



2020-2021 Annual Report

African American Redress Network

A Year of Reparations Action

Howard University Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center
Columbia University Institute for the Study of Human Rights
School of International and Public Affairs



About the African American Redress Network

The African American Redress Network (AARN) works to advance the movement for reparations for African American communities through research, education, and technical assistance to local grassroots organizations.

AARN is a collaboration between the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University, Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, and the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at Howard University's School of Law. We are made up of experts, researchers, grassroots organizers, and other individuals across the country advancing the movement for reparations for African Americans.

We use a human rights framework when analyzing the gross wrongs of enslavement, dispossession, and institutionalized anti-Black violence. Our model draws inspiration from United Nations General Assembly [Resolution 60/147](#) and this [guidance by the International Commission of Jurists](#) to define reparations and inform our advocacy.

Our Steering Committee includes reparations leaders from local initiatives such as Africatown, the GU272, and national organizations such as N'COBRA and Black Lives Matter. The Steering Committee decides the path we take in furthering the cause of reparations.

Biographies on the Steering Committee start on page 12 of this report.

OUR APPROACH

We ground our approach in an international human rights law framework, which provides unique reparations advocacy and programming opportunities.

Historical human rights violations against African Americans influence contemporary injustices. Thus, we believe that addressing past wrongs is essential to achieving justice and human rights for all.

We value the importance of collaboration, recognize the need for multiple approaches to advance the goal of racial justice, as well as acknowledge and respect the work of the many dedicated advocates in this space.

We are committed to supporting these varied efforts and to pursuing advocacy, research, and education rooted in the expertise and experiences of those who experience both structural and acute injustice and are committed to pursuing redress. We are committed to avoiding the trap of an ivory tower, therefore we center the experiences of our partner communities and grassroots reparations activists in our advocacy efforts.



COLLABORATIONS

AARN works alongside other national reparation leaders. We are proud to name the following organizations as supporters and collaborators:



Black Farmers Reparations

[Coming to the Table](#)



Reparations4Slavery



[Global Research and Consulting Group](#)

Liberation Ventures

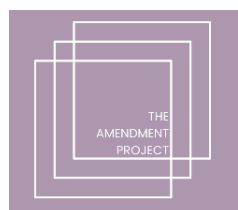
Liberation Ventures



[NAARC](#)



N'COBRA



The Amendment Project

400 years too late,
introducing:

**FUND FOR
REPARATIONS
NOW!**

The Fund for Reparations Now



First Repair

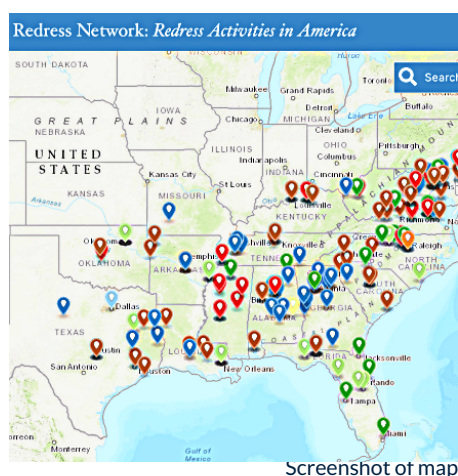


WHAT WE DO

Mapping

We identify, recognize, and support local reparations efforts for both acute and systemic anti-Black racism in the United States. Under the leadership of Kathy Santana, we made significant progress this year. We built a map with over 420 examples of local reparation efforts and completed seven of the nine U.S. census regions to help redress and reparations initiatives connect with each other. Our mapping team is on track to complete the first rigorous analysis of local redress efforts across the U.S. by Fall 2021.

Data from our mapping project can be used to examine reparations trends in the United States. For example, our research shows that a number of universities are investing in research to seriously examine their historical connections to (and complicity with) enslavement, segregation, lynching, massacres, and historical misrepresentation. Data from our mapping project also shows that students are often the catalyst of racial justice change at many universities.



