



Reparations 2021

April 10th, 2021

*Howard University Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center
Columbia University Institute for the Study of Human Rights,
School of International and Public Affairs*



THURGOOD MARSHALL
CIVIL RIGHTS CENTER
HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW



Conference Report

Acknowledgements

The African American Redress Network (AARN) thanks its sponsors, partners, and contributors for their support of *Reparations 2021*.

Our Sponsors

Reparations 2021 was sponsored by Columbia University's Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement, who supported this event through the *Addressing Racism Seed Grant Initiative*.

Collaborators

Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association - The Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association (BFAA) is a non-profit organization created to respond to the issues and concerns of Black farmers in the United States and abroad. Formed in 1997, the organization boasts a membership of over 1,500 farmers nationwide and 21 state chapters.

Coming to the Table - Coming to the Table provides leadership, resources, and a supportive environment for all who wish to acknowledge and heal wounds from racism that is rooted in the United States' history of slavery. Coming to the Table works in alliance with *Reparations4Slavery*, an organization that helps white Americans make reparations to Black Americans for their participation in the Atlantic Slave Trade. *Reparations4Slavery* connects individuals with the resources they need to better understand their history, the nature of institutional racism, how their families fit into the puzzle, and ways to begin to repair the damage.

FirstRepair - FirstRepair is a not-for-profit working nationally to educate and equip leaders, stakeholders, and allies who are advancing local reparations policies that remedy historic and ongoing anti-Black practices. FirstRepair was founded by Robin Rue Simmons, a former Evanston, Illinois alderman and the architect of the nation's first government-funded reparations program.

Fund for Reparations NOW! - The Fund for Reparations NOW! is the white ally initiative of the National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC), dedicated to the immediate implementation of the 10-Point Reparations Plan. White users can participate in this online reparations platform by signing a Statement of Apology, making their reparations contribution, and accessing resources aimed at helping them continue a lifelong anti-racist practice.

Liberation Ventures - Liberation Ventures fuels the Black-led movement for racial repair in the United States by investing in organizations and initiatives that are building momentum toward a comprehensive reparations program.

NAARC - The National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC) is a group of distinguished professionals from across the country that are united in a common commitment to the fight for reparatory justice, compensation, and restoration of African American communities

that were plundered by the historical crimes of slavery, segregation, and colonialism and that continue to be victimized by the legacies of slavery and American apartheid.

N'COBRA - The National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) is the premiere mass-based coalition of organizations and individuals organized for the sole purpose of obtaining reparations for African descendants in the United States.

Panelists

Waymon Hinson - Waymon Hinson has been involved with the Black farmers movement since 1994 and participated as an expert witness in the initial hearings before DOJ and USDA in 1997. He has gathered numerous stories via paper and pen, audio recording, and now film. A number of his interviews are found in "Remembering Tillery's Historic Archives," Tillery, N.C. He is currently serving as an advisor for the USDA Coalition of Minority Employees and the Justice for Black Farmers Group in their engagement with Senators Elizabeth Warren, Bernard Sanders, Cory Booker, and Raphael Warnock, as well as with the Biden/Harris campaign and transition teams. The groups are engaged with the USDA in a timely and swift processing of Black farmers' debt relief under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. He was the 2011 recipient of "A Man Called Matthew Award" by the Concerned Citizens of Tillery, North Carolina. He has been affiliated with the Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association, led by President Gary Grant, since 2005, with which he serves as secretary and strategist. He is the author of "Land Gains, Land Losses: The Odyssey of African Americans Since Reconstruction" and "Rise: Research in Support of Equity, Black History Month in the US." His documentary "I'm Just a Layman in Pursuit of Justice: Black Farmers Fight USDA," co-written and co-produced with Shoun Hill, is an award-winning film that chronicles the stories of nine Black farmers and families who prevailed against the USDA and DOJ between 1997 and 1999 and led to the Pigford Class Action Suit.

