

## COMMITTEE NOTES

**Ad Hoc Committee Meeting on Black Archives of Mid-America, Inc.  
Kansas City Public Library  
Board of Trustees  
October 16, 2015**

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, October 16, 2015 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)  
Rose Marie Bell  
Leon Dixon

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jonathan Kemper (ex officio)  
Billie Howard Barnes

STAFF PRESENT:

Crosby Kemper III, Chief Executive  
Cheptoo Kositany-Buckner, Deputy Director  
Carrie Coogan, Director of Public Affairs &  
Community of Readers  
Elizabeth Eddings, Administrative Officer  
Kate Hill, Special Collections Librarian

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

Dorsey called the meeting to order at 3:42 p.m.

Kositany-Buckner introduced the new Black Archives Director, Emiel Cleaver and the new Black Archives Collection Librarian, Geri Sanders.

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

- Cleaver presented management and operations information.
  - A new logo and campaign including t-shirts were developed as part of a branding initiative.
  - Community outreach includes working with other organizations in the 18<sup>th</sup> & Vine community in the following ways:
    - Goal to acquire additional and replacement signage for Black Archives.

- Collaborating with Greek organizations for volunteer work in trade for use of Black Archives space.
    - Working to establish a Jazz District Redevelopment Corporation (JDRC) monthly meeting.
  - Partial TIF for the 18<sup>th</sup> & Vine district to be decided November 19, 2015. A request for \$1 Million was submitted for Black Archives.
  - The Black History Month Theme for next year will be Black Entrepreneurs.
  - Black Archives building issues include the following:
    - Acquiring Black Archives address listing in Google's search engine.
    - Collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Department to repair sinking floor in Exhibit Room. Parks and Recreation is responsible for cost of repairs.
- Johnston discussed funding development.
  - Resource development one year goal is \$255,000 to be accomplished through the following methods:
    - Grants and proposals include Common Heritage Grant, Francis Family Foundation, Speas Trust, Curry Family Foundation, and GKCCF.
    - Special events with speakers and luncheons, including an Egypt Sherwood event in February 2016.
    - Individual giving which involves promoting community knowledge of Black Archives community giving.
    - Corporate sponsor work with Board of Directors to build new donor relationships.
- North provided programming, education and exhibits information.
  - Horace Petersen III Lecture Series was part of the Juneteenth Series.
  - The Mbembe Milton Smith Poetry Series included several prominent authors including Mama C, Frank X Walker, and Kevin Young.
  - Adult programming activities including Black Documentary Series and development of a Teacher's Committee to coordinate student tours and more.
  - Youth programming for Academie Lafayette work on Highland Cemetery head stones in disrepair.
  - Mayor's Night Out hosted 75 students for a scavenger hunt.
  - Louder Than a Bomb Poetry event attracted 25 students for attendance.
  - Leonard Pitch Jr. Event held October 16<sup>th</sup> with more than 200 planning to attend.
  - Hale Woodruff papers are the current exhibit at Black Archives and his paintings are currently at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.
- Sanders overviewed collections.
  - Collection and Research
    - Goal to acquire Lincoln High School Yearbooks. Recently acquired the 1924 Yearbook.
    - Black History Month Posters for 2016 include partnerships with Community LINC, Kansas City Public Library and Black Archives and may be renamed to encourage year-round marketing opportunities.
- Kositany-Buckner and Cleaver discussed Black Archives financials.
  - Focusing on gaining additional funding for Black Archives next year.
  - Historical Tax Credit restrictions imposed initially for Black Archives development are in process of being removed. Unrestricted funds of \$130,000 will be received by Black Archives.

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Olivia Dorsey, Chair  
Ad Hoc Committee

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Date