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**African Heritage Reparation Assembly Agenda**

**Monday, December 5, 2022**

**2:00 pm via Zoom**

<https://amherstma.zoom.us/j/81775029298>

**Or join by phone:**

253-205-0468 or 253-215-8782

**Webinar ID: 817 7502 9298**

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted via remote means. Members of the public who wish to access the meeting may do so via Zoom or by telephone, see instructions below. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means

**1. Call to Order:**

Welcome, Announcements, Agenda Review, and approval of 5/2/2022, 5/9/2022, 8/1/2022, 8/15/2022, 9/12/2022 and 9/19/2022

**2. Public Comment:**

**3. Presentation:**

**4. Action and Discussion Items:**

- a. Engagement/Consultation Campaign
  - Upcoming Listening Sessions
  - Engage Amherst Project Page
  - Black/African Heritage Registration Portal
  - Boots on the Ground
  - Organizing Allies
  - Community Survey
- b. Defining Harm Areas
- c. Eligibility Criteria
- d. LWV Racial Justice Committee Potential Collaboration
- e. July 5<sup>th</sup> Police/Youth Incident

**5. H.R. 40 Update:**

**6. BAAM Update:**

**7. Public Comment:**

**8. Member Reports:**

**9. Upcoming Agenda Items & Meeting Schedules:**

**10. Other Topics:**

Other topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate 48 hours in advance of the meeting

**11. Adjourn:**

**\*Public Comment:** During the public comment period, the Chair will recognize members of the public. When called on, please identify yourself by stating your full name, preferred pronouns, and residential address. Residents are welcome to express their views for up to 3 minutes, at the discretion of the Chair based upon the number of people who wish to speak; no speaker can cede their time to another speaker. The AHRA will not engage in a dialogue or comment on a matter raised during Public Comment.

[Join the meeting!](#)

**Or join by phone:**

253-205-0468 or 253-215-8782

**Webinar ID:** 817 7502 9298

**“Raise hand”** To join the AHRA meeting via telephone: Call Enter webinar ID when prompted: When prompted to enter your participant number press # To indicate you wish to make a comment, press \*9 on your telephone.



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**African Heritage Reparation Assembly Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, May 2, 2022**  
**3:00 pm via Zoom**

**Members Present:** Michele Miller, Chair; Yvonne Mendez, Dr. Irv Rhodes; Heather Hala Lord, Dr. Amilcar Shabazz; Alexis Reed

**Others Present:** Jennifer Moyston, Staff Liaison

**1. Call to Order:** 3:06 pm

Welcome, Announcements, Agenda Review, and Approval of 3/3/2022, 3/14/2022, 3/21/2022, 3/28/2022, 4/4/2022, and 4/11/2022 meeting minutes.

Minutes tabled to 5/9/2022 Meeting

**2. Public Comment:**

None

**3. Presentation:**

None

**4. Action and Discussion Items:**

- a. Community Survey
- b. Operating/Administrative Budget
- c. Black/African American Census

**d. Earmarking Cannabis Funds**

**Miller** Shared screen Budget Calendar. We can request Cannabis funds before the council on 5/16/2022.

**Dr. Shabazz:** Are we asking for other funds from our previous conversations. We have never heard back about our recommendations like ARPA funds.

**Miller:** We did not receive a response to the funding plan, we can include this in our 5/16/2022. My understanding was that we were waiting for the next budget cycle.

**Dr. Rhodes:** Who presents AHRA funds in their budget. And that is important because the budget cannot be changed to a lower amount but can be changed to a larger amount.

**Miller:** The Council has not had the discussion of how Cannabis funds should be used. The Town Manager submits his budget., but the Cannabis funds are a legislative decision.

**Dr. Rhodes:** FY 2024 and 2025 will be tight so if we are going to position ourselves then we need to do so early funding will get allocated to departments and many will be putting request for funds

**Shabazz:** When we made the recommendation, we made them without having a working plan, but the working plan does not change the urgency of the funding. Because when and how we spend it could take another year, but funds need to be collecting.

**Miller:** I do not think that our plan change affected the funds. I think we will get further once we do more of our work, but we should be asking for something out of this year's budget. But we need to have that conversation on 5/16/22 which we will have an additional meeting before then.