Kamm Howard - Kamm Howard is a Chicago businessman and real estate investor as well as an internationally respected reparations activist. In 2014, he spoke at the 8th Pan African Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa on the "new paradigm of reparations activism." In 2016, he was a key organizer for the U.S. visit of the United Nations Working Group of Experts for People of African Descent that stated the U.S. must engage in reparations. Kamm has been a 16-year member of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America, N'COBRA. Kamm has been the chair of the Legislative Commission of N'COBRA for 12 years working closely with United States Congressman John Conyers. In 2017, Kamm was elected as the National Male Co-Chair of N'COBRA and was re-elected in 2019. In 2015 as a member of the National African American Reparations Commission, he led a team to revise HR 40, the federal reparations bill. Currently Kamm is working with United States Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee as she strategizes to move H.R. 40 through Congress. Kamm recently authored a pamphlet, "Laying the Foundation for Local Reparations: A Guide for Providing National Symmetry for Local Reparations Efforts." In June of 2020, Kamm successfully led the work to pass the City of Chicago Subcommittee on Reparations.

Robin Rue Simmons - Robin Rue Simmons is the Founder and Executive Director of FirstRepair, a new not-for-profit organization that advocates for local reparations, nationally. She is the former 5th Ward Alderman for the City of Evanston, Illinois, where she led, in collaboration with others,

the passage of the nation's first municipal-funded reparations legislation. Most recently, Rue Simmons was the Director of Innovation and Outreach for Sunshine Enterprises, a not-for-profit on Chicago's South Side, which has supported over one thousand entrepreneurs (virtually all African American and three-quarters women) in launching or growing their businesses. Rue Simmons is a commissioner of the National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC), a member of the Legislative Committee of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) and was a fellow at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference/McCormick Theological Seminary. She has received numerous awards for her reparations and other public service work including the Urban One Honors' Reparations Ambassador Award (Stacey Abrams and Nikole Hannah-Jones were among those also being honored); the Dearborn Realist Board's Vernon Jarrett Legislative Award; the Democratic Party of Evanston's Liz Tisdahl Award; the Route Fifty Elected Official of the Year Award; the Realist Women's Council of Illinois' Community Impact Award; and the Family Focus Community Leadership Imani Award.

Nkechi Taifa - Nkechi Taifa is the president of The Taifa Group LLC, a Senior Fellow at Columbia University's Center for Justice, and convenes the Justice Roundtable, an advocacy coalition advancing progressive justice system transformation. Taifa has served as Advocacy Director for Criminal Justice at the Open Society Foundations, legislative and policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union and Women's Legal Defense Fund, founding director of Howard University School of Law's Equal Justice Program; staff attorney for the National Prison Project; Network Organizer for the Washington Office on Africa; and as a private practitioner. Nkechi has testified before Congress, the United States Sentencing Commission, the D.C. City Council, the Justice Kennedy Commission, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and the United States Helsinki Commission. An award-winning attorney, she is the past president of the D.C. Chapter of the National Conference of Black Lawyers. She is a founding member of N'COBRA, the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America. She serves as a Commissioner on the National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC), and on the governing board of the Corrections Information Council. Nkechi Taifa is the author of a new memoir – *Black Power, Black Lawyer: My Audacious Quest for Justice*.

Joe Womack - Born in 1950 in historic Africatown, Alabama, Joe graduated from the Mobile County Training School in 1968 and earned a business degree from Saint Paul's College in Virginia in 1972. He served two years in the Marine Corps and eighteen years in the reserve before retiring in 1993 with the rank of Major. Joe was the first African American professional to be promoted at the Shell/Dupont Chemical Plant in Axis, Alabama. He is a founder and was the first president of both the African American Summit of Mobile County and The Black Military Workers Of America, Inc. He was one of the founders and original members of The Mobile Chapter of the Montford Point Marines and also co-founded the Mobile County Training School Alumni Association, the Africatown Heritage & Preservation Foundation, and The Mobile Environmental Justice Action Coalition of Mobile County, where he currently serves as vice president. Mr. Womack is retired and operates a non-profit organization called C.H.E.S.S., or Clean, Healthy, Educated, Safe & Sustainable Community, Inc.

