

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – April 21, 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. Hosts tour experiences/

**Marcus Anderson** – Albany High School afterschool program continues (funded by Carl E. Touhey Foundation), Drawn to Art for seniors has resumed (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.

**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 YWA. Chose to cancel fundraiser Climb to Freedom: Charles Nalle Night to be held April 24 at Central Rock Gym in Troy due to lack of interest.

**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. The team will bring along the 8ft. Harriet Tubman *Journey to Freedom* statue.

**Vigilance** – written and produced by Jae Gayle. Scheduled for Saturday, April 25. Intended as a fundraiser for UREC. Three performances, two of which will be coupled with Toast and Talk = talk with Writer/Director/Producer Jae Gayle and making of a take-home bazaar basket



**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) – applied through Senators Schumer and Gillibrand. Asking for \$5mil.

**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. Very competitive.

**YALI** – funding received from Seymour Fox Memorial Foundation (\$5000), M&T Charitable Fund (\$3500), Market 32 / Golub Foundation (\$500), Review Foundation of the Community Foundation of the Greater Capital Region (\$000) and from a private donor (\$000). 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.** – Looking to apply with 518Elevated in support of MSTP

**Carl E. Touhey Foundation** – permission given to reapply

**By the Numbers (March 18, 2026 through April 21, 2026)**

- **Members** – 588+; includes 5 international, 1 of whom is a member of the UK Parliament
- **Social Media** followers – 9256 (up from 8835) please frequent UREC's social media accounts and leave comments and share
- **Volunteers** – 12 fundraising; 8 collections; 1 administration; 3 library; 7 gardens; 1 grant writer; 8 Fund Development
- **Speaking Engagements + Number of Attendees** – Daughters of the American Revolution Mohawk Chapter (42), Colonie Seniors (80), First Reformed Church, Schenectady (25)
- **Constant Contact** – 3323 subscribers (+14 with a 42% open rate – up10%)

- **Tourists / Event visitors** – 150
- **TV / Radio Engagements** – 2 (ch.6 and 10)
- **Tabling / Community events** – 4 (Central Rock Gym)
  
- Please like and share UREC social media posts
- Be an ambassador for UREC in your networks
- Join a committee (Fund Development) (Collections)
- Attend UREC events

**Thank you to those of you who have returned the Conflict of Interest forms: Lisbeth Calandrino, Celeste Knight, David Hochfelder, Ren Lee, Paul Stewart, Joan Rogers, Nancy Delain, Steve O'Connor, Leon Walker, Ren Lee, Jennifer Burns, Matt Kirk – Every board member needs to complete this simple form and return to Mary Liz by February 28, 2026!**

**Need Conflict of interest forms from: Peter, Ron, Darius, Brenda (Form is on UREC Board page on website)**