Our team also gathered contact information of individuals and organizations working towards racial redress. We established a database of over 350 local reparations or organizations seeking redress with this information. Using the map data, we piloted our first communications campaign with organizations located in the Mid-Atlantic. Out of concern for security and privacy, the contact information we gather is shared only with participant consent and only distributed to AARN members.

WHAT WE DO (CONT.)

Technical Assistance

AARN provided technical assistance to several local redress efforts this year. Below is a description of those efforts. Our technical assistance focused on the specific needs and priorities identified by our local redress organizations. We assisted with research and network members offered expertise in solidarity with these efforts. We sought to maximize the quality and impact of local reparation efforts through supporting our collaborators with administrative duties, project management, policy development, and capacity building.

Africatown, Atlanta

This ongoing project supports the efforts of Africatown C.H.E.S.S. When completed, this project will result in a historic walking tour for the Africatown community. The tour will include the Plateau cemetery of Africatown, where the enslaved peoples, brought illegally to Mobile, AL in 1860 are buried. The enslaved peoples arrived in the U.S. on board the *Clotilda*, the last ship to smuggle enslaved Africans across the Atlantic. At the time, the transatlantic trade of enslaved peoples had been outlawed for decades, so the smugglers scuttled the *Clotilda* in the Mobile River to hide their crime. Our student researchers are investigating archival and genealogical sources to uncover the histories of those buried in Plateau Cemetery.

Brown Grove Community, VA

Brown Grove, located in Hanover County, Virginia is a historically Black community originally settled by freed slaves. Brown Grove's land is currently threatened by private development. The Brown Grove Community land potentially includes six to seven African American burial sites and a historic Black-only school. A 150-year-old, traditionally Black-led Baptist church abuts the proposed development. We are working alongside the Brown Grove Preservation Group to develop an evidence-based argument to prove and document the existence of these historically Black-owned sites. Our researchers are performing archival research, legal support, and advisement on the preservation of African American archaeology from Dr. Michael Blakey (W&M). In addition, AARN researchers are collecting first-person narratives, and title searches to develop a comprehensive history of Brown Grove and trace its ownership since its time as a plantation. This data will publicize the history of Brown Grove and hopefully help preserve the land.

WHAT WE DO (CONT.)

Evanston, Illinois

On March 20, 2021, AARN pledged its support for the reparation efforts in Evanston, Illinois. Evanston City Council had a vote on the Local Reparations Restorative Housing Program scheduled on March 22, 2021. The Council voted 8-1, to approve the program, which dedicates an initial \$400,000 and a subsequent \$10 million to redress the city government's role in discriminatory housing policies from Evanston's municipal cannabis tax. In response to its approval, Ald. Robin A. Simmons recognized the support of several national organizations, including the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center and AARN.

This reparations ordinance is already threatened with legal challenges. During summer 2021, AARN worked with Ald. Simmons to develop an impact study to prepare for such challenges. We continue to collaborate with Ald. Simmons, who has since founded FirstRepair, an organization committed to assisting other municipalities with their reparation efforts..

The Amendment Project (TAP)

We assisted TAP with an advocacy and communications campaign in support of the Tulsa-Greenwood Massacre Claims Accountability Act in Oklahoma. We provided TAP with key data and contact information of supportive Oklahoma-based AARN organizations to assist in the campaign. This collaboration would not have been possible if not for our mapping project.

We continue to work with The Amendment Project as they mobilize college-age students to lobby city councils for reparations resolutions and cement reparations in mainstream political discourse. Currently, AARN and TAP are working on a Boston, Massachusetts-based reparations campaign.

WHAT WE DO (CONT.)

The Red Summer 1919-2021 Digital Memoria

The Red Summer 1919-2021 Digital Memoria is a collaborative project between the National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC) and The Fund for Reparations Now. The Red Summer took place over an eight-month period in which white Americans engaged in anti-Black riots and lynchings across the country.