**Dr. Rhodes** If we receive any of the Cannabis, we need to figure out what we need to do or how to go about getting the funds into the TM budget.

Miller I think that we need to come up with a solid plan and the council needs to instruct Paul on earmarking the money for us.

**e. Public Comment:**

Ash Hartwell just want to say thank you to you all and that I agree with Dr. Shabazz about the need to build up the endowment now.

Lauren Mills: Sometimes I feel that I should not be commenting as I am not sure what the approach is with the Assembly. Share her thoughts as it keeps her connected and to others what is going on. She has been following other communities who are moving forward with reparations.

**f. Member Reports:**

**g. Upcoming Agenda Items & Meeting Schedules:**

05/09/2022 3:00 pm

**h. Other Topics:**

Other topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate 48 hours in advance of the meeting

**i. Adjourn: 4:10 pm**

**\*Public Comment:** During the public comment period, the Chair will recognize members of the public. When called on, please identify yourself by stating your full name, preferred pronouns, and residential address. Residents are welcome to express their views for up to 3 minutes, at the discretion of the Chair based upon the number of people who wish to speak; no speaker can cede their time to another speaker. The AHRA will not engage in a dialogue or comment on a matter raised during Public Comment.

To join the AHRA meeting via Zoom teleconferencing

Or join the meeting by phone

346-248-7799 or 408-638-0968

**Webinar ID:** 830 3231 7141

To indicate you wish to make a comment click “raise hand” To join the AHRA meeting via telephone: Call Enter webinar ID when prompted: When prompted to enter your participant number press # To indicate you wish to make a comment, press \*9 on your telephone.



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**African Heritage Reparation Assembly Agenda**  
**Monday, May 9, 2022**  
**3:00 pm via Zoom**

**Members Present:** Michele Miller, Chair, Dr. Irv Rhodes, Dr. Amilcar Shabazz, Heather Hala Lord, Alexis Reed, and Yvonne Mendez

**Members Absent:** None

**Others in attendance:** Maura Keene and Page Wilder, Amherst Community Land Trust and Jennifer Moyston staff liaison

**1. Call to Order:** 3:04 pm

Welcome, Announcements, Agenda Review, and Approval of 3/3/2022, 3/14/2022, 3/21/2022, 3/28/2022, 4/4/2022, and 4/11/2022 meeting minutes.

**Miller:** Made the motion to Approve meeting minutes from 3/3/2022, 3/14/2022, 3/21/2022, 3/28/2022, 4/4/2022, and 4/11/2022:

**Motion Seconded by** Dr. Shabazz

Roll Call Vote: Dr. Shabazz, yes; Dr. Rhodes: yes; Miller yes; Lord aye; Alexis yes.  
Minutes approved with 5 in favor and 1 absent (Yvonne Mendez)

**2. Public Comment:**

None

**3. Presentation:**

Amherst Community Land Trust: Maura Keene and Paige Wilder:

**Wilder** spoke on the history of the Land Trust and the model that they use. It is housing not conservation and houses do not develop. ACLT incorporated in 2014 they have 4 houses first was a duplex and then ran a complex. The President of ACLT passed away and her house is in process. There are really informative videos on website.

**Keene** The Trust owns the land and the person living in the house owns the home. The land is not taxable, because ACLT is a non-profit. This allows people who can't afford to buy to buy. Except when they sell, they need to keep it on the affordable end. We have had wonderful families and all people of color just not African Americans as we get more housing, we would like to ensure that some black families get into housing.

**Reed:** I have been here 30 years and never heard of the ACLT. Here is where I see the problem which is the land issue. What sort of limitation does someone have on the land? Can they farm. Etc.

**Keene:** The land is on a 99-year lease to the person who owns the house.

**Wilder:** The land use goes by zoning if you put a pool fine, but you can't sell the house for the profit of the pool.

**Miller:** Welcomed Assembly member Yvonne Mendez

**Miller:** If it is a duplex or is not and can be converted can the homeowner rent the other side without limitation.

**Paige:** It has to be owner occupied and the other side should be market value or affordable. We are a board of 9 and we jumped in with a house first. It was a bunch of white homeowners who thought the planning board and or UMass was taking over. People were going to realtors and the houses were not being listed they were being sold.

