EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – November 17, 2026 - UREC Board Meeting

Programming:

Carmen Bivens – Arranging for Working the Waters, Crossing the Line, and Echoes of Education exhibits to travel to college campuses, NYSUT, libraries, Albany High School. Working with a SUNYA graduate student to research, design and expand Working the Waters exhibit content to be displayed at The Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence. Collaborating on the planning of community facing artist talks.

Lacey Wilson – Continuing Museum Studies Teen Program year 2. Awaiting Cannabis Reinvestment grant results that, if awarded, will provide for the expansion of the TMSP. Represents UREC at a variety of community functions. Collaborating on the planning of community facing artist talks. Hosts tour experiences.

Marcus Anderson – Drawn to Art continues through November. Hosts tour experiences. Managing Young Abolitionist Leadership Institute afterschool program beginning in October 2026.

Carol Durant – managing promotional efforts, including representing UREC at community events, social media, press releases. Funding for her position comes through an ARPA grant received by Historic Cherry Hill. Currently seeking new funding to keep Carol on at UREC through Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation and Understory.

Sarah Stewart – hired as Contract Program Developer. Organized with a team of six volunteers a very successful UREC Sojourner Truth bus trip on September 26. Completing a garden tour booklet for use hosting garden tours. Is co-coordinating with Over the Edge event planning team. Tabled at Mississippi Day, Big Gay Market, NYS Museum, Upper Madison Street Fair for UREC, and an event at the NYS Concourse. Investigating NYS Farmers' Market regulations with the intention of UREC hosting a Farmers' Market in 2027.

Fund Development Committee – focusing on building Capital Campaign for the IC, working on $250,000 fundraising Over the Edge event with YWCA.

Marketing in Colonie Center – Kiosk panel near Cheesecake Factor in Colonie Center is up! Check it out. Stunning! Will be removed in February 2027 – don't miss it!

Grant news: (Yellow = waiting)

Championing Albany's Potential funding – applied through the CFA process, this is a two-step process. Of benefit to UREC's competitive standing would be for UREC to have more private or non-state money committed. Working with ESD staff to clarify some review committee questions.

African American Heritage Grant – through Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Application – applied on behalf of UREC for a contracted collections manager. Waiting.

NYSCA Reserve Funds Grant – applied again this year. Limited to $20,000 Purpose of fund is to create or supplement investment funds of arts and culture non-profit organizations. Award is based upon organizational budget. Very competitive. - Declined.

NYS Black Legislative Caucus - $80,000 – fundraiser (program support) + corresponding technological infrastructure purchases - submitted 11.17.25 – pending

Office of Cannabis Mgmt. – Applied with 518Elevated in support of MSTP for $200,000 - pending

Carl E. Touhey Foundation – applied for $250,000 across three years – awarded $84,0000/yr for youth and community education focused programs

Reimbursements pending - Leg Initiative (Fahy) - $150,000 #2 – disbursement to UREC pending

City Club of Albany – requested $1000 toward July 4, 2027 – which is expected to be a much bigger affair as 2027 is the bicentennial of NYS emancipation

Rev 250 – through Albany County – awarded $750 toward July 4th Oration 2026 – the unfinished revolution – received

Understory (Hudson Estuary Resilience Effort) – Requesting $80,000 to support staffing, implementation, and recording equipment for the hosting of regularly scheduled alternative roundtables that will focus on focus on Black cultural resistance.

Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation – Requesting $15,000,to be matched by $15,000 for one year to support Carol to continue her PR / Social Media / Community Engagement work with UREC

Upcoming Events (through December 31, 2026):

12/01/26 - DECEMBER DASH will start up – this is a great opportunity for ALL board members to make an annual donation to UREC – at whatever level you can manage – some of our grants will only be disbursed if evidence can be provided that each board member is making a donation in the calendar year

THE FREEDOM SEEKER newsletter (Vol. 23 #3) – feature article highlights the international work of our NYS abolitionists with heir colleagues in the UK – stay tuned

UREC BOARD ORIENTATION - January 19 board meeting – for ALL board members

Residence closed – 11/25, 11/26, 11/27, 11/28 if not tours; 12/24, 12/25, 12/26, 12/31, 1/01/27, 1/02/27

By the Numbers (October 21 – November 17, 2026)

- **Members** – 643 (up from 637; includes 5 international, 1 of whom is a member of the UK Parliament)
- **Social Media** followers – 9741 (up from 9295) please frequent UREC's social media accounts and leave comments and share
- **Volunteers** – 12 fundraising; 8 collections; 1 administration; 4 library; 7 gardens; 1 grant writer; 8 Fund Development
- **Speaking Engagements + Number of Attendees** – 1 – Greater Hudson Heritage Conference
- **Constant Contact** – 3397 (down from 3428) - 15 new subscribers - 41% open rate (up from 3%)
- **Tourists** / **Event attendees** – ~60 House tour experiences – 1 Artist talk (25 attending)
- **TV / Radio Engagements –** 1 (Capital Region Today)
- **Tabling / Community events –** 3 (approximately 300 interactions)

- Please **like and share** UREC social media posts
- Be an **ambassador** for UREC in your networks
- Join a **committee** (Fund Development – Over the Edge / Capital Campaign) (Collections) (Governance)
- **Attend UREC events – invite others to attend**