AARN assisted the Fund for Reparations Now in developing communications materials and securing artists for the Digital Memoria project. Some 80 posts, beginning April 13th, through the month of November will acknowledge and educate about the Red Summer. The Digital Memoria project shares the stories of the Red Summer 1919 in real-time over the course of 2021 so that no American should enter 2022 ignorant of this brutal moment in United States history. Each post will have a date, a geographical location, and in some cases, memorials for individual victims.

Capturing History

AARN recently piloted an oral history project to preserve reparacionists' stories in their own words and voices. This project allows for a better understanding of the challenges and potential of local reparation efforts. To date, we have interviewed Waymon Hinson and Shoun Hill, the creators of the award-winning documentary, "I'm Just a Layman in Pursuit of Justice." and Ald. Robin Rue Simmons on her efforts to secure Evanston, IL housing reparations.

Capacity Building

Since April 2021, AARN has helped to establish a state-wide reparations coalition in Virginia, known as the Virginia Redress Network Coalition (VA RNC). The coalition includes local Virginia-based redress organizations and grassroots political activists groups. VA RNC aims to educate the public and government officials about local redress efforts. Additionally, VA RNC is working to create opportunities for collaboration with other VA grassroots organizations to embolden local reparation campaigns. One of VA RNC's areas of focus is land theft. The VA RNC is composed of members of the Virginia Black Caucus, Virginia NAACP, Network NOVA, Seed4VA, and RASR.

If the coalition model is successful, we intend to scale this model to other states and regions.

WHAT WE DO (CONT.)

Conventions, Conferences, and Colloquia

We hosted Reparations 2021, our first convening of the year, on April 10. Columbia University sponsored the event as a part of its [Addressing Racism](#) campaign. The conference focused on local reparation efforts but grassroots organizers, government representatives, researchers, and students all discussed reparations efforts in the U.S.

Justin Hansford, Executive Director of the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at Howard University, and Kamm Howard, Co-chair of N'Cobra, discussed the importance of racial healing and reparations. Howard provided a compelling review of the legacy of harm and transgenerational trauma.

A panel of reparation leaders moderated by Nkechi Taifa, Founder, Principal and CEO of the Taifa Group LLC. and an accomplished justice system reform strategist. Robin Rue Simmons, an Alderman from the City of Evanston, discussed her efforts to secure \$10,000,000 for housing reparations. They were joined in conversation by Dr. Waymon Hinson of the Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association, who discussed his work on Black Farmers Reparations, and Joe Womack, President, and CEO of C.H.E.S.S., who discussed Africatown's environmental justice efforts. Kamm Howard discussed the broad efforts of N'COBRA and reparations efforts in the city of Chicago.

Panelists noted the lengthy efforts and strategic planning required to secure reparations. Dr. Waymon Hinson discussed the legal battle to secure Black Farmer Reparations, which started with a class-action lawsuit against the United States Department of Agriculture, which failed to provide a remedy to the vast majority of Black Farmers. Hinson discussed the continued efforts to secure repair and expressed his hope that the COVID-19 American Relief Fund might provide the reparations needed for Black farmers and their families.

Ald. Simmons noted that Evanston's historical analysis on housing discrimination policies was ten years in the making. She also discussed the strategic use of cannabis taxes to fund the Local Reparations Restorative Housing Program. Ald. Simmons also commented on the continuing threat of legal challenges, and public resistance against reparations. Panelists also discussed the application of a human rights framework to secure reparations and recognized the success of Chicago's preparatory scheme for police torture.

REPARATIONS 2021 (CONT.)

The afternoon provided an opportunity for individuals to participate in working sessions collaborate on local redress efforts. The breakout groups focused on Politics, Legislation, & Litigation; Advocacy & Organizing; Research & Documentation; and Education & Awareness Raising. Several themes emerged during these breakout sessions, including descendant communities' right to control their own narratives as well as the importance of historical truth-telling to correct misinformation and advance reparations work. We plan to continue these conversations in our upcoming Fall 2021 conference.