**Shabazz:** Great information things that can help us move forward in our partnership has there been any study to why there have not been black folks in your program or are there ideas.

**Keene:** All of our homes are selected by lottery

**Paige:** A mix of things I have some ideas of what is happening. Understanding what it means not to own your own land is one. And we talk to who we know.

**Rhodes:** This is great information and something that is near and dear to my heart I am in the process of launching a program for affordable home ownership. There is equity and appreciation in the house. Wealthy individuals will take a 50-year mortgage. The other thing leasing the land to a community land trust is something we had not thought about. We wanted to reduce the cost. But if the land is leased to a nonprofit then it cannot be taxed.

**Mendez:** This is fascinating if you are having a meeting on Wednesday I would love to attend. One reason I joined this committee was because it is so hard for people of color to purchase a home. It runs from the bank on. And then the fact of the lottery. But there must be a way to create equitable and fair and leveling the playing field. All efforts are great but there needs to be targeting.

**Paige:** Your suggestions are helpful part of the reason to come to the meeting is because we are interested in finding out how you will determinate reparation.

**Keene:** I think after the last lottery we realized that we do need to target.

**Rhodes:** Amherst cost of living is 23% higher than the rest of the country. A 1 bedroom is 1600 a two bedroom is 2400. You have people who have been renting at those rates for years but cannot get a mortgage. Here in Amherst no matter how you look at it those who are renting are less likely to get a home.

**Dr. Shabazz:** How to identify and organize the African American community. In area that may not be thought may be the. Do you include African American graduate students? If they could find places to live not just own but even rent.

**Mendez:** Adding to what Shabazz said I was at an event one woman was speaking about how oppressed she is about work and day to day life. Putting a name in a lottery is really discouraging to people. They do not feel like they will get it.

**Paige:** We meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. I will send the link to the next meeting to you all.

**Reed:** Echoing what has been said it is not enough to say that this is for everyone, it is not enough to say that I am including. What are the barriers to access?

#### **d. Earmarking Cannabis Funds**

**Miller:** It sounds like we will continue to have more conversation. Is everyone available to stay till 4:30 pm. I want us to have time to have further discussion about the ACLT, but we have a more pressing need to have a conversation about what we will be presenting to Town Council. After our last discussion in terms of asking the town to earmark cannabis funds several things have happened, and I want to talk to you about them. The first thing I found is that this is guidance from the CCC they have identified as part of their establishment Amherst is one of the communities that have been disproportionately affected by the War on drugs. The CCC hired the Donahue Institute to reevaluate the community and I reached out to Mike who immediately put me in contact with the latest report. I had a great conversation, and it is very interested the work that they did. They did not include Amherst in the report because of the high number of college students and as it stands Amherst is still one of the 29 communities and the numbers are included in the report. Hoping to get someone who can give a testimony to the council.

**Reed:** The overview will be very helpful and there are certain things that need to be said to make it hit home. Get a national picture then put it into perspective with Hampshire County with the fact that blacks are 18 percent higher and that in Franklin County 108 percent higher to be charged with drug offenses. Since 2020 there have been 9 growing bust and most of the people who were involved in the grow bust were over 50 and back. We are criminalizing black people for the stuff that white people are making money off of.

**Dr. Rhodes:** 79 percent of our population consist of students and those students in that 79 percent are us. So that report should include students.

**Miller:** The CCC is taking public comment please share that information.

**Dr. Shabazz:** This is about creating the compelling narrative that can impress you and your other 12 council members of following our recommendations. Just add that a lot of the study is about the prosecution and the help with the data that shows the over prosecution by her former office. Jason Vassal spotless record involved in a fight she came at Jason for this fight with two other individuals who were white and came out with no charges. The evidence of the harm is in the District Attorney's office as well. It is not just arrest it is also prosecution. I will approach that office in see if there is information to bring to be further included as information to give to your colleagues.

**Reed:** It is not just an arrest it is the possibility that someone will lose their job or benefits or housing because of these racist encounters.

**Mendez:** Some of these things we should keep as a list to continue the conversation. We want people to know that there is help for housing that does not include all the barriers.

