



Report of the Executive Director



Sylvia Y. Cyrus

February 16 , 2023

The 2023 Black History Festival

- [The February Black History Festival is on the website.](#) We are working to finalize the events that will take place during the entire month of February virtually as well as the 2 p.m. matinee, Saturday, February 25, 2023 play, Campaign '72 about Shirley Chisholm's bid for President of the United States. The performance will be held at THEARC Theatre in Southwest DC. We are responsible for selling 325 seats for this performance. Considerable work has been completed on the media toolkit for the Festival. More details will follow. The webteam got the Festival page up on the website within 30 days of the conference, quicker than ever before. The ticket prices are \$75 for the play and limited VIP seating and refreshments at \$150. We have sold 4 tickets for the play.

The Virtual Festival will feature a Marquee Event titled, A Conversation with Secretary Lonnie Bunch. General tickets are \$65. Silver tickets are \$125 and include a general membership that can be used by the donor or gifted, and an ebook copy of the [Amanda Gorman](#) title, The Hill We Climb. Gold tickets include the Silver ticket perks and a hard-copy Amanda Gorman book.

Virtual Festival Ticket sales as of 2.6.23 are 32. The budget is based on 300 tickets.

Play Ticket sales as of 2.6.23 are 25. The budget is based on 325 tickets.

As a result of low ticket sales for the play, complimentary tickets were provided to local branches, luncheon and festival volunteers, Festival sponsors and award recipients, and others.

[Here is the schedule of events for the Festival](#)

[Here is the promotional trailer video for the Festival.](#)

[REGISTER HERE.](#)

[SPONSOR BENEFITS.](#)

The February 24, 2023 In-Person Executive Council Meeting

The meeting will take place from 10 am - 12 pm

Lunch will take place from 12 - 1 pm

The Work Session will take place from 1 pm - 5 pm

The Executive Council will hold an in person meeting on Friday, February 24, 2023 at our headquarters at UPO 301 Rhode Island Ave., NW Washington, DC 20001. Make your plans now to attend the meeting and the play the following day. A Board training work session is being included in the agenda. Very limited parking is available for the meeting. If you may need a space, please let me know.

MEMBERSHIP

Year	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total Year Membership	TBD	3055	3472	2829	3116	2650
Membership in January	1871	1375	1824	1646	1396	1141
Branch Members in January	1078	791	947	NA	643	309
(Difference from previous year)	287	-156	na	na	334	
(Total change from 2022	443					

Annual Branch Workshop - Saturday, September 16, 2023 via Zoom.

Annual Members Business Meeting - Monday, September 18, 2023 via Zoom.

The goal is to complete the online submission form for the Branch reports.

Combined Federal Campaign

The 2023 application has been completed and is ready for submission.

Staffing

Training is the priority for the new staff hires. Work on the year-end close is being done. Training and review for February events and meetings continues. Attention is being paid to how to encourage volunteers, especially students to support ASALH. We are working to fill two grant funded positions. One to replace Amani Marshall who served as the African American Civil Rights Network Liaison. We received over 30 applications for this position. The other to support partnerships.

The Teaching of Black History

[ASALH signed on to the New College statement by the ACLS.](#)

The [2023 Annual Conference](#) September 20-24 in Jacksonville, FL

The Florida Teaching of Black History scandal has resulted in discussions regarding ASALH's position and ongoing statements. We are mindful of the fact that members must be clear why we must support teaching Black history with well-researched statements and by attending and supporting the conference and our members and educators in Florida. We must look at the potential fiscal risk of those afraid to join ASALH and attend the conference due to the felony charges that can be levied against those who do not adhere to recent actions taken by the state.

Negotiations with Visit Jacksonville will provide a reimbursement from a grant by the Duval County Tourist Development Council in the amount of \$4.00 per room night which should result in between \$4,000 and \$5,000.00 and this must be used to reimburse AV and/or food for a reception.

Hotel Guarantee

Please note the following.

There were 882 hotel rooms booked for 2022 in two hotels.

The 2023 contract is for 1250 rooms and the minimum not to incur attrition is 1000 rooms. We should strive to attract at least 150 more attendees who stay in the hotel than last year.

Conference Registrants

2018 Indy (in-person) 961

2019 Charleston (in-person) 1435

2020 Virtual 758

2021 Virtual 1073

2022 In-person 756, Virtual 109, total =865

Sites for Future Conferences

2024, 2025, and 2026 are being explored now. Charlotte, Greensboro, Memphis, Atlanta, and Chicago have been discussed as possible locations. Please share any thoughts on other locations. We have been notified by Susan Simms Marsh that the CBCF Conference will take place September 20-24, 2023 and the same dates in 2024. We will make sure that we do not conflict with their dates next year.