REPARATIONS 2021

Join the African American Racial Redress Network for an interactive conference on local reparations efforts in the United States. Reparations 2021 will be an opportunity to learn more about various local redress efforts and for activists and scholars around the country to identify points of collaboration and discuss approaches, challenges, and lessons-learned.

**APRIL 10, 2021
11:00 A.M. ET**

[HTTP://BIT.LY/REPARATIONS 2021](http://bit.ly/reparations2021)

Flyer for *Reparations 2021*

WHAT WE DO (CONT.)

Education

We developed educational materials, including presentations and other learning modules. These materials provide an overview of U.S. history, historic racial harms, and the need to repair these harms. Our educational materials discuss local reparations within the human rights framework. We presented these materials in events for Local Progress and the University of DC.

Local Progress works to educate and support local elected officials who advance racial and economic justice. We collaborate with Local Progress to educate municipal and state leaders on local reparations policy.

The University of DC offers a unique course, "Black Land Loss in Washington: Memories of the Past, Hopes for the Future." Students in this course examine racial land theft along the Potomac River using oral histories research to preserve counter-narratives to existing whitewashed accounts. We will continue to provide additional educational resources in support of this course.

COMMUNICATIONS

Under the leadership of Kwolanne Felix, we developed and launched a communications platform and dedicated social media presence.

In this effort, we revamped our website and curated our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages to inform our followers and connect reparationists with both AARN and each other. Our Instagram account was instrumental in one of our technical support initiatives, *The Red Summer 1919-2021 Digital Memoria*.

Additionally, we unified our communications design to match our newly reimagined logo:



STEERING COMMITTEE



Justin Hansford is the Executive Director of the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at Howard University. Hansford previously served as a Democracy Project Fellow at Harvard University, a Visiting Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center, and an Associate Professor of Law at Saint Louis University. He has a B.A. from Howard University and a J.D. from

Georgetown University Law Center, where he founded the Georgetown Journal of Law and Modern Critical Race Perspectives. Professor Hansford received a Fulbright Scholar award to study Nelson Mandela's legal career and served as a clerk for Judge Damon J. Keith on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Hansford has worked to empower the Ferguson community through community-based legal advocacy. He co-authored the Ferguson to Geneva human rights shadow report and accompanied the Ferguson protesters and Mike Brown's family to Geneva, Switzerland, to testify at the United Nations. He served as a policy advisor for proposed post-Ferguson reforms at the local, state, and federal levels. In this effort, he testified before the Ferguson Commission, the Missouri Advisory Committee to the United States Civil Rights Commission, the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Hansford co-authored the forthcoming Seventh Edition of *Race, Racism and American Law*. His interdisciplinary scholarship has appeared in academic journals at various universities, including Harvard, Georgetown, Fordham, and the University of California at Hastings.



Dr. Linda Mann is a veteran educator, a conflict resolution specialist, and a 20+ year grass-roots organizer. She currently serves as the Research Director for AARN. She also works as a Research Scholar at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. She earned a Ph.D. in Education Policy from George Mason University. In 2018 Mann was awarded an Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability fellowship with Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human

Rights. After this, Mann established the African American Redress Network in collaboration with Howard University and ISHR.

Mann served as Executive Director at Northeastern University School of Law and Director of Clinical Experiences at Marymount University in Arlington, VA. Mann's research focuses on the analysis of historical injustices and contemporary reparations based on the voices of those wronged to determine their restorative justice potential. Mann has also worked for the Georgetown Memory Project and the American Educational Research Association.

STEERING COMMITTEE



Billi Wilkerson is the Managing Director of the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at Howard University School of Law and serves as a Project Coordinator for AARN. With fond memories of her mother blasting Billie Holiday in the living room, Bilqis Watts Wilkerson is known to most simply as Billi.

As a law student, Billi found her true calling in Human and Civil Rights. Billi brings years of experience in community activism, grassroots organizing, and advocacy. Her interests range broadly and she succinctly states that her aspiration is to improve the human experience.

