

MEETING MINUTES | MSAAHCC WEEKLY CHECK-IN

PROJECT	Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor Strategic Action Plan	DATE	April 15, 2021
ATTENDEES	Moody Nolan (MN) MSAAHCC Lord Cultural Resources (LCR) UBRI	LOCATION	Zoom Conference Call
	Terry Alford Audrey Clark Roxanne Kise Latoya Kamdang Dawne David-Pierre Joy Bailey-Bryant Chiwuike Owunwanne Sandy White Lillie Wiley-Upshaw	PREPARED BY	Dawne David-Pierre

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED DURING THE MEETING

- 4.15a The group discussed the Nash House Board Meeting from 4/14. The commission provided insight that board member feedback from that conversation was more inclusive than at the beginning of the process. Indicative of the path travelled to date.
- 4.15b There is hope that the Nash House Museum will share some of its content and artifacts with the church as the planning process develops.
- 4.15c The Boards of Directors of the four anchor institutions have never gathered as a group. Roxanne and Terry are interested in planning an outdoor event in person to get the boards to interact...meet and greet...It will be important for them all to relate to each other as we work toward a unified vision of the Corridor's development. The garden/park area adjacent to the church is a potential venue.
- 4.15d Lillie raised the question of how the church can be used to teach about community activism and community service. How might the Corridor go beyond tourism and continue to emphasize "the movement"? Teaching spaces might be accommodated within the church, or in a new visitor center. Part of the story of the church is about activism and community work/outreach; stories of rebirth and immigrant populations. Reverend and Mrs. Nash were both community activists, as were other members of the historic congregation and the surrounding community.
- How do we keep "doing the work" in addition to tourism?
- 4.15e Roxanne reiterated that the master plan focus is on Michigan between William and Genessee. However, the report should encompass a broad vision for the entire corridor and indicate ideas and initiatives that might be pursued in future phases. (What are the dreams beyond the concentrated area of the corridor and what types of development will be important in other parts of the corridor?)



- 4.15f The group discussed the conversation with the City Commissioner regarding streetscape. Focus groups and community engagement will include questions to garner feedback that may be helpful in shaping the RFP for streetscape improvements. MN to reach out to schedule a follow up meeting with the Commissioner following the first round of community engagement meetings.
- 4.15g Signage/markers down the corridor and into other parts of the city was expressed as something that would be impactful. Roxanne mentioned the Pomeroy Foundation as a grant resource for securing historical markers. The team will include this in the financial planning and fundraising strategy as it develops.
- 4.15h The team discussed advertising for the focus groups and community engagement events. Language has been sent to the Commission for review. LRC will send the Eventbrite link for publication.
- 4.15i Board meeting conversations have been scheduled with all four anchor institutions. MN may attend the Commission general board meeting in May to gather feedback. (Date: 5/11)
- 4.15j The Broad Community conversation schedule was discussed. Terry expressed concern that hosting a large community meeting in July might not draw enough participation because of competing summer interests. The team agreed that pushing the broad community conversations into the fall would adversely affect the project schedule. LCR and MN will propose dates in July and January for the large meetings. July will be a visioning session reflecting feedback from the first conversation and January will be a final presentation of the plan.

Action Items:

1. Minutes from City Commissioner meeting.
2. Minutes from Nash House Board meeting.
3. Minutes from Radio Station Board meeting.

Attachments:

1. Updated project schedule with engagement meeting dates.

