



# UNDERGROUND RAILROAD EDUCATION CENTER

194 Livingston Avenue | Albany, New York 12210

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[www.UndergroundRailroadHistory.org](http://www.UndergroundRailroadHistory.org)

*Learn the Past, Be the Present, Create the Future*®

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

## CO-FOUNDERS

Paul & Mary Liz Stewart

## Board Members

### Yvonne Abunaw

Community Activist

### Jennifer Burns

University at Albany

### Lisbeth Calandrino

Lisbeth Calandrino and Associates

### Nancy Delain

Delain Law Office, PLLC

### Sam Fein

Albany County Legislature

### Ron Gardner

City of Schenectady

### David Hochfelder

University at Albany

### Matt Kirk

Hartgen Archeological Associates

### Celeste Knight

DEPASS Designs

### Angelo Maddox

Fresh & Fly Clothing

### Steven P. O'Connor

SAG/AFTRA

### Joan Rogers

Community Activist

### Darius Shahinfar

City of Albany

### La-Meik Taylor

NYS Youth Justice Institute

### Cecilia Tucker

Neighborhood Resident

### Brenda Twiggs

Community Activist

### Leon Walker

Community Activist

Underground Railroad Education Center researches and preserves the local and national history of the Underground Railroad movement, its international connections, and its legacy to today's social justice issues, thereby empowering people of all ages to be agents of change toward an equitable and just society.

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Minutes of the March 18, 2025 meeting
3. Financial Reports and IC Update –
  - A) Update On Interpretive Center Project - please see page 2 of agenda
    - Grants in process, obtained, and status
    - NEH Section 106 and archaeological work
    - Paper Streets conveyance
    - New Markets Tax Credits
    - EPA “freeze”
    - Outstanding DEC grant
    - Successful obtaining Pioneer Loan and retiring outstanding architect bill
  - B) IMLS Grant
  - C) General financial report
4. Executive Director's Report
5. Committee Reports –
  - Over the Edge Fundraiser (MLS)
  - Collections Committee (PS) – Training
  - Stephen and Harriet Myers Gravesite Headstone (PS)
  - Handel's Messiah Arias fundraiser (MLS) in conjunction with Smithsonian's Voices and Votes: Democracy in America exhibit
6. Old Business
7. New Business
  - Crusher Stone (Ron)
  - Proposed New Board Member (PS) – Peter Gaback
8. Adjournment
9. Next Meeting – May 20, 2025 (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in May)

## Financial Reports and IC Update –

Grants in process, obtained, and status (MLS / PS) -

- DEC (\$3mil) announcement in late May 2025
- NYSCA (\$4,416,505) announcement in April 2025

NEH Section 106 and archaeological work (Matt K. / PS) –

- Archeological report in process for submission to NYS OPHP Preservation Officer who has a 30-day review period
- Section 106 – this federal environmental review report will be completed after a negative declaration is received from the NYS Preservation Officer

Paper Streets conveyance (PS) –

- Has gone from approval by Albany Common Council to Corporation Counsel's office to Planning Department

New Markets Tax Credits (PS) -

- \$2 mil possible due to the size of our project
- Consulting firm Niche Markets. LLC & Real Estate Consultants are taking proposals out to potential investors (\$15,000 fee)
- Legal firm Cannon, Heyman and Weiss, LLP is monitoring the process; is pro bono if no investors identified, will charge up to \$1.9 mil if investors identified

EPA “freeze” – Paul will explain

Successful obtaining of Pioneer Loan & retiring outstanding architect bill (\$157,000) (PS)

- Arrangements are to pay monthly interest with 1/3 paydown by first anniversary

IMLS Grant (MLA / PS) –

- supports Museum Studies Teen Program Manager salary - \$33,000 from IMLS, \$33,000 from Carl E. Touhey Foundation. IMLS is still honoring monthly reimbursement requests.

*Now, more than ever, Black history and culture sites need your support -  
donate today*