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
The Creation of the African American Redress Network	1
Reparations 2021	2
Participants	3
Themes	3
Conference Outcomes	5
Works Cited	9

Introduction

The United States has long remained reticent to respond to its history of racial injustices towards African Americans (Ladisch & Roccatello 2021). This history is wide-ranging and includes slavery, Jim Crow legislation, lynching, massive resistance, redlining, resegregation, police violence and more (Blackmon, 2008; Feagin, 2004; Ogletree, 2004). Complicating how to redress for this history is the growing evidence of the long-term impacts to include but not limited to significant housing and economic disparities (Darity Jr. et al., 2018), Black-white achievement gaps (Carnevale & Strohl, 2013), continued segregated spaces (Rothstein, 2017; Orfield, Kucsera & Siegel-Hawley, 2012), an overrepresentation of Black Americans in prison (Alexander, 2010), and higher rates of disease and mortality (Largent, 2018).

Post-slavery, large-scale reparations were often promoted as a way to attend to these histories and secure a more just society (Hassan & Healy, 2019; Conyers, 2017; Ogletree, 2004). Recently, the topic of slavery, racism and national reparations has reemerged (“Ta-Nehisi Coates Revists the Case for Reparations;” Coates, 2014, 2015; Lockhart, 2019; Ray & Perry, 2020). Similar types of reparation discussions are visible at the local level where civil society is engaging with government agencies (Jones, 2020). The trend to atone for wrongdoings at the local level has coincided with international local efforts since the 1990s (Barkan, 2015; De Greiff, 2006). These redress efforts allowed for the exploration of universal rights at the local level and have built a space for redress that pointedly addresses the needs of those wronged.

Media has given attention to some high-profile examples such as Georgetown University and their efforts to remedy their enslavement past (Swarns, 2016; Cassou, 2018). But most local restitution efforts are not so prominent and often lack greater support and cross-sector awareness (Wiltz, 2019). Many local redress efforts occur in isolation with limited knowledge production, coordination or institutional support, or funding. Much success on the ground floor often occurs because of the persistent efforts of a people's movement.

The Creation of the African American Redress Network

In 2019, the [African American Redress Network](#) (AARN) responded to the call for reparations. AARN collaborates with local redress initiatives to address specific histories of injustices by undertaking and facilitating multidisciplinary research, capacity building, education, and legal advocacy. Additionally, AARN seeks to embolden efforts among its members by collaborating and building a consensus around redress. AARN is unique in that it is rooted in local reparations efforts. AARN believes the reparations and justice processes belong to and should derive from local community needs and goals in concurrence with important national processes. Local communities can best speak to harms and what qualifies as meaningful repair.

AARN is a collaboration among Howard University’s Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center, Columbia University’s Institute for the Study of Human Rights and the School of International and Public Affairs, and reparations organizations on the grassroots, regional and state levels. Both Howard University’s Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center (TMCRC) and Columbia University’s Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR) and the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) have experience bridging the theory and practice of human rights. AARN’s

governance is designed to support and build upon the expertise of local and national practitioners. Its Steering Committee includes local representatives from Africatown, the GU272 Descendants Organization, and national organizations such as N'COBRA and Black Lives Matter. `

Reparations 2021

On Saturday, April 10th, AARN held its first convening of the year, *Reparations 2021*. The event brought together grassroots organizers, government representatives, researchers, and students to discuss local reparations efforts in the United States and consider ways to build strong partnerships across the country. The conference was designed to reflect the governance of AARN and thus placed the voices of local reparation efforts at the forefront. The conference also created a space for national reparationists to discuss the gravity of recent efforts and lessons learned. Finally, *Reparations 2021* offered scholars and descendant communities an opportunity to discuss their work.

