

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – August 18, 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 has resumed, running through October 16. Hosts tour experiences. Managing Young Abolitionist Leadership Institute summer 2026 and continuing as afterschool program beginning in September 2026.

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. Hosts craft night every Monday at The Myers Residence. Completing a garden tour booklet for use hosting garden tours. Has begun co-coordinating Over the Edge event planning.

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!

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. Application submitted. Response time uncertain. Requested \$4mil.

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

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.

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 for \$250,000 across three years - done

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

Upcoming Events:

8/22/26 – Cosmographers reconvening to continue game work

8/23/26 - Party for Socialism and Liberation Black August Block Party – holding annual event at Myers Residence Campus – 3pm-6pm

9/17/26 - Immersion Tour – begins at 2pm at the Irish American Heritage Center, concludes with a 5pm tour at The Myers Residence

9/26/26 – Sojourner Truth: a New York Hero bus trip – details on UREC website calendar – we need board members to participate, we need board members to invite family, friends, community members. We have 44 seats available.

By the Numbers (July 21, 2026 through August 18, 2026)

- **Members** – 637 (up from 623; 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** – 2 – 40 attendees
- **Constant Contact** – 3434 (down from 3448) 42% open rate (no change)
- **Tourists / Event attendees** – 55 / 70 – House tour experiences / community events
- **TV / Radio Engagements** – 0
- **Tabling / Community events** – 0

- 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**