Wilkerson advocates for peace, justice, human rights, environmental justice, and dignity for marginalized communities (including missing children, incarcerated individuals, and their families, the poor, the homeless, etc) in a variety of different contexts. Wilkerson served in international development, community management, the Congressional Black Caucus, and for Congresswoman Barbara Lee.



Kristina Eberbach is the Deputy Director and Director of Education at Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human Rights and an Adjunct Assistant Professor of International and Public Affairs at SIPA. From 2010-2019 she served as the Institute's Director of Education. She has developed and facilitated human rights courses and workshops for university students,

members of civil society, and government officials in Colombia, Iraq, Myanmar, and the U.S. She has performed research, reporting, and advocacy work in Kenya, Myanmar, The Netherlands, South Africa, Uganda, and the U.S.

She is on the steering committee of Human Rights Educators USA and co-founded the University and College Consortium for Human Rights Education, where she serves as a steering committee member. Her research interests focus on human rights education and human rights in conflict and transitional contexts. Eberbach holds a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.

STEERING COMMITTEE



Dr. Elazar Barkan is Professor of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University and Director of SIPA's Human Rights and Humanitarian Policy Concentration. Barkan also works as Director of Columbia's Institute for the Study of Human Rights.

Professor Barkan is the founding Director of the Institute for Historical Justice and Reconciliation in The Hague. Barkan served on ISHR's board of directors before becoming ISHR's co-director in 2007 and director in 2008. Previously, Professor Barkan served as chair of the History Department and the Cultural Studies Department at the Claremont Graduate University, where he served as founding director of the Humanities Center. Professor Barkan is a historian by training and received his Ph.D. from Brandeis University in Comparative European History and BA from Tel Aviv University.

Barkan's research interests focus on human rights and the role of history in contemporary society and politics and the response to gross historical crimes and injustices. His human rights work brings scholars from two or more sides of a conflict together and employs historical methodology to create shared narratives across political divides and turn historical dialogue into a fundamental tool of political reconciliation. Professor Barkan's other research interests include refugee repatriation, comparative analysis of historical commissions, shared sacred sites, and the question of human rights impact, specifically with regard to redress and transitional justice.

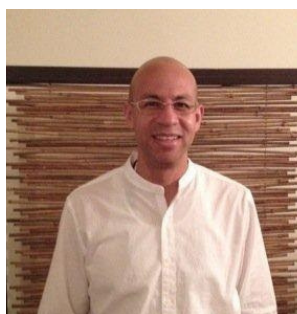


Dr. Greg Carr is a professor of Afro-American Studies at Howard University. Carr holds a Ph.D. from Temple University. His research focus is on pan-African historiography. He instructs courses on Africana Studies normative theory, Africana intellectual history, classical African history, and African-American nationalism. Greg's publications include: *Towards an Intellectual*

History of Africana Studies: Genealogy and Normative Theory, and *You Don't Call the Kittens Biscuits: Disciplinary Africana Studies and The Study of Malcolm X*.

As the School District of Philadelphia's First Resident Scholar on Race and Culture, Dr. Carr developed educational policymaking and curriculum frameworks for African-American History courses that are now required for secondary education students in Philadelphia.

STEERING COMMITTEE



Dr. Mario Beatty is an Associate Professor of Afro-American Studies. He received his B.A. degree in Black World Studies at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, his M.A. degree in Black Studies at The Ohio State University, and his Ph.D. degree in African-American Studies at Temple University. He has taught at Morris Brown College, Bowie State University, and he served as Chairperson of the Department of African-American Studies at Chicago State University from 2007 to 2010.

Beatty served as an educational consultant for the School District of Philadelphia from 2004 to 2007, where he helped to write curriculum and to train teachers in the novel, district-wide mandatory course in African-American history. He currently serves as President of The Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations. His research interests include the Ancient Egyptian language, history, wisdom literature, astronomy in Ancient Egyptian religious texts, comparative analyses of African cultures, the image and use of ancient Africa in the African-American historical imagination, the theory and practice of African-American Studies, and Pan-Africanism.