Justin Hansford, Executive Director of the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at Howard University, Dr. Elazar Barkan, Director of Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs Human Rights and Humanitarian Policy Concentration, and Director of Columbia's Institute for the Study of Human Rights. and Kamm Howard, Co-chair of N'COBRA, opened the program. Their discussion focused on the call for U.S. reparations. Kamm provided a compelling review on the legacy of harms and transgenerational trauma and the need for racial healing and access to justice. Dr. Barkan discussed the importance of public education and emphasized that redress cannot occur without the willingness of perpetrators who own the injustice and redress. Att. Hansford acknowledged that today's reparations are a continuation of historical efforts

This was followed by a panel of reparation leaders. Nkechi Taifa, Founder, Principal, and CEO of the Taifa group, LLC. and an accomplished justice system reform strategist, moderated the discussion. Robin Rue Simmons, the Alderman from the city of Evanston, Illinois, discussed her successful efforts to secure \$10 million in housing reparations for those impacted by discriminatory housing policies. They were joined in conversation by Dr. Waymon Hinson, a member of the Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association, who discussed his work on Black Farmers Reparations, and Joe Womack, President and CEO of C.H.E.S.S., who discussed Africatown's efforts to secure environmental justice. Kamm Howard discussed the broad efforts of N'COBRA and reparations efforts in the city of Chicago.

Each of the panelists conveyed the lengthy efforts and strategic planning required to secure reparations. Dr. Waymon Hinson discussed the legal battle to secure Black farmer reparations starting with *Pigford v. Glickman* (1999), a class-action lawsuit against the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The outcome of *Pigford v. Glickman* (1999) failed to provide a remedy to the vast majority of Black farmers. Efforts continue today with hopes of monies deriving from the federally-sponsored American Rescue Fund. Ald. Rue Simmons commented that Evanston's historical analysis on racially discriminatory housing policies was ten years in the making. She also discussed the strategic use of marijuana taxes to pay for the Local Reparations Restorative Housing Program. Despite the passing of the program, Ald. Rue Simmons commented on the continuing threat of legal challenges and public resistance. Further conversation among the panelists included the application of a human rights framework to secure reparations. The success of Chicago police torture reparations was noted as an example.

The afternoon working sessions provided an opportunity for individuals to share and collaborate on local redress efforts. The breakout groups focused on Politics, Legislation, & Litigation; Advocacy & Organizing; Research & Documentation; and Education & Awareness Raising. Several themes emerged during these breakout sessions, including the need to provide space for descendant communities to control their own narratives and the importance of historical truth-telling to correct misinformation and advance reparations work. AARN plans to continue these conversations with a conference series throughout the year.

Participants

Conference participants included local government representatives, members of grassroots organizations focused on local redress, academics and researchers in the fields of human rights and transitional justice, and university students. As noted, representatives from Evanston, Illinois were present, whose work was integral to securing funding for the city's housing reparations program. Several participants were members of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA), a mass-based coalition of organizations and individuals focused on obtaining reparations for African descendants in the United States. Others were members of Africatown C.H.E.S.S., an organization focused on environmental justice in Africatown, Alabama. Africatown is the site of the last ship of enslaved peoples to arrive in the colonies in 1860. Local reparatationists from Virginia, New York, Arkansas, and Illinois were also in attendance.

They were joined by professors and researchers affiliated with Howard University, Columbia University, The New School, Cardozo School of Law, Yale University, Stanford University, Georgetown University, Loyola Law School - Loyola Marymount University, Rhode Island College, Lehman College, College of William & Mary, Queensborough Community College - CUNY, Auburn University, University of D.C., and University of Arkansas - Little Rock. In addition to AARN researchers and students from Howard and Columbia Universities, students from Clarke University, Stony Brook University, University of Washington, and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University attended the conference. Participants also represented international universities and organizations, including Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

Themes

Participants joined the breakout discussion that best aligned with their background and interests. The breakout sessions were designed to provide every member a space to discuss their work on local reparations. At the conclusion of the conference, representatives from each group highlighted key takeaways. Individual breakout room discussions are summarized below.

