washington, DC using oral histories, written sources and artifacts collected from family or community members.



# SATURDAY, APRIL 6 (cont.)

## SESSION F 3:30 – 4:45 pm

### Progressive Black Feminist Organizing in DC from 1980–1990s

**DC.38** Evaluate the roles different grassroots community organizations played in fighting for the expansion of political and economic power in the District and nation from the mid- to late 20th century, including local organizing for tenant protections, LGBTQ+ rights and immigrant rights; national struggles for welfare rights and against poverty; and international fights against the Vietnam War, Apartheid and US imperialism in Latin America.

**DC.48** Assess successful efforts for creating change in Washington, DC, and evaluate the efficacy of methods for achieving change in the District.

### Capital Culture

**3.38** Analyze how groups maintain their cultural heritage and how this heritage is manifested in the symbols, traditions and culture of Washington, DC..

**DC.22** Analyze the origins and the impact of segregation and Jim Crow laws on the culture, geography and economy of Washington, D.C..

**5.43** Analyze the rise in Black art, music, literature, businesses and queer culture in the Black Renaissance period including but not limited to Harlem and DC (e.g Black Broadway).

**US2.37** Analyze the impact of the Harlem Renaissance and the Black Renaissance in Washington, DC on American culture, including analysis of literature, music, dance, theater, queer culture and scholarship from the period.

### Buried Histories of Slavery and the Civil War

**3.22** Analyze the lived experiences of different Washingtonians in the 19th century, including efforts to resist enslavement and the growth of a free Black community in the District.

**7.69** Analyze the methods of abolition and emancipation undertaken by enslaved people during the Civil War.

**5.27** Describe how the Underground Railroad developed in the United States, including the work of activists from the District of Columbia in assisting enslaved people fleeing to the North.

**5.35** Evaluate the political and social impact of the end of the Civil War and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln on different individuals in America, including the experiences of emancipation.

### Community and Representation: The 1960s and 1970s in DC

**DC.34** Evaluate the roots and impact of cultural changes to Washington, DC in the 1970s, including the rise of go-go and punk.

**3.26** Explain the reasons for the growth of Asian American, Latinx, East African, and Caribbean communities in Washington, DC, and efforts taken by different individuals to claim a voice in the city, such as the organization of the Latino festival or the role of a community organization.

**DC.29** Analyze the rise of Latinx-owned businesses and non-profit organizations and the methods by which different individuals have exercised political power in Washington, D.C..

**DC.37** Evaluate the executive and legislative powers of the DC government, as established by the Home Rule Act, and analyze the extent to which limited government under home rule addressed issues facing the District.

## KEYNOTE 5:00 – 7:00 pm

### Crime Capital?: A History of Politicizing DC Crime and How Washingtonians Fought Back

**DC.37** Evaluate the executive and legislative powers of the DC government, as established by the Home Rule Act, and analyze the extent to which limited government under home rule addressed issues facing the District.

**DC.38** Evaluate the roles different grassroots community organizations played in fighting for the expansion of political and economic power in the District and nation from the mid- to late 20th century, including local organizing for tenant protections, LGBTQ+ rights and immigrant rights; national struggles for welfare rights and against poverty; and international fights against the Vietnam War, Apartheid and US imperialism in Latin America.



# CONFERENCE SUPPORTERS

The DC History Conference is co-presented by the DC History Center, the DC Public Library, and HumanitiesDC, organized by a volunteer planning committee, and sustained by our organizational partners. We gratefully acknowledge support from the DC Public Library Foundation, EHT Traceries, DowntownDC Business Improvement District, Georgetown University Press, DC Preservation League, the Family of Letitia Woods Brown, and the White House Historical Association, as well as Events DC and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

## PRESENTED BY



DC Public Library



HumanitiesDC

## ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS

The DC History Conference invites organizations doing significant local DC history work to be organizational partners of the conference. Becoming an organizational partner grants a seat on the committee. This is an annual commitment. Future organizational partners will be added to the DC History Conference at the approval of existing partners.