**Hala Lord:** Legally but then also in Amherst with harm. My cousin got suspended for something that occurred off school grounds and outside of school hours.

**Miller:** Let's confirm a meeting for next week:

**Dr. Rhodes:** Those 79 percent of students are counted as part of this town and the money that we receive from the state. So, we cannot count them on one hand and then not the other.

**4. Action and Discussion Items:**

- a. Community Survey
  - i. La Juan Allen, Director of Policy and Partnership, City of Providence
- b. Operating/Administrative Budget
- c. Black/African American Census
- d. Vacancy

**5. Public Comment:**

**6. Member Reports:**

**7. Upcoming Agenda Items & Meeting Schedules: 2:30 – 4:30 on May 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**8. Other Topics:**

Other topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate 48 hours in advance of the meeting

**9. Adjourn: 4:32**



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**African Heritage Reparation Assembly Agenda**  
**Monday, August 1, 2022**  
**2:00 pm via Zoom**

**Members Present:** Michele Miller, Chair; Debora Bridges; Heather Hala Lord; Yvonne Mendez; Alexis Reed; Dr. Irv Rhodes; Dr. Amilcar Shabazz

**Others Present:** Lauren Goldberg, Town Attorney, K.P. Law, Devan Braun, Town Attorney, K.P. Law; Paul Bockelman, Town Manager; Pamela Nolan Young, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Director

**1. Call to Order: 2:06 pm**

Welcome, Announcements, Agenda Review and Approval of 5/2/2022 and 5/9/2022 Meeting Minutes

**2. Public Comment:**

**3. Presentation:**

**4. Action and Discussion Items:**

- a. Community Engagement: Tabled to the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - i. Engage Amherst Page  
**Miller:** I am looking to see what people's thoughts are regarding an engage Amherst page even if we only keep updates on the page.
  - ii. Collecting Community Feedback
  - iii. Community Forums
- b. League of Women Voters Racial Justice Committee  
Collaboration Opportunities
- c. 1. Special Legislation Update  
**Miller** shared screen of questions that were sent to K.P. Law.

**Goldberg:** Explained that special legislation is required for the Town to raise and spend money for the purpose of making direct grants/payments to individuals. This is due to the amendment to the Massachusetts constitution and the so-called public purpose rule. Paraphrasing that the town cannot give money to an individual or a group where the public as a whole is not eligible. Has some created ways for a work around. Used Evanston as a model where they gave a bank \$25,000.00 in homeownership grants who then in turn gave it to the individual. We do know that the Massachusetts Department of Revenue discourages providing individual grant agreements. Instead, Mass DOR uses Community Preservation Act as the way to move forward. For example, Community Preservation Act, for example, we take municipal funds and, in return, we have an interest in that building. Educational

scholarships are also regulated by laws: the Council would accept the Statute and create the scholarship what it allows is essentially the raising of funds on the town's tax bills. it's a voluntary checkoff that allows that and you would need in order to raise money from you know as part of a town action. To be able to give out those scholarships that's how that's how that would work.

**Braun:** Regarding harm you will want to beef up the remediation and how each potential payment is connected to a previous harm. To defend a challenge on how the harms are connected to the reparation distribution ie. Homeownership grants if there was a history of redlining in Amherst.

**Goldberg:** Private donations are subject to different rules always have been, and what it essentially is, is that when a donation is made to a city or town under Chapter 44 section. it's considered a grant to the town the gift functions as a trust so sometimes people may leave money in a will, and it might be for education. What ever the donation is stated for is the only thing the funds can be spent on. The Council has the ability to accept or not accept the gift. The Council would decide does this gift essentially meet the requirements of the fund. And if so, then the account they Assembly would be authorized to expand it in a manner consistent with the gift.

**Miller:** Shared screen with amended question from Dr. Rhodes. Would a Youth Empowerment Center that benefits the general public still need Special Legislation.

**Goldberg:** based on just what we're looking at here the town could do that the town can create a youth empowerment Center it can raise money for that purpose.

**Dr. Shabazz:** Is there a downside that either of you see in pursuing the Home Rule Special Public Purpose Legislation.

