

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – March 17, 2026 - UREC Board Meeting**

UREC from a programming perspective:

**Carmen Bivens** – Black Activists from the Capital Region – exhibit #2 – incorporating a SUNYA intern and the exhibit design class at the Cooperstown Graduate Museum Studies Program of SUNY Oneonta

**Lacey Wilson** – Continuing Museum Studies Teen Program and representing UREC at various functions and programs. Hosts tour experiences.

**Marcus Anderson** – Albany High School afterschool program continues (funded by Carl E. Touhey Foundation), Drawn to Art for seniors will resume in April 2026 (funded by NYSCA). Hosts tour experiences.

**Carol Durant** – managing promotional efforts, including tabling and representing UREC at community events, social media, press releases. Funding for her position comes through an ARPA grant received by Historic Cherry Hill.

**Sarah Stewart** – contracted to work with UREC on a half-time basis as Program Developer. She replaces Amelia. She is recreating some of Amelia's program ideas and creating new ones with an eye toward programs that bring especially adults and families to The Myres Residence for regularly scheduled programming.

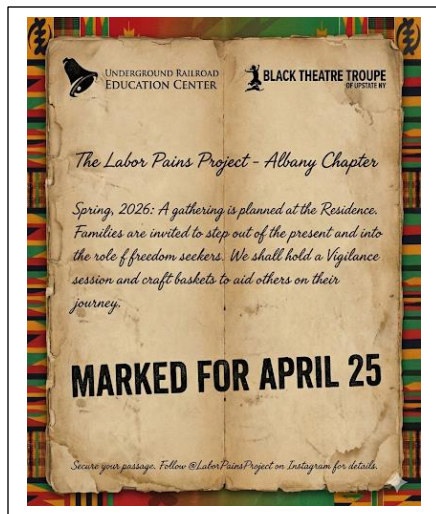
**Fund Development Committee** – focusing on updating and expanding components of UREC Membership, on building Capital Campaign for the IC, working on \$200,000 fundraising Over the Edge event with YWCA, and hosting a small fundraiser at Central Rock Gym in Troy as an entrée to the April 27, 2027 Charles Nalle Over the Edge major fundraiser.

**Marketing in Colonie Center** – Kiosk panel near Cheesecake Factor in Colonie Center is up! Check it out. Stunning!

**Journey to Freedom** – Manere Foundation and Coming to the Table will sponsor Tony Cohen of Button Farm, Maryland in his Journey to Freedom walk from Silver Spring, Md to Ontario, Canada from May 4-July4, 2026. He and his program team will be in Albany with UREC from June 1-June 6, 2026. UREC will host 'field trips' for the team June 1 - June 5. There will also be an Activation Day on June 6 which will be day of community-facing programming. Additionally, we will be working with the team to try to locate housing. The team will bring along the 8ft. Harriet Tubman *Journey to Freedom* statue.

**We Sing, We Speak, We Rise** – February 27 & 28, and March 1 – please plan on attending – details on the UREC Events Calendar – produced by Aaron Moore, of Acting with Aaron, as a fundraiser for the IC. Great event! Connected with long standing supporters and engaged with many new folks. Raised \$5000 toward IC.

**Labor Pains** – written and produced by Jae Gayle. Scheduled for Saturday, April 25. Intended as a fundraiser for UREC. More details coming soon!



**Grant news:**

**Championing Albany’s Potential** funding – applying through the CFA process, this is a two-step process. Of benefit to UREC’s competitive standing is if we had more private or non-state money committed.

**African American Heritage Grant** – through Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Application portal not open yet. Information sessions coming later in April.

**Congressionally Directed Spending** (Appropriations FY 2027) – applying through Senators Schumer and Gillibrand. Asking for \$5mil. Due March 22!

**The Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (NHA) Heritage Development Grants** managed by the Hudson River Valley Greenway – awarded UREC \$7500, with a \$7500 match by UREC, for the development of exhibit pieces that will supplement the Black Mariners exhibit and be housed at The Myers Residence – this will be implemented by Carmen Bevins

**NYSCA Reserve Funds Grant** – will apply again this year. Purpose of fund is to create or supplement investment funds of arts and culture non-profit organizations. Award is based upon organizational budget.

**YALI** – funding requested from Seymour Fox Memorial Foundation, M&T Charitable Fund, Market 32 / Golub Foundation. Funding already received from Review Foundation of the Community Foundation of the Greater Capital Region and from a private donor. Looking to hire three Focus Group Facilitators with 15 teens coming through SYEP

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

**Office of Cannabis Mgmt** – word is coming on grant funding for 2026

### **By the Numbers (February 2, 2026 – March 17, 2026)**

- **Members** – 588 (up 13); includes 5 international, 1 of whom is a member of the UK Parliament
- **Social Media** followers – 8835 (+167) please frequent UREC’s social media accounts and leave comments and share
- **Volunteers** – 12 fundraising; 10 collections; 1 administration; 3 library; 7 gardens; 1 grant writer; 8 Fund Development
- **Speaking Engagements + Number of Attendees** – SUNYA classrooms – 45; Voorheesville Library - 25
- **Constant Contact** – 3323 subscribers (+14 with a 42% open rate – up10%)
- **Tourists / Event visitors** – 118 (20 last month)
- **TV / Radio Engagements** – 2 (ch.6 and 10)
- **Tabling / Community events** – 1 – Albany International Academy
  
- Please like and share UREC social media posts
- Be an ambassador for UREC in your networks
- Join a committee (Fund Development) (Collections)

**Conflict of Interest forms have been returned by: Lisbeth Calandrino, Celeste Knight, David Hochfelder, Ren Lee, Paul Stewart, Joan Rogers, Nancy Delain, Steve O’Connor, Leon Walker, Paul Stewart – Every board member needs to complete this simple form and return to Mary Liz by February 28, 2026!**

**Need Conflict of interest forms from: Cecilia, Jennifer, Peter, Ron, Matt, Darius, Brenda**