Politics, Legislation, & Litigation - This group grappled with the methods required to engage government and policy actors in the development of reparations legislation. Participants examined how best to reach out to politicians and found that initial private conversations with decision-makers that share crucial history and settle misinformation allowed for stronger collaborations on redress actions moving forward. Participants emphasized the importance of properly framing their policy asks and developing an understanding among stakeholders of the types of historic racial injustices that would be included in demands for redress. The group considered whether local and

national legislation should address multiple periods in United States history, including slavery, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, and systemic racial injustices that persist today. The discussion later turned to identifying viable funding options to support redress initiatives. The group expressed support for the Evanston model in which \$10 million in funding for local housing reparations were secured through revenue from the city's tax on the sale of recreational marijuana. Private funding models and the creation of economic development funds were additionally proposed. Participants agreed that a variety of actors need to be engaged in furthering reparations work, including community leaders, teachers, students, scholars, politicians, economists, and descendant communities. Particular mention was made of the importance of white allyship and the need for white allies to demonstrate support for formal redress in spaces where African American voices are often missing. The session ended by acknowledging the value of a national apology in furthering reparations work in the United States.

Advocacy & Organizing - Participants began this session by identifying a series of minimum criteria necessary for developing successful reparations. Criteria included ensuring that (1) the injured party determines the harm done, (2) the injured party decides the distribution of resources, and (3) policy is directed specifically to the injured party. Evanston's process of securing housing reparations through revenue procurement, public education and discussion, and voting advocacy was presented as an example of this model. Participants identified the 2020 Presidential Election, the death of George Floyd and subsequent protests, and the COVID-19 pandemic and its disproportionate impact on marginalized communities as significant sparks to the reparations movement. They considered how these events contributed to discussions of reparations at the federal level and envisioned local redress as foundational for federal legislation such as H.R. 40, which would establish a commission to study the United States' history of slavery and discrimination and recommend appropriate remedies. Participants described the process of assessing community needs as organic, local, and deeply rooted in an understanding of history. This understanding often involves conducting research using available records and archival resources. The group also affirmed the need to sustain advocacy in favor of reparations once legislation is passed and expressed concern with the absence of descendant voices within formal plans to establish redress. When facing these obstacles, organizers found motivation in a series of smaller victories and recognized that they could not be involved in every advocacy action taking place at the legal, university, or grassroots levels. The session ended by defining successful advocacy as the shift from injury to wellness and the creation of safe communities,

Research & Documentation - Members in this group began by acknowledging that opinions vary on how best to pursue reparations in the United States. Participants agreed that "the assumption that we all want the same thing out of reparations is a stumbling block" and called for a multi-level approach to redress efforts that allowed for a myriad of approaches and outcomes. Participants discussed the importance of supporting research that traces historical injustices when developing a case for reparations. Shawn Rochester's work "The Black Tax: The Cost of Being Black in America" was cited as a valuable contribution to this field. Group members described similar projects documenting local history of racial injustices in Ambrose, Massachusetts and Tulsa, Oklahoma. In addition, the group emphasized the need to center research on the voices of descendants and descendant communities and stated that appropriate redress must be determined by the victims.

Education & Awareness Raising - The group discussed the need to educate individuals and communities about specific redress actions as well the reasoning behind calls for reparations, particularly a comprehensive history of slavery and racial injustice in the United States. Participants emphasized that “reparations education does not always need to happen in the classroom” and considered how to expand current models of public education to include educational events and study circles with elders, parents, and young people. Participants envisioned these events being organized and led by K-12 educational institutions in partnership with “grassroots groups, congregations, community organizing and educational justice groups.” Participants also noted the possibilities for valuable partnership-building between higher education institutions and organizers to help grassroots projects reach larger audiences, address credibility concerns, and produce scholarship to be practically and locally applied. Scholarship was identified as crucial for bolstering arguments in favor of reparations, with specific mention made of Brown and Georgetown Universities’ willingness to research and expose their connections to slavery and Brown undergraduate students’ recent vote to support reparations for descendants of enslaved people. The session concluded with a brief discussion of the use of art and media to present history to communities and improve public education about formal redress actions taking place in the United States.