**Goldberg:** special legislation is not expensive we send it to the General Court, I think the downside is that this is a controversial concept, as we know, and The state may say hey hands off if we're going to do this we're doing it statewide we don't want to do this on a case by case basis. As you know, for example, right now, all of the State legislature is running for reelection so wouldn't be a good time to submit a bill of this nature and expect anything to happen with it. On the other hand, having that discussion at the state level could be progress and so that's again kind of a value judgment. It takes a while to get special legislation under any circumstances, and so pursuing this special legislation, maybe one part of a total strategy, but if it is the only part of the strategy, then you have to know you're not talking about anything happening soon, and I know that's not what you're doing, but that is the downside of that.

**Reed:** I understand at there is more success in not moving forward by giving reparations to the individual and not gearing it to race. I wonder what the difference is between those with African ancestry and have received harm and people who are politically identified as black who continue to experience harm

**Goldberg:** The risk of making a decision that expressly relies on a race-based decision making is going to be subject to challenge under the under the Constitution

and so by us trying again if that's what you all want to do we think there are arguments. But if we already know that the public good can benefit from grants and stimulation and support of the public good, we know that that's an easier road to go down now. We tried to balance a middle ground. And that middle ground was meant to be respectful of the idea and the con in the US and in the Massachusetts constitution that says the public money can't be spent too into enrich individuals or organizations more than they help society or help the public good, and so we tried to balance that and that's the research part of that here is the harm that people in Amherst have suffered. Thanked Assembly for hard work and the invite to speak.

Dr. Rhodes We do not have to wait for Special legislation there are things that we could be doing.

Miller: Shared the process document from Lynn Griesemer

Dr. Shabazz: Brings up strategy

Suggestion that the assembly create a strategy to tackle needs that could be addressed

**Miller:** asked members to review special legislation proposed by K&P and the assembly will address in the next public meeting. On 8/15/22.

Members asked to consider what eligibility criteria should be for next meeting.

The Assembly needs to update website and start conversations with town residents

**Miller:** Mass Humanities grant has been submitted

Bridges: Spoke of the harm that her family and other families went through in Amherst.

d. Reparatory Justice Principles and Tenets

5. **H.R. 40 Update:**

6. **Public Comment:**

7. **Member Reports:**

8. **Upcoming Agenda Items & Meeting Schedules:**

August 15, 2022 at 2:00 pm.

9. **Other Topics:**

Other topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate 48 hours in advance of the meeting

10. **Adjourn: 3:38 pm**



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**African Heritage Reparation Assembly Agenda**  
**Monday, August 15, 2022**  
**2:00 pm via Zoom**

**Members Present:** Michele Miller, Chair; Debora Bridges; Yvonne Mendez, Dr. Irv Rhodes; Dr. Amilcar Shabazz.

**Others Present:** League of Women Voters Racial Justice Committee Members: Marcie Sclove, Ash Hartwell, Jeffrey Gould, Martha Hanner, Meg Gage, Renee Moss, and Bob Iman and Pamela Nolan Young, DEI Director.

1. **Call to Order:** 2:06 pm

Welcome, Announcements, Approval of 5/2/2022 and 5/9/2022 Meeting Minutes, and Agenda Review  
Minutes tabled

2. **Public Comment:**

None

3. **Presentation:**

4. **Action and Discussion Items:**

- a. League of Women Voters Racial Justice Committee Meet-and-Greet  
RJC members introduced themselves to the Assembly.

**Sclove:** Informed the AHRA that the LWV is not going forward with a book group. The Racial Justice subcommittee will follow LWV protocol and call for a study group on reparations. Pursuant to LWV protocol. Topics are introduced to the group through a 4-stage process, a study group followed by a consent group, followed by a group to develop policy and ending with a vote on the policy. Reparations has not been the subject of a study group. If the RJC takes it on it will provide support to the AHRA and provide additional opportunities to educate league members and other members of the public.

Members of the AHRA thanked the league for attending the meeting and will look for ways for the two groups to work together. Members of the League extended an invitation for the members of the AHRA to join the league and noted the LWV is open to men.

