



African American Redress Network Annual Report 2021-2022

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



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About the African American Redress Network

The African American Redress Network (AARN) works to advance the movement for reparations for people of African descent. AARN differs from other initiatives in being out-looking by collaborating with existing reparation organizations who seek research, legal advocacy, capacity building, education, and technical assistance to advance their work. AARN is known for its pivotal role in helping to secure reparations in Evanston, Illinois alongside former Alderman and founder of FirstRepair, Robin Rue Simmons.

AARN is a purposeful collaboration between a Historically Black College and University, Howard University's Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at the School of Law, and a predominantly white institution, Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. Its Steering Committee is designed to place Black voices at the forefront with representatives from legacy organizations such as N'COBRA, the National African American Reparation Commission, local reparation leaders such as GU272 representatives, and members from both universities.

AARN uses a human rights framework to analyze the gross wrongs of enslavement, dispossession, and institutionalized anti-Black violence. Our model draws inspiration from United Nations General Assembly [Resolution 60/147](#) and [guidance by the International Commission of Jurists](#) to define reparations and inform our advocacy. Using an international human rights framework and desired-based research protocol (Levi, 2020; Karuka, 2017) that recognizes the self-emancipatory praxis and knowledge creation of Black communities, AARN works alongside members to co-produce reparations policies.

Student researchers are vital to AARN. Since its inception in 2018, there have been a total of 45 AARN interns from universities across the US. In addition to AARN's work in Evanston, IL, AARN has advanced reparation efforts in Brown Grove, Virginia; Englewood and West Garfield Park, Illinois; the Colored School #4, Chelsea, New York; Africatown, Alabama and the Black Veterans Project. AARN's collaborations with the aforementioned sites have resulted in the co-production of impact studies, archival and genealogical research, historiographies, public education campaigns, environmental justice resolutions, economic calculus, urban planning studies and more. These deliverables co-designed with community organizations are vital to the advancement of reparation efforts.

Our Approach

- While there are many initiatives dedicated to racial justice, AARN grounds our approach within an international human rights law framework, as it provides unique advocacy and programming opportunities in an inherently multidisciplinary field.
- Historical human rights violations influence contemporary injustices against African-Americans and individuals of African descent. AARN believes that addressing these past wrongs is essential to achieving justice and human rights for all people.

- Nobody can do this work alone. With this in mind, AARN values the importance of collaboration, recognizes the need for multiple approaches to advance the goal of racial justice, and acknowledges and respects the work of the many dedicated advocates in this space.
- AARN is committed to supporting these varied efforts and to pursuing advocacy, research, and education rooted in the expertise of those who experienced structural and acute injustice and are committed to pursuing redress. AARN is committed to avoiding the trap of an ivory tower, therefore we center the experiences of our partner communities and grassroots reparations activists in our advocacy efforts.

Financial Year 2022 Goals

The FY2022 goals of AARN were as follows:

- ***Advance research***
 - ***Identify and ArcGIS map*** 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
 - SIPA Capstone courses
 - Independent research projects
 - Conference
- ***Advance local reparation efforts*** through capacity-building, legal advocacy research, technical assistance, and public history events.
- ***Organize public dialogue and awareness-raising events*** with a cross-sector representation of activists, educators, government officials, and researchers to raise awareness of redress and racial justice.
- ***Expand our Social Media and Communications Campaign***

Funders

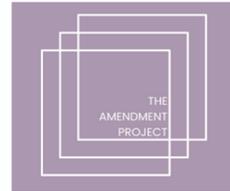
AARN is especially grateful to our funders. Their support has expanded our work. Funding went directly to community members for their expertise and time. Learn more in the section on *Advance local reparation efforts.*

Funding

Our work is supported by individual donors and grants from Liberation Ventures, International Center for Transitional Justice, Humanity United, and The Amendment Project.



HUMANITY UNITED



Special Acknowledgement

AARN works alongside other national reparation leaders. We are proud to include the following organizations as supporters and collaborators:



ORGANIZATIONS

Reparations4Slavery
 Fund for Reparations Now
 International Center for Transitional Justice
 C.H.E.S.S. Africatown, Alabama
 N'COBRA
 NAARC
 FirstRepair
 Global Research and Consulting
 Black Veterans Project
 The Reparations Project
 Witness Project
 Coming to the Table RVA
 Local Progress
 Resolutions Addressing Systemic & Structural Racism