Summary of Breakout Sessions - Participants in all four breakout rooms were eager to brainstorm how to situate calls for local reparations in a comprehensive understanding of American history. Groups agreed on the need to collect and disseminate accurate historical accounts in order to establish redress for past injustices and address persistent inequities among communities. Groups additionally discussed the importance of power and narrative when advocating for reparations and considered how to empower injured parties and provide space for descendants to control their own narratives and lead this process.

As the event was co-sponsored by two universities and hosted a large number of university professors, researchers, and students, conversations often focused on higher education’s role in ensuring that descendant voices are fully centered in reparations work. Participants recognized that academics often study issues of racial injustice without fully understanding the experiences of those most affected. As a result, university-led efforts that do not work with descendant communities are unable to fully identify and develop solutions that address the root causes of inequality. The partnership between Columbia University and Howard University was viewed as a critical step in reimagining the role that universities can play in supporting descendant efforts and connecting theory, law, research, and activism.

Conference Outcomes

The conference supported existing AARN goals and resulted in several new outcomes.

The FY2021 goals of AARN were as follows:

- *Document* local redress efforts in all 50 states to facilitate knowledge-sharing and network-building among activists and maintain a website as a unique clearinghouse of resources, including toolkits, examples of local reparations ordinances, and extant literature.

- *Develop the capacity* of local redress actors through workshops, residency-based training, and monetary awards to network activists to support redress initiatives.
- *Engage and educate students* through legal clinics and capstones to provide programmatic, research, legal, and advocacy support. Provide justice fellowships to local redress activists at ISHR and Howard.
- *Organize public dialogue and awareness-raising events* including activists, educators, and researchers; will engage the public and raise awareness of redress and racial justice.
- *Develop advocacy and movement-building materials*, including toolkits; reports to international human rights accountability mechanisms; sample ordinances, petitions for local reparations, research on relevant legislation; and a report for Congress.

The conference furthered AARN's work to promote awareness of neighboring efforts and deepen understanding of historical racial injustices. It provided greater visibility to ongoing reparations efforts and offered networking opportunities for individuals and organizations working across sectors.

Additionally, the conference provided new opportunities for AARN to partner with those engaged in reparations work at the local level. The conference allowed AARN and local organizations to connect on key reparations efforts and begin to develop plans for new partnerships in which AARN supports administration, management, policy development, and capacity building.

AARN is now partnering with conference participants and providing technical assistance to those that requested it. This work is furthering reparation efforts at the local level and empowering grassroots reparations efforts in multiple states.

Africatown, Alabama - This project supported the efforts of Africatown C.H.E.S.S. and is ongoing. This project's objective is to create a historic walking tour for the Africatown community. Part of the tour will include the Plateau cemetery of Africatown, where the enslaved peoples who were brought illegally to Mobile, Alabama in 1860 are buried. The enslaved peoples arrived in the United States on board the *Clotilda*. The *Clotilda* was the last ship to make the transatlantic trip with enslaved Africans on board. This occurred long after the importation of enslaved peoples from Africa was banned. To hide the evidence, the ship was burned and sunk in the Mobile River. Student researchers are using archival and genealogical research to uncover the histories of the individuals buried in Plateau cemetery.

Brown Grove Community, VA - The Brown Grove Community, located in Hanover County, Virginia was historically a Black community that was settled by freed slaves. Currently, the preservation of this land is being threatened by private development. The Brown Grove Community land includes a historic Black-only school from the Jim Crow Era, and abbutts a 150-year-old, traditionally Black-led Baptist church. In addition, the land potentially includes several African American cemeteries. AARN is working alongside the Brown Grove Preservation Group to develop an evidence-based argument that proves the existence of these historically Black-owned

sites. AARN researchers are performing archival research, providing legal support, and the advice of Dr. Michael Blakey, a renowned African American Archaeologist.

