

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – September 15, 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. Working with Lacey and MSTP students to design pop up exhibit “Echoes of Education”

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 October 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 with Over the Edge event planning team.

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 – applied on behalf of UREC for a contracted 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 - pending

Carl E. Touhey Foundation – applied for \$250,000 across three years - pending

Reimbursements pending - Leg Initiative (Fahy) - \$150,000 #1 – likely will arrive September 30 // Leg Initiative \$150,000 #2 - pending

City Club of Albany – requested \$1000 toward July 4, 2027 – which is expected to be a much bigger affair as 2027 is the bicentennial of NYS emancipation

Rev 250 – through Albany County – awarded \$750 toward July 4th Oration 2026 – the unfinished revolution

Upcoming Events (through October 21, 2026):

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

9/19/26 – Tabling at Mississippi Day - <https://www.alicemoorecenter.org/events-1/14th-annual-mississippi-day-celebration>

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 48 seats available.

9/26/26 – Work Party at The Res – 10am-3pm – with College of St. Rose Alumni and Alpha Phi Omega of RPI

9/27/26 – Tabling at the Madison Avenue Street Fair

10/02/26 – Echoes of Education Exhibit – opening reception at The Love Center – 5pm-7pm

10/04/26 – Tabling at The Big Gay Market - <https://www.abiggaymarket.com/>

10/17/26 – Presentation at Honest Weight Coop - <https://undergroundrailroadhistory.org/event/a-new-interpretation-of-an-old-story-3/>

10/18/26 – Tabling at NYS Library

10/20/26 – Regeneron Days 4 Doing Good at The Myers Residence

By the Numbers (August 18, 2026 through September 15, 2026)

- **Members** – 643 (up from 637; includes 5 international, 1 of whom is a member of the UK Parliament)
- **Social Media** followers – 9295 (up from 9256) 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** – 3428 (down from 34343) 36% open rate (down from 42%)
- **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**