Dr. Michael L. Blakey is a National Endowment for the Humanities Professor of Anthropology, Africana Studies, and American Studies. He is the Founding Director of the Institute for Historical Biology at the College of William & Mary. Blakey advised the award-winning exhibition "Race: Are We So Different?" for the American Anthropological Association. He served as President of the Association of Black Anthropologists and as a

member of the editorial board of *American Anthropologist*.

Blakey represented the United States on the Council of the 4th World Archaeological Congress in South Africa. He is a member of the Scholarly Advisory Committee of the National Museum of African American History and Culture of the Smithsonian Institution, where he previously held the position of Research Associate in Physical Anthropology at the National Museum of Natural History from 1985 to 1994. He was Scientific Director of the New York African Burial Ground Project from 1992-2009.

Blakey has taught at Spelman College, Columbia, Brown, La Sapienza, and Howard University, where he founded the W. Montague Cobb Biological Anthropology Laboratory. He served as Director of the Remembering Slavery, Resistance, and Freedom Project sponsored by the Virginia General Assembly from 2010 to 2015. He recently published *The Skeletal Biology of the New York African Burial Ground*, written with Lesley Rankin-Hill. His other writings cover bioarchaeology, publicly engaged archaeology, and scientific racism. He is currently working on a book on race and racism in science and society. His awards include an honorary Doctor of Science from York College, CUNY. He earned his B.A. from Howard University and his M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

STEERING COMMITTEE



Dr. Fredrick Harris is the Dean of Social Science and Political Science and Director of the Center on African American Politics and Society at Columbia University. Harris focuses on American politics, specifically on race and politics, political participation, social movements, religion and politics, political development, and African-American politics.

Harris won the V.O. Key Book Award by the Southern Political Science Association; Best Book

Award by the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion; the Best Book Award by the National Conference of Black Political Scientists; the W.E.B. DuBois Book Award from the National Conference of Black Political Scientists; the Ralph Bunche Award from the American Political Science Association; the Mary Parker Follet Award for best article by the American Political Science Association's section on Politics and History; and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award for Non-Fiction.

Harris recently published *The Price of the Ticket: Barack Obama and the Rise and Decline of Black Politics*. Harris also curated the Oxford University Press book list "Transgressing Boundaries: Studies in Black Politics and Black Communities" and co-authored *Beyond Discrimination: Racial Inequality in a Post-Racist Era* with Robert Lieberman. Harris' writing can be found in *Dissent*, the *London Review of Books*, *The New York Times*, and the *Washington Post*.

Professor Harris previously served as VP of the American Political Science Association, a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a Visiting Scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation, a Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., and a Visiting Professor at the Pantheon-Sorbonne University in Paris.



Kamm Howard is a Chicago businessman and activist. He currently owns retail and office spaces that house the businesses of 17 Black entrepreneurs in the Roseland community. Kamm has spoken on reparations in both Ethiopia and South Africa.

In 2016, Kamm helped organize the United Nations Working Group of Experts for People of African Descent visit to the United States, which resulted in recommendations for the United States to amend

centuries of gross human rights violations against people of African Descent with reparations.

Kamm has been a member of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) for 17 years and led N'COBRA as its National Male Co-Chair since 2017. He worked closely with both the late Rep. John Conyers and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee to move HR 40 through Congress. Kamm also aided Alderman Robin Rue Simmons in creating a municipal reparations program in Evanston, Illinois. In June 2020, Kamm assisted in the creation of the City of Chicago Subcommittee on Reparations. Kamm also authored the manual, "Laying the Foundation for Local Reparations: A Guide for Providing National Symmetry for Local Reparations Efforts."