The Virginia Reparations Commission - The Virginia Reparations Coalition is a collaboration of members from local redress organizations, the NAACP, the VA Black Caucus, and the Resolutions Addressing Systemic Racism (RASR). The goal of the Coalition is to embolden efforts among its members by collaborating and building a consensus around redress. The Coalition identifies areas of inequity and unfairness to recommend the appropriate remedy to fit the wrong. It seeks to drive actionable change in the laws, policies, and practices to enable adequate redress avenues to achieve economic and societal fairness. The Coalition also guides AARN on ways to support the grassroots, regional, and state reparation efforts.

Evanston, Illinois - On March 20, 2021, Howard University's Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center (TMCRC), Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR), and the African American Redress Network pledged their support to the reparation efforts in Evanston, Illinois. The Evanston City Council was preparing to vote on the Local Reparations Restorative Housing Program and later voted 8-1 on Monday, March 22, 2021 to approve the Local Reparations Restorative Housing Program. In response to its approval, Ald. Robin A. Simmons acknowledged the support of several national organizations, including TMCRC and AARN. The Local Reparations Restorative Housing Program was a historic reparation resolution, with a dedicated \$400 thousand to the program and a pledge for a total of \$10 million dollars using the city's Municipal Cannabis Retailer's Occupation Tax. The Reparations Program was designed to redress the city's historic role in implementing discriminatory housing policies and practices.

Despite the approval by the City Council, the reparations ordinance expects legal challenges. AARN is working collaboratively with Ald. Rue Simmons to develop an impact study in preparation of future legal challenges. Ald. Simmons is now Founder and Director of First Repair, an organization committed to assisting other municipalities with their reparation efforts.

The Amendment Project (TAP) - AARN assisted The Amendment Project with an email campaign for the passage of the Tulsa-Greenwood Massacre Claims Accountability Act, Oklahoma. AARN provided TAP with key data and contact information of Oklahoma-based AARN organizations willing to assist in the campaign. AARN will continue to work with The Amendment Project as they mobilize college-age students to lobby city councils for reparations resolutions as well as bring reparations further into our political discourse. Currently, AARN and TAP are working on a Boston, Massachusetts-based reparations campaign.

The Red Summer 1919-2021 Digital Memorial Project - The Red Summer 1919-2021 Digital Memorial Project is a collaborative project between the National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC) and The Fund for Reparations NOW!. The goal of the Digital Memorial Project is to share the stories of the Red Summer of 1919 in real-time over the course of 2021 so that no American should enter 2022 ignorant of this historical period. The Red Summer took place over an eight-month period in which anti-Black riots and lynchings occurred across the South into the North and the Midwest. AARN assisted the Fund for Reparations NOW! in developing their instagram carousels and securing artists for the Red Summer 1919-2021 Digital Memorial Project. There will be some 80 posts beginning April 13 and extending through the month of November to

acknowledge and educate about the atrocities that comprise the Red Summer. Each post will have a date, a geographical location, and in some cases, individual victims to memorialize.

Capturing History - AARN is working to collect oral histories from those who have worked on U.S. Reparation efforts. We are currently collaborating with *Reparations4Slavery* to use excerpts from these interviews for training modules on historic harms. *Reparations4Slavery* will use these as part of their curriculum to help white individuals make reparations to Black Americans. Our first interview featured advocates Waymon Hinson and Shoun Hill from the Black Farmers' Reparation movement, who produced a documentary on their work "I'm Just a Layman in Pursuit of Justice." Recently, we interviewed Ald. Simmons on her historic work in Evanston, IL.

The Conference yielded important conversations about engaging universities in local reparations work. Breakout discussions made clear that universities can and should be doing more to examine their own histories and contribute to reparations efforts. This can be achieved by offering technical assistance and sharing information and research with grassroots efforts. It gave Columbia and Howard Universities the opportunity to reflect on their roles in securing reparations and reaffirm their commitment to supporting community efforts towards racial repair.

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