- b. Community Engagement:

- i. Survey
- ii. Outreach to Black Residents
  - Establishing an online portal to collect data

- Engaging the Donahue Institute to conduct a survey
  - Person-to-person: includes survey and online registration form
  - Partnerships: town, nonprofits, businesses. This goes a long way to engaging allies and spreading the word about our work. Must be accurate info!
  - 3- Special events:
    - a- those we host ourselves (dinners, parties, festivals),
    - b- those we co-sponsor,
    - c- those we participate in that are hosted by others (town fairs or concerts, MLK breakfast, football or sports games, etc.) we have a table or information there
- Mendez: Unique and meaningful outreach will put us at the top of people's list to fill out surveys, for registration, etc. We do the dinners first, introduce surveys and registration there, then follow up. Developing longer deeper interaction. Our info must be clear, credible, are current residents the only ones eligible?
    - c. Collaboration with the UMass Clean Energy Extension: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJC) call for proposals for “Policies to build and Sustain Economic Security and Wealth for Families and Communities of Color”

The Members agreed that Dr. Shabazz will follow up on the creation of an online portal with the Towns’ Communication Manager. Dr. Rhodes will engage the Donahue Institute

**Miller:** Informed the group that the Town Manager has received questions from members of the community regarding how the reparations funds will be spent. She noted the AHRA members need to create a channel for feedback. This topic will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

**5. H.R. 40 Update:**

**6. Public Comment:**

None

**7. Member Reports:**

None

**8. Upcoming Agenda Items & Meeting Schedules:**

TBD

**9. Other Topics:**

Other topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate 48 hours in advance of the meeting

**10. Adjourn: 3:41 pm**



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**African Heritage Reparation Assembly Agenda**  
**Monday, September 12, 2022**  
**2:00 pm via Zoom**

Members Present: Michele Miller, Chair; Debora Bridges; Heather Hala Lord; Yvonne Mendez; Alexis Reed; Dr. Irv Rhodes; Dr. Amilcar Shabazz

Members Absent: None

Other Members Present: Sirius Wheaton, President of Student Senate, Amherst College, Brianna Sunryd, Communication Director, and Pamela Nolan Young, Director of DEI.

**1. Call to Order: 2:06 pm**

Welcome, Announcements, Approval of 5/16/2022 and 6/6/2022, 6/10/2022, 6/15/2022, and 6/28/2022 Meeting Minutes, and Agenda Review

**Miller:** Moved to approve the minutes of 5/16, 6/6, 6/10, 6/15, and 6/28/2022

**Motion seconded** by Bridges

**Roll Call Vote:** Lord, Yes; Reed Yes; Mendez, Yes; Bridges, Yes, Dr. Shabazz, Yes; Miller, Yes.

**Minutes Approved with 6 yes and 1 absent**

**2. Public Comment:**

None

**3. Presentation:**

**4. Action and Discussion Items:**

a. Engagement/Consultation Campaign

**Wheaton** The Student Senate President from Amherst College informed the assembly that the senators would like to support the AHRA in two ways, providing boots on the ground support for activities and events and providing a monetary donation. Mr.

Wheaton has had a conversation with Amherst College President, Michael Elliot, to suggest the college also provide financial support. The college is conducting a study on its' connection to slavery and may provide monetary compensation at the completion of the study.

**Miller:** Informed Mr. Wheaton that he should contact Amherst trustee Charles Ashby Lewis. Members of the Assembly thanked Mr. Wheaton for his support and invited him and other students to learn more about Amherst's African American and Indigenous history at the Historical Society and Civil War tablets.

i. Engage Amherst Project Page

**Sunryd:** Shared her screen showing to preview the mock AHRA page on Engage Amherst. Engage Amherst is the town's public participation platform. It provides a variety of platforms that allow town departments' boards, and officials to connect with

the community and broaden public access. Tools available include, surveys, mapping, and an idea generator. The assembly previewed the page, discussed the design and content.

The assembly decided by consensus to move the Black census data to a lower position on the page. The assembly will continue to review and refine the page.

During the discussion regarding the page there was some discussion on the redesign of the Harvard logo. Harvard Law School decided to abandon the family crest of a benefactor and slave owner. The question was raised if the Town should consider revising its' logo.

**Miller:** Shared her screen with a logo and registration QR code design and sought feedback. The conversation was suspended to hear from the Town's Communication Director.