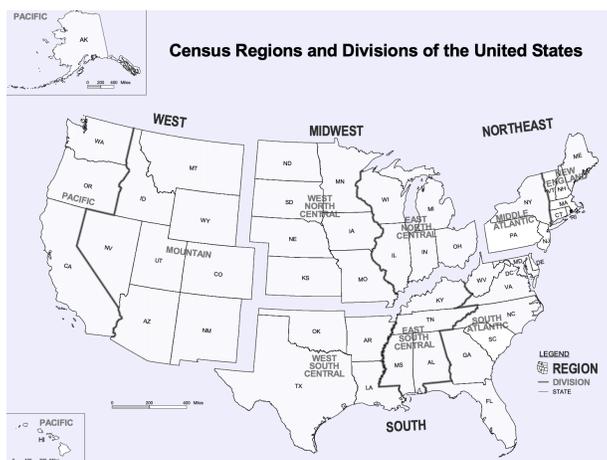
What We Do

Advancing Research

Identify and ArcGIS map document local redress efforts

In 2022, AARN conducted a comprehensive clean and analysis of its redress map. Overall, AARN has mapped over 470 instances of reparations and redress efforts across eight of nine U.S. Census regions. Mapping reparations within the Pacific region is currently in process (see Fig. 1).

Fig. 1



Note: US Census regions and divisions according to groupings of States

AARN identifies local reparations within an international human rights framework. Five reparation categories were used to identify reparations efforts: satisfaction, compensation, guarantees of non-repetition, rehabilitation, and restitution (ICJ, 2006). For “full and effective reparations,” the ICJ stated that policies should include all five categories of repair. Below is a description of each category based on the General Assembly resolution 60/147 (2005) and ICJ, (2006, 2018).

Satisfaction. Satisfaction depends on the nature of the human rights violations: examples include “public apologies, judicial and administrative sanctions, commemoration and memorialization.”

Restitution. Restitution allows for restoring the ‘original situation’ before the victim suffered violations. This includes “liberty, identity [...] restoration of employment and return of property.”

Compensation. Compensation is a monetary transfer to the victim, proportional to the damage done and based on an economic assessment of the “gravity of the violation [...] such as lost opportunities, loss of earnings and moral damage.”

Rehabilitation. Rehabilitation includes medical and social services, mental health support, and legal assistance.

Guarantees of Non-repetition. Guarantees of Non-repetition allow for protection against similar breaches in the future, most notably by administering tailored law enforcement, public dedication to human rights promotion, or the implementation of tailored psychological and social services.

Findings from the eight regions demonstrate that the bulk of US reparations fall under *satisfaction*, namely apologies, truth-seeking initiatives, and commemorations and memorialization efforts that shift the historical narrative. Geographically, the majority of the reparation efforts were found in the South Atlantic, which contained 154 entries, amounting to roughly 33% of all efforts mapped across the United States. Within this region, Virginia had undertaken the greatest number of reparations, reaching 46 documented efforts and accounting for approximately 30% of all South Atlantic entries. The most common historical injustice addressed was slavery, at 192 entries, accounting for 42% of all efforts. Segregation and lynching were also well represented in terms of redress harm throughout all regions, with more recent harms such as police brutality and mass incarceration being less common.

Legal Advocacy

As previously discussed, AARN pledged to provide legal support for the reparation efforts in Evanston, Illinois. This resulted in several additional research projects, [Segregation in Evanston: An impact study](#) and an economic calculus to demonstrate the wealth impact of the Housing reparations in 20 years' time. In November 2021, AARN researchers presented their findings at [Undesign the Redline at Barnard College](#). AARN's role in Evanston secured its reputation within the reparations community.

School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) coursework

Spring 2022, two additional efforts were incorporated into coursework offerings through Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. The course, *Reparations as Public Policy*, was implemented in collaboration with the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) and Kamm Howard, Reparations United. The findings were presented to Chicago's City Council and received media coverage by the [Chicago Sun Times](#) and [Fox News](#). The proposal to provide guaranteed basic income is under serious consideration by Chicago's government.

A short course was taught titled, *Veterans Restorative Justice: Data Analysis, Research & Reparations Policy*. This study was performed in collaboration with the [Black Veterans Project](#). Students assessed FOIA data obtained by the Yale Veterans Legal Clinic and demonstrated significant racial disparities for veteran health benefits and access. The research was highlighted in an article by the [Associated Press](#).

This fall, Howard's Legal Clinic will focus on reparations. AARN and FirstRepair will be the clients for students as they examine the legal framework of reparations.

