

## COMMITTEE NOTES

**Ad Hoc Committee Meeting on Black Archives of Mid-America, Inc.  
Kansas City Public Library  
Board of Trustees  
January 29, 2016**

The Ad Hoc Committee on Black Archives of Mid-America, Inc. of the Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Friday, January 29, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. at the Black Archives of Mid-America, Inc., 1722 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Terrace, Kansas City, Missouri.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Olivia Dorsey (Chair)  
Billie Howard Barnes  
Leon Dixon

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jonathan Kemper (ex officio)  
Rose Marie Bell

STAFF PRESENT:

Crosby Kemper III, Chief Executive  
Cheptoo Kositany-Buckner, Deputy Director  
Elizabeth Eddings, Administrative Officer  
Eli Paul, Special Collections Manager

OTHERS PRESENT:

Emiel Cleaver, Black Archives Director  
Monique Johnston, Black Archives Director of  
Development  
Glenn North, Black Archives Director of  
Programming and Education  
Geri Sanders, Black Archives Collection Librarian

C. Kemper called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

Staff provided a presentation of the Black Archives with the following highlights:

- Cleaver presented management and operations information.
  - Collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Department to repair sinking floor in Exhibit Room. Parks and Recreation is responsible for cost of repairs.
  - Kansas City Council awarded \$750,000 to the Black Archives and may be used to partially fund an Alvin Ailey Exhibit.
  - Accounting and payroll services will change to Support KC in March.
  - Carpenter Communications will complete website updates including videos and additional content.
  - Opportunity to rent office space to a third party for additional monthly income.

Kositany-Buckner asked if building repairs will be complete in time for Egypt Sherrod Luncheon on February 25<sup>th</sup>. All repairs should be complete by mid-February.

C. Kemper and Kositany-Buckner advised renting office space to third party vendor.

Howard Barnes joined meeting at 3:44 p.m.

- North provided programming, education and exhibits information.
  - Archives Events include: Leonard Pitts, Discovering Black Heroes, Preserving Photographs, Screening of Amistad, Beating Holiday/Winter Blues, The Mbembe Milton Smith Poetry Series featured Ed Mabrey.
  - Black History Month programming to include: African American Book to Film Series, Black Documentary Series, Horace Petersen III Lecture Series will feature Steven Washington, Script In Hand reading of The Island, Community Stories, Salon 360: Economic Empowerment, and Black Inventors Showcase. Black Inventors Showcase will feature over 100 black innovators with interactive exhibits to inspire entrepreneurship.
  - Education Initiatives include:
    - John Fleming discussing historically black colleges and universities.
    - Teacher Advisory Board is under development, along with partnership development.
  - Future Programming includes:
    - Community Stories featuring Rosalyn Temple, Kansas City Star 2015 Citizen of the Year.
    - Mbembe Milton Smith Poetry Series to feature Nikki Skies.
    - Horace Peterson III Lecture Series to feature Gabrielle Jordan, Youth Entrepreneur.

C. Kemper recommended Deborah Dandridge and her aunt Dorothy Dandridge for presentations.

Dorsey joined meeting at 4:08 p.m.

- Johnston discussed resource development.
  - Black Archives received funding from the Missouri Arts Council, NEH (National Endowment for the Humanities), Francis Family Foundation, Speas Trust, and Breidenthal organizations.
  - New grant opportunities are being researched with multiple organizations such as George K Baum Family Foundation and Davidson Foundation.
  - Black History Month will focus on black entrepreneurs, including the Egypt Sherrod Luncheon February 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - Strategic Program Planning including addition of new board members, networking through board members, steward mailings for events, and reporting donation impact to community.

C. Kemper will connect with Davidson Family Trust and Barrows Foundation contacts to help with grant process.

C. Kemper recommended contacting John Sherman or Mike Shultz at the Kauffman Foundation for additional Egypt Sherrod Luncheon financial support. Dorsey asked if there was a core group in place to ensure half the seats would be filled and advised reaching out to churches or women's organizations. Kositany-Buckner suggested working with sororities and The Links.

- Sanders overviewed collections, outreach, and exhibits.
  - Collections
    - Since August 2015, collections received fifty eight requests for information.
    - Discussed starting collections for churches, social organizations, social justice, music and sports.
  - Community Outreach
    - Collaboration with Nelson Atkins Museum of Art for the Through the Lens exhibit, Fambrough Collection photographs, and Civil Rights Panel Discussion.
    - An event was held open to the community to identify photographs in the Washington, Williams, and Fambrough Collections and attendee information was gathered on forms.
    - Black History Calendars were developed. These calendars are used for marketing and will aid teacher lesson plan development.
    - Establishment of an African American Genealogy Center discussed.
    - Development of a column where highlights of the Archives could be shared with the public.
  - Internships
    - Intern and graduate student Bridget Haney is assisting with collections development and working to acquire funding for a paid position.

Dorsey asked how photograph identification attendee forms would be used. Sanders will contact attendees via email and invite them to return to the Archives. Howard Barnes suggested creating a photograph sheet to share with churches to relationship build. Paul encouraged offering photo identification opportunities to the community.

Dorsey advised including calendar information on each page, rather than front page only, on the Black History Calendar.

Kositany-Buckner suggested funds for a microfilm machine should be the first step for creation of an African American Genealogy Center.

C. Kemper offered to feature an Archives highlights column on the Library website.

Dorsey suggested developing an internship program in partnership with other institutions.

#### OTHER DISCUSSION:

Kositany-Buckner discussed combining efforts to offer exhibits across the 18<sup>th</sup> & Vine District.

Howard Barnes asked how teachers will access the Black History Calendars. Kositany-Buckner described the distribution process and offered to report back how calendars are put in the hands of teachers and school administrators. Dorsey inquired how many calendars were printed and suggested distributing outside the Kansas City School District as well. Kositany-Buckner stated 5,000 calendars are printed and further discussed distribution ideas. Dorsey suggested a table tent version of calendar for display at local businesses to help with goal of generating calendar revenue. Sanders described plans to create an exhibit to coordinate with calendar.

Kositany-Buckner is retiring from the Library and expressed thanks to the committee.

Kositany-Buckner discussed the Archives selection as a Google Cultural Institute, a digital repository for collections. Various images are being selected such as Tuskegee Airmen and Alvin Ailey.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Olivia Dorsey, Chair  
Ad Hoc Committee

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Date