Anacostia Community Museum  
DC History Center  
DC Historic Preservation Office, DC Office of Planning  
DC Office of Public Records and Archives  
DC Preservation League

DC Public Library  
Heurich House Museum  
HumanitiesDC  
White House Historical Association

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DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES





## ADOPT A SESSION

New this year, Adopt a Session is an opportunity for DC history enthusiasts to support the DC History Conference by making a contribution that demonstrates their commitment to specific themes in the program. Their support represents their encouragement and gratitude to speakers presenting on topics important to them, and highlights the importance of historical discourse and exploration at the conference. The funds contributed by Adopt a Session sponsors do not influence the content of the individual sessions and are allocated to the conference project as a whole. We gratefully acknowledge the conference Adopt a Session funders listed within the panel descriptions and below.

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## Find Your Story in Exhibits at DC Public Library

### ***Upcoming Exhibits***

*In a Moment of Tenderness...*

A Group Art Exhibit

Curated by Adam Odomore

Opens April 11, 2024

*Planning Washington: Capital and Community*

A Centennial Exhibit by the

National Capital Planning Commission

Opens June 6, 2024

*Capital Connections*

A Group Art Exhibit

Curated by Winston Harris

Opens June 26, 2024

*The Negro Motorist Green Book*

Created by the Smithsonian Institution

Traveling Exhibition Service in

collaboration with Candacy Taylor

Opens November 2, 2024

A proud sponsor of the 50th Annual DC History Conference, the DC Public Library Foundation invites you to explore the Library's upcoming season of exhibits highlighting the history and culture of Washington, D.C. at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library and many neighborhood libraries.

**Learn more: [dclibrary.org / exhibits](https://dclibrary.org/exhibits)**



Image Credit: Photo from *The Negro Motorist Green Book*, [Four young African American women standing beside a convertible automobile], ca. 1958. WANN Radio Station Records, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

# SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE



@DCHISTCON  
APRIL 4-6, 2024

## THURSDAY, APRIL 4

### Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture:

Vann R. Newkirk II &  
Jerusalem Demsas

6:00 - 7:15 pm | Reception to Follow

## FRIDAY, APRIL 5

**REGISTRATION** All Day

**SESSION A** 10:15 - 11:30 am

Black Freedom Struggles in  
Chevy Chase, 1725 - Today

Exploring Black Deaf History Through Theatre:  
Visionaries of the Creative Arts and the Center for  
Black Deaf Studies

Monuments and Meaning

Capital Arts and Its Patrons

**SESSION B** 11:45 am - 1:00 pm

The Legacy of Lee's Flower Shop

Winning with WISH: Tenant Organizing in  
Washington, DC, 1978-2003

Celebrating DC History Through Chinese  
Poetry and Art

Activism and Protest

**HISTORY NETWORK** 1:15 - 3:15 pm

**SESSION C** 3:30 - 4:45 pm

Citizen Struggles to Improve Housing in Washington  
DC, 1983 and 2023

Oral Histories and Heirlooms

DC's Built Environment

Honoring the Legacies of Three DC Women

**After Hours Party**  
5:00 - 7:00 pm

## SATURDAY, APRIL 6

**REGISTRATION** All Day

**SESSION D** 10:15 - 11:30 am

Queer Identity and Early DC Writers

Changing Challenges into Possibilities:  
Multigenerational Perspectives from Black  
Men in Ward 7

The ANC Rainbow Caucus and 50 Years of LGBTQ+  
Elected Officials (Roundtable)

Neighborhood History and Housing

**SESSION E** 11:45 am - 1:00 pm

50 Years of LGBTQ Pride Activity  
in the Nation's Capital (Roundtable)

From Atlantis to the 9:30 Club

Planning Pioneer or Pariah?  
Rethinking Harland Bartholomew's Legacy

Schools and Students

**POSTER SESSION** 1:15 - 3:15 pm

Special Feature: Honoring Black Fugitive Folklore  
Through Creative Study

Special Feature: Learning from Memory: Small  
Group Discussions on Oral History

**SESSION F** 3:30 - 4:45 pm

Progressive Black Feminist Organizing  
in DC from 1960-1990s

Capital Culture

Buried Histories of Slavery and the Civil War

Community and Representation:  
The 1960s and 1970s in DC

**Closing Keynote:**  
Crime Capital?: A History of  
Politicizing DC Crime and How  
Washingtonians Fought Back

Kyla Sommers

5:00 - 6:00 pm