

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – July 21, 2026 - UREC Board Meeting

UREC from a programming perspective:

Carmen Bivens – Continuing Black Mariners exhibit series with community facing programs and design of exhibit collateral for display in the 2nd floor library of The Myers Residence with the purpose of attracting mobile exhibit viewers to The Residence. Hosting SUNYA college intern across summer months to develop and install exhibit at Bethlehem library.

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

Marcus Anderson – Drawn to Art will resume in the autumn. Hosts tour experiences. Managing 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.

Sarah Stewart – hired as Contract Program Developer. Organizing with a team of six volunteers the UREC Sojourner Truth bus trip for Saturday, September 26. Details will start rolling out July 31 on UREC event calendar and social media and other media platforms. Hosts craft night every Monday at The Myers Residence. Completing a garden tour booklet for use hosting garden tours. Will co-coordinate Over the Edge event planning.

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!

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. Unlikely due to current federal climate. Had lengthy conversation with Steve Mann. Longstanding staff member of Sen. Schumer’s office re: IC, its purpose, its impact

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), Judith Fund of the CFGCR (\$4800) 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. – Applied with 518Elevated in support of MSTP for \$200,000

Carl E. Touhey Foundation – permission given to reapply - done

Reimbursements arrived – DASNY - front entry - \$44,000 // Leg Initiative (Romero) - \$30,000

Reimbursements pending - Leg Initiative (Fahy) - \$150,000 #1 // Leg Initiative \$150,000 #2

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; 4 library; 7 gardens; 1 grant writer; 8 Fund Development
- **Speaking Engagements + Number of Attendees** – 0
- **Constant Contact** – 3448 (up from 3430) 42% open rate (down from 48%)
- **Tourists / Event visitors** – 260 (up from 201) Juneteenth, July 4th Oration, tours
- **TV / Radio Engagements** – 0
- **Tabling / Community events** – Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site

- 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**