

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – June 16, 2026 - UREC Board Meeting

UREC from a programming perspective:

Carmen Bivens – Continuing Black Mariners exhibit series with community facing programs. Hosting SUNYA college intern across summer months to develop and install exhibit at Bethlehem library.

Lacey Wilson – Continuing Museum Studies Teen Program and representing UREC at various functions and programs. Hosts tour experiences. Submitted with 518Elevated a Cannabis Reinvestment grant application for \$200,000.

Marcus Anderson – Albany High School afterschool program concluding for current school year, Drawn to Art for seniors has continues for another few weeks. Will resume in the autumn. Hosts tour experiences. Preparing for Young Abolitionist Leadership Institute summer 2026 program.

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 building Capital Campaign for the IC, working on \$200,000 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!

Freedom walkers – spent an enriching week in Albany. Included visits and student talks at Roots Academy and Myers middle School. Participated in June 6 Activation Day at the Myers Residence Campus. About 60 visitors. Well received experience for all involved.

Vigilance – written and produced by Jae Gayle on Saturday, April 25. Many compliments and requests for more of this kind of experience.

John Brown Day 2026 – 11 attended. Hartgen donated the use of three of its vehicles to transport all to the John Brown Ste Historic Site in Lake Placid. The bus that was rented by Matt Kirk will be used for another filed trip this year – being planned for early autumn 2026.

SWISS NPR - interview with reporter on Wednesday, May 27. Will make news story available once it can be translated.

Grant news:

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.

African American Heritage Grant – through Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Application – applying on behalf of Underground Railroad Consortium of NYS and separately on behalf of UREC for a collections manager

Congressionally Directed Spending (Appropriations FY 2027) – applied through Senators Schumer and Gillibrand. Asking for \$5mil.

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.

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 (\$5000) and from a private donor (\$5000). 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. – Applying with 518Elevated in support of MSTP for \$200,000

Carl E. Touhey Foundation – permission given to reapply

Reimbursements to come – DASNY - front entry - \$44,000 // Leg Initiative (Romero) - \$30,000
Leg Initiative (Fahy) - \$150,000

By the Numbers (April 22, 2026 through June 16, 2026)

- **Members** – 623 (up from 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** – 0
- **Constant Contact** – 3430 (up from 3323 subscribers; 48% open rate (up from 42%))
- **Tourists / Event visitors** – 201 (down from 289)
- **TV / Radio Engagements** – 5
- **Tabling / Community events** – Pinksterfest (Kinderhook) (Schuyler Mansion)

- 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 all UREC Board Members – everyone has submitted their Conflict of Interest form!