

UNDESIGN THE REDLINE



The African-American Heritage Initiative (AAHI) is proud to partner with the Winston-Salem Foundation for the “Undesign the Redline Exhibit.” The exhibit is housed at the Forsyth County Central Public Library. AAHI members and Human Relations/DEI Director Wanda Allen-Abraha were excited to participate and speak at the exhibit’s opening reception on September 14, 2021.

Charlie Gardner, from the Winston-Salem Foundation, informed the committee that the redlining exhibit has been traveling across the country for the past couple of years and integrates national trends of disparities and inequities created by redlining. Mr. Gardner explained that, to address many of the disparities, it is helpful to understand how they came to be. Also, due to similar missions and areas of focus, Mr. Gardner invited the Human Relations/DEI Department and, specifically, the AAHI to serve as community partners.



AAHI members have supported the exhibit by leading tours and by attending the opening night. Chairperson Villagomez and

AAHI member Linda Dark both lent their support to a panel discussion prior to the opening remarks. Chairperson Villagomez expressed her gratitude to Ms. Dark stating that she did an extraordinary job by showing integrity, creativity, empathy, and capturing the context of what redlining is. The exhibition at the library has been extended through February 28, 2022.

AAHI RECEIVES \$10,000 GRANT

The African American Heritage Initiative (AAHI) is proud and appreciative of being the recipients of a \$10,000 grant from the Winston-Salem Foundation. The grant will be used to purchase technology to support the AAHI Digital Archives. Through the partnership with the “Undesign the Redline” exhibit, the Winston-Salem Foundation became interested in supporting AAHI and their work with archiving and capturing African American history in Winston-Salem. Charlie Gardner, from the Winston-Salem Foundation, stated that they would like to collaborate, specifically, with AAHI to help digitize some of the stories that were added to the exhibits to make them accessible to people beyond the exhibit.



The equipment that is being purchased with this grant includes laptops, scanners, video cameras, and voice recorders. All equipment will be beneficial to the AAHI collection teams. For more information about the collection teams and the digital archive, please go to cityofws.org/aahi.

AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN PILOT PROJECT

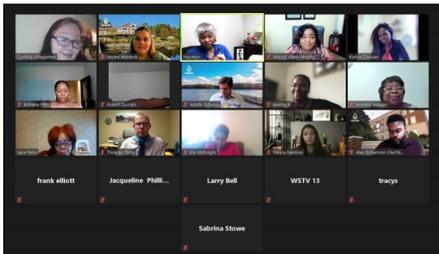
Several months ago, a researcher from Nova Scotia (Canada) contacted Human Relations/DEI Director Wanda Allen-Abraha after reading about the African-American Heritage Initiative (AAHI) on the City of Winston-Salem AAHI’s website. In November 2021, Director Allen-Abraha introduced Mr. Devon Parris, from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to members of the AAHI when he joined the November AAHI meeting.

Mr. Parris shared that Nova Scotia was undertaking an initiative, similar to the AAHI; therefore, he was interested in learning more from the City of Winston-Salem. He informed the committee that he had been recently hired to work with Halifax Regional Municipality on creating a cultural heritage project for African Nova Scotians in the city. He informed the committee that Nova Scotia has a rich Black heritage that extended from the 1600s onward. Most families in Nova Scotia



can trace their lineage back to a few ancestral connections. Mr. Parris added that Nova Scotia had slavery in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. Families from Nova Scotia that are African Nova Scotian can trace their family heritage back to before Canada was a country. He also shared that the city of Halifax has not done a good job of highlighting Black history in the city.

Director Allen-Abraha explained to Mr. Parris that the AAHI was developed as the result of a vision and concept, conceived by City Council Member Annette Scippio, to preserve the rich history of the African-American community of Winston-Salem. Director Allen-Abraha explained that the AAHI was started and created as an entity of city government. AAHI and Mr. Parris hope to remain in contact in order to continue to learning from each other.



African American Heritage Initiative Community Collection Teams

The committee is casting a wide net and wants to capture memories and information to the experiences of African Americans across the years. Nine teams have been formed. Each team is lead by an Initiative committee member. The teams and their committee leaders are:

- **Church Team:** Donald Scales
- **Neighborhoods Team:** Beverly Williams
- **Education Team:** Jane Penn
- **Civic/Service Group Team:** Annette Wilson
- **Government Team:** Joycelyn Johnson
- **Arts/Cultural Team:** Cynthia Villagomez
- **Professionals Team:** William Fulton
- **Businesses Team:** Robert Durrah
- **Oral Histories Team:** Linda Dark



Are you interested in collecting, preserving, and maintaining the African-American history within Winston-Salem?

Contact CityLink 311 to join one of the nine teams working on collecting the many stories throughout the city.

The African-American Heritage Initiative advisory committee aims to connect all sectors of the African-American community and create a vision for incorporating African-American contributions into the permanent history of the City of Winston-Salem. It is also intended to take the lead in the preservation of oral, written, and photographic culture of the City.

City of Winston-Salem
African-American Heritage Initiative
Contact us via CityLink
Phone: 336-727-8000 or 311
Email: citylink@cityofws.org
Visit www.cityofws.org for more information.

City Council: Mayor Allen Joines; Denise D. Adams, Mayor Pro Tempore, North Ward; Kevin Mundy, Southwest Ward; Robert C. Clark, West Ward; John C. Larson, South Ward; Jeff MacIntosh, Northwest Ward; Barbara Hanes Burke, Northeast Ward; Annette Scippio, East Ward; James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward; City Manager: Lee D. Garrity

African American Heritage Initiative: Chair: Cynthia Villagomez; Vice-Chair: Jane Penn, Linda Dark, Robert Durrah, William F. Fulton, Joycelyn Johnson, Donald Scales, Beverly Williams, Annette Wilson

Human Relations/Diversity Equity and Inclusion Department Staff : Wanda Allen-Abraha, JD, Director; Adolfo Briceño, DreShonta Brinson, Karlyn Duncan, Iris McKnight, Brittane Pitts, Mayra Ramirez Manriquez, Eleanore Tebbetts, Jayme Waldeck