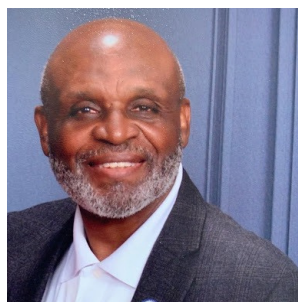
STEERING COMMITTEE



Mélisande Short-Colomb serves as the Research and Community Engagement Associate and is a founding member of the GU272 Advocacy Team. She serves on the Georgetown Memory Project's Board of Advisors. She is Council Elder of the GU272 Descendants Association. She received a 2019 Fr. Bunn Award for journalistic excellence for commentary in support of the "GU272 Referendum to Create a New Legacy." The referendum passed with overwhelming student support in April 2019.

Short-Colomb is a descendant of two families sold in 1838 by the Society of Jesus. Short-Colomb wrote and performed a one-person show, titled *Here I Am*. The play includes her personal story of discovering she was descended from slaves sold for the benefit of Georgetown and her attendance at the same institution. *Here I Am* also includes archival excerpts which give voice to the slaves, Jesuits, and others around the time of the sale. Short-Colomb also speaks frequently on the subjects of the GU272 and reparations. She testified before the InterAmerican Commission on Human Rights, lectured at the [Brooklyn Historical Society](#), and gave a [TEDx talk](#). Short-Colomb's writing was published in the [Washington Post](#), [The New Yorker](#), and the [AARP Journal](#). Short-Colomb also appeared in a [Full Frontal with Samantha Bee](#) episode on reparations, among other television appearances.

From New Orleans, LA, Short-Colomb began her studies at Georgetown in August 2017, as one of two undergraduate students from recognized descendant families. Short-Colomb retired from a lengthy culinary career to attend Georgetown. Her family includes four adult children and four granddaughters, and scores of newly identified cousins.



Anderson Flen is the Vice President of Africatown C.H.E.S.S. Flen was born in Magazine Point, Alabama (Africatown), and graduated from Mobile County Training School (MCTS) in 1968. The history of the descendants of the slave ship *Clotilda*, the founders of Africatown, affected his entire education.

Flen works to ensure local churches have the support necessary to serve the community and share their stories. Flen served 30 years as Director of Health Promotions and Planning in the North Georgia Health District until his retirement in 2015. In this role, Flen collaborated with government and community organizations representing academia, business, non-profits, healthcare, and religious institutions. Flen played a foundational role in the formation of all the current community organizations in Africatown, including the Mobile County Training School Alumni Association (MCTSAA), the Africatown Heritage Preservation Foundation, the Africatown Community Development Corporation, and C.H.E.S.S.

Flen served as the first Alumni Association President of the newly reorganized MCTSAA, now a 501-c3 non-profit. In 2016, Flen worked on the Africatown Connections Blueway Project with the National Park Service (NPS).

STEERING COMMITTEE



Dr. Valethia Watkins is Director of the Women's Studies Graduate Certificate Program and Associate Professor of Africana Studies in the Department of Afro-American Studies at Howard University. She earned her Ph.D. in African American Studies at Temple University and a Law Degree at The Ohio State University College of Law. Dr. Watkins previously served as an educational consultant for the School District of Philadelphia, where she assisted in the writing and training of teachers in a

district-wide required course in African-American history.

Dr. Watkins was the National Secretary for the Association of Black Women Historians. She serves as a member of the editorial board of *The Compass: Journal of the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations*, where she also publishes her work. Dr. Watkins also published work in journals such as *The Journal of Pan African Studies*, *Phylon: The Clark Atlanta University Review of Race and Culture*, *The African Journal of Rhetoric*.

Her research interests include Black Women's Intellectual History, Africana Gender Studies, the Politics of Race and Racism in American Feminist Thought, and conceptualizing Africana Studies approaches to the study of gender. Dr. Watkins has lectured on the Racial Politics of the Woman Suffrage movement and Black Women's History across the United States and internationally in countries such as Ghana, Egypt, and Great Britain.

Contact the African American Redress Network

Website: WWW.REDRESSNETWORK.ORG

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