Historic Preservation Research

In addition to previously mentioned research efforts, AARN engaged with:

- [Chelsea School no. 4](#) and historian Eric Washington to designate the school as an Individual Landmark

- [Harris Neck Community](#) to preserve the community’s culture, environment, and green spaces
- [Descendants of the St. Louis University Enslaved](#) (DSLUE) to honor and memorialize their ancestors through reparations.

Congressional Research

In 2021, AARN provided research to Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee to support HR40. Using AARN’s mapping data, a list of 165 municipal and state-sponsored reparation efforts were identified and passed to Congresswoman Jackson Lee in order to demonstrate the abundance and importance of reparation efforts, as well as the urgent need for Congressional support.

International Research

The Transatlantic Redress Network was piloted by AARN in 2020. Universities from Spain, Netherlands, and U.S. engaged in mapping local reparation efforts within an international human rights framework. In June 2022, AARN presented alongside the University of Spain (Barcelona), and the University of Amsterdam at [Beyond Nuremberg: The Global Search for Accountability](#) at the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies Amsterdam. Following the conference, universities from Italy, Belgium, Denmark and Canada expressed interest in furthering this project.

Independent Studies: University of District Columbia

In the fall of 2021, AARN student researcher, James Lennox, completed a Political Science practicum sponsored by AARN. This study was conducted in partnership with Reparations 4 Slavery, a reparations portal based out of Denver, Colorado. The goal of this practicum was to research the phenomenon of Black land loss, specifically Black farmland in the South, over the past century. The research for this project was conducted through two main methods: first, the examination of both contemporary and historical literature on Black land loss, and second, a series of oral history interviews with both victims of Black land loss and advocates who work to address the issue. The goal of these interviews was to understand the ways in which land loss has impacted various Black communities and to identify potential forms of redress. Several of these interviews have been published as part of Reparations 4 Slavery’s “Oral History in Black and White” podcast series.

In the Spring 2022 Semester, the AARN partnered with Reparations4Slavery (R4S) to conduct an independent study with a student at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), Corey Shaw Jr. Corey worked directly with Lotte Dula and Tamara Rhone of R4S to conduct research and oral history interviews on the history of racially discriminatory housing practices in Denver, CO.

Corey interviewed three life-long residents of the region: Sharon Daniels, Tamara Rone, and Regina Jackson. Sharon Daniels, owner of one of the oldest Black owned real estate brokerages in the Denver area, provided a unique perspective on historical housing discrimination along with present day issues in the housing market. Ms. Rhone spoke at length about the dynamic of explicit racially motivated discrimination and the implicit impacts those policies had on space and place in African American communities. Ms. Jackson, a real estate brokerage owner and

community activist in the community, recounted her own experiences with housing discrimination as a real estate agent and discriminatory lending to black homebuyers. She also spoke to how her experiences fostered her own business practices and partnerships. This study led to a deep understanding of discriminatory housing policies like redlining, racialized city planning, along with housing policies like blockbusting within the Denver, CO area.

Independent Study: University of Washington

In the fall and winter of 2021-2022, AARN student researcher, Wendi Zhou, conducted an independent research project that culminated in the paper "Iris Marion Young, Historical Injustice, and Reparations: Applied Philosophy with the African American Redress Network." She received a \$300 grant from the University of Washington Department of Philosophy to conduct group interviews (focus groups) with 11 individuals--both Black and white--who identified as reparationists. Zhou collaborated with Dr. Mann to co-created consent forms and an interview guide. She also used recordings of previous AARN convenings and an interview with the Black Farmers Reparation project as part of her research analysis. Great care was taken to secure IRB approval and to engage reciprocally with interviewees, a process which included soliciting frequent feedback from interviewees on how they would like to be represented in the paper, and providing audio recordings to all interviewees who requested access to them. The final paper was presented at four academic conferences this spring and summer: the Undergraduate Research Conference at UW, the Richard Macksey National Undergraduate Humanities Research Symposium, the Gabriel E. Gallardo Research, Student Leadership & Advocacy Symposium, and the North American Society for Social Philosophy's 39th International Social Philosophy Conference. It is currently under review by the *Macksey Journal*. Some of the interviews were provided to R4S for use in their educational materials to inform non-BIPC communities of the need for repair and redress.

In March 2022, Zhou was awarded a Mary Gates Leadership Scholarship to devise and implement a virtual conference--one aimed at building a coalition of BIPOC leaders and organizations to support nationwide racial redress. Zhou worked alongside Dr. Mann and other AARN student researchers to draft and revise outreach materials, brainstorm and design panes, discussion guides, and coordinate conference logistics. The conference, "Building a Coalition: Multiracial Organizing for Reparative Justice," took place on Saturday, August 13.