The feedback was positive. Several members suggested the logo utilize Pan African colors, red, black, green, and gold. T

**Miller:** I will seek a redesign and I ask that I receive all feedback by noon Tuesday. The Tuesday deadline would allow the assembly to print materials in advance of the Thursday Block Party.

- ii. Black/African Heritage Registration Portal
- iii. Boots on the Ground
- iv. Block Party

The assembly was queried regarding attendance at the Town's Block Party. Several members will be in attendance a few indicated they will not be in attendance. The assembly hopes to begin public engagement at the block party.

- b. Community Survey
- c. CDBG Funds

## 5. **H.R. 40 Update:**

### **Public Comment:**

**Maura Keene** Informed the assembly that Amherst Municipal Affordable Housing Trust has 125K housing subsidy available. The funds will be distributed on a first come first served basis.

Information is available on the website. The next meeting of the trust will on October 15, 2022

**Mary Porcino** Noted that many residents are interested in supporting the work of the assembly. She asked if the assembly has a list serv or mailing list and suggested the creation of one. The assembly invited Ms' Porcino to the next meeting to discuss way in which interested parties could support the work of the assembly.

## 6. **Member Reports:**

None

## 7. **Upcoming Agenda Items & Meeting Schedules:**

TBD

## 8. **Other Topics:**

Other topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate 48 hours in advance of the meeting

## 9. **Adjourn:** 3:51 PM



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**African Heritage Reparation Assembly Agenda**  
**Monday, September 19, 2022**  
**2:00 pm via Zoom**

**Members Present:** Michele Miller, Chair; Debora Bridges; Heather Hala Lord; Alexis Reed; Dr. Irv Rhodes; Dr. Amilcar Shabazz.

**Members Absent:** Yvonne Mendez

**Others Present:** Kathleen Anderson and Pamela Nolan Young, Director of DEI.

**1. Call to Order:**

Welcome, Announcements, Approval of 05/02/2022 and 05/09/2022 Meeting Minutes, and Agenda Review.

**No quorum available to app**

**2. Public Comment:**

**3. Presentation:**

**4. Action and Discussion Items:**

a. Engagement/Consultation Campaign

i. Engage Amherst Project Page

**Miller:** Shared screen so the group was able to view the newly launched AHRA engagement page. Also launched our inclusion portal.

**Anderson:** There is a list with about a 130 African American Amherst Community Members. I have been sending the list to others on the list and asking them to add members that are not already on the list. Heather Lord will be scheduling a Zoom.

**Miller:** Confirmed that Anderson will be including the link to the inclusion portal and engage page. Miller suggest Listening Sessions for the African American Community members.

Dr. Rhodes suggested that the information be put into PGO Newsletters

**Miller:** Shared screen AHRA webpage. The Assembly spoke on details for a listening session date and time and location.

ii. Black/African Heritage Registration Portal

iii. Boots on the Ground

iv. Organizing Allies

Miller: Mary Porcino attended our last meeting and she knows of groups that are interested in supporting our mission

v. Community Survey

Dr. Rhodes: We spent time on doing a survey that was random and representative of the African American population versus other kinds of surveys that could be done. What she did indicate to me is that doing a random representative sample of the African American community could be done. I need to get a response back to her.

Miller: I believe we are trying to see where the inclusion portal gets us before determining which avenue to take with respect to the survey.

Dr. Shabazz shared screen: The 5 Injury areas of systemic oppression & slavery

1. Education
2. Criminal Punishment
3. Health
4. Peoplehood
5. Wealth/Poverty

From 2:30 to 4:00 pm in the Bernie Dallas room on the UMass campus with a talk will be presented entitled. The Time is (Never) Right for Reparations by Tasseli McKay.

Young: We should add the 5 frameworks to the engage Amherst page as well as center the 5 frameworks to the events.

- b. CDBG Funds
- c. Annual Stabilization Transfer

5. **H.R. 40 Update:**

6. **Public Comment:**

None

7. **Member Reports:**

TBD

8. **Upcoming Agenda Items & Meeting Schedules:**

9. **Other Topics:**

Other topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate 48 hours in advance of the meeting

10. **Adjourn:** 3:20 pm