Conferences. In addition to *Undesign the Redline, and Beyond Nuremberg*, AARN presented at the following international conferences during 2021/2022.:

- April 2022. Presidential highlighted session - [The African American Racial Redress Network: Local activism and the Pursuit of Racial Justice](#). Comparative and International Education Society, Minneapolis, MN.
- December 2021. AARN: Mapping local redress. [National Symposium on Municipal and Local Reparations](#), Evanston, IL

Advancing local efforts

AARN provided technical assistance to several local redress efforts this year. Below is a description of those efforts listed in alphabetical order. AARN's technical assistance focused on the specific needs and priorities identified by the local redress organizations. AARN provided

assistance with research, and offered expertise from the AARN network. The aim of AARN's technical assistance was to maximize the quality and impact of local reparations efforts through administrative, management, policy development, and capacity building support.

Africatown, Alabama

AARN and the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) are working in collaboration with the Clean, Healthy, Educated, Safe & Sustainable Community ([C.H.E.S.S.](#)) and the [Mobile County Training School Alumni Association](#) to develop and implement a heritage preservation initiative, the Africatown Lantern Walk. The inaugural Lantern Walk will take place in November 2022 and is ongoing. The objective of this project is to create the Africatown Lantern Walk. The Lantern Walk was a traditional event held at the close of the school year at the Mobile County Training School (MCTS). This event took place prior to 1961 when the school, which is located in the heart of Africatown, was still segregated. The purpose of the Lantern Walk was to pay homage to community members and descendants who helped pave the way for graduates.

The Lantern Walk is part of C.H.E.S.S.' efforts to develop several preservation heritage events. Africatown has a unique history in US enslavement practices. Their arrival to Mobile, Alabama came over 40+ years after transatlantic slave trade was ruled illegal across the globe. The enslaved peoples arrived in the U.S. onboard the Clotilda in 1860. To hide the evidence, the ship was burned and sunk in the Mobile River.

To prepare for the Lantern Walk, AARN works with Africatown community members to compile information on trailblazers and significant historical sites. AARN student researchers conducted oral history interviews to better understand the significance of the local school, churches, and Africatown's historical cemetery. In the future, student researchers will conduct business outreach to community-based institutions to support the Lantern Walk event in Fall 2022.

Brown Grove Community, VA

Since January 2021, AARN has supported the efforts of the Brown Grove Preservation group (BGP). 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](#) (Fig. 2). The Brown Grove Community land includes African American cemeteries, a historic Black-only school, and a 150 year old, traditionally Black-led Baptist church.

Brown Grove had several wins during 2021/2022. Brown Grove was designated an African American Rural Historic District by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Historical research and testimony by Diane Drake, a resident of Brown Grove was pivotal in the designation. AARN authored a letter in support of Brown Grove designation. Brown Grove is pursuing a similar designation from the National Park Service. AARN student research was also used as part of the [Virginia \(VA\) Environmental Justice Collaborative et al. amicus brief](#) to support a legal challenge at the VA Supreme Court.

AARN succeeded in securing a meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPAD) in Spring 2022. The EPA visited Brown Grove and witnessed the industrial encroachment and environmental injustices experienced by the community. A Title VI complaint was filed by a community member claiming racism. The EPA took this claim seriously and the VA Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is engaged in the informal resolution process with members of BGPG. The outcome of this process is yet to be determined.

Fig. 2



Note: Community members protest the construction of the Wegmans Distribution Center in front of the historical Brown Grove Baptist Church.

Looking forward, the BGPG hopes to continue making gains towards their ultimate goal of a clean and safe community for residents and honors their historic roots.

Evanston, Illinois

In March 2021, AARN pledged legal support to the reparation efforts in Evanston, Illinois. Shortly thereafter, the Evanston City Council voted 8-1 in favor of the [Local Reparations Restorative Housing Program](#). Following the approval of the Local Reparations Program, Evanston requested that AARN develop an impact study to prepare for future legal challenges. Student interns at both Howard and Columbia researched and published [Segregation in Evanston: An impact study](#). The study demonstrated a causal relationship between historically discriminatory zoning policies and the current racial economic and housing disparities in Evanston and supported the provision of a reparations program in Evanston. AARN additionally developed an economic calculus to demonstrate the wealth impact of the Housing reparations in 20 years' time.

The Black Veterans Project

A class of ten Columbia students at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) convened during Spring 2022. They worked under the guidance of Dr. Linda Mann in collaboration with one of the African American Redress Network's (AARN) partners, the Black Veterans Project (BVP). This organization was founded by Columbia alum, Richard Brookshire. BVP is working to address benefit obstruction experienced by Black servicemen and women. AARN and the SIPA students worked collaboratively to prepare a white paper for BVP by analyzing trends from a dataset obtained via FOIA request. The Black Veterans Empowerment Council convened in Washington D.C. on June 23rd, 2002. [The empowerment council](#) "is a non-partisan coalition of national, state, and local veterans organizations seeking to shift long-standing racial, economic and social inequalities suffered by Black veterans in the United States."

Public Dialogue and Awareness-raising Events

Reparations 2022

The African American Redress Network hosted its third annual Reparations Conference in April 2022. The online program took place April 1st and 2nd. The in-person cohort convened at Howard University's Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center, DC with 45 representatives from 13 municipal reparation efforts across the country. AARN student interns played a pivotal role in the success of the in-person conference (Fig. 3,4,5).

The conference was created as a collaboration between [FirstRepair](#), [African American Redress Network \(AARN\)](#), and the [International Center for Transitional Justice \(ICTJ\)](#). The conference offered in-depth panels, lectures, and wellness sessions on topics including *Legal Frameworks for Repair*, *Decolonizing the Academy*, and *Advancing Reparations at the Municipal Level*. On Friday evening, in-person participants attended a private tour and dinner at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The conference was a monumental success in bringing together leading reparations advocates and activists to share strategies and strengthen efforts. You can view the conference summary video [here](#).

Fig. 3



Note: From left to right: Ilana Hamer (CU), Erica Ivins (CU), Attorney Billie Wilkerson (HU), Corey Shaw (UDC), Linda Mann (co-founder), Alexandra Clark (CU), and Safia Southey (CU).

Fig. 4



Note: Attorney Billie Wilkerson and Howard University student Sabrina Burgess.

Fig. 5



Note: Alderwoman Robin Rue Simmons and AARN member, Safia Southey (CU).

Develop capacity

Brown Grove Retreat

In November of 2021, the AARN, in conjunction with the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), hosted a retreat for members of the community (Fig. 7,8). The retreat functioned as a space for activism, reflection and rejuvenation that resulted in capacity building to galvanize efforts for the BGPG. AARN continues to work alongside BGPG on their quest for environmental justice.

Fig. 7



Note: AARN, ICTJ, and BGPG community members present at the Nov. 2021 BGPG Retreat.

Fig. 8



Note: Future vision board created by community members at the BGPG retreat.

Virginia Coalition

Since April 2021, AARN has assisted several local Virginia-based redress organizations in the creation of a reparation coalition, The Virginia Reparations Coalition (VA RPC). AARN is assisting the VA RPC with the creation of their organizational structure and educational materials. VA RPC aims to educate the public and government officials about local reparations and anti-racism efforts. Additionally, the VA RPC is working to create opportunities for collaboration with other VA grassroots organizations to embolden local reparation campaigns. One of the focus areas of the VA RPC is on Black land theft. The VA Coalition is composed of members of the VA Black Caucus, VA NAACP, Network NOVA, Seed4VA, Center for Common Ground (CCG), [Resolution Addressing Systemic Racism](#) or [Coming to the Table RVA](#) and Black-led reparation efforts such as the [Brown Grove Preservation Group \(BGP\)](#) and [Liberty Amendments](#).

Letters of support coordinated by Tina Slaughter (Coming to the Table RVA), Melissa Hartman (RASR) and Stair Calhoun (Network NOVA) assisted in drawing national political attention to Brown Grove. Frank Mosely from CCG gave a compelling presentation on the use of community land trusts as a tool of liberation. The League of Women Voters also joined the coalition to understand reparations within a human rights framework. Independently, the League researched their racist underpinnings, and as a member of the VA Coalition are in the process of taking responsibility for repair through reparations policies as discussed in [The League of Women Voters and Reparations](#). The success of the VA Coalition justifies fostering spaces for communities across the nation to work together—in constant communication—rather than in silos.

Social Media and Communications

In January 2022, AARN decided to take active steps to increase its social media presence and gain a larger following. AARN started a TikTok presence. AARN members traveled to various places in New York City to create videos highlighting lesser-known black historical sites as a part of widespread black history month efforts. The published video explained the significance of Seneca Village, a historic Black community founded by freedmen at the turn of the 19th century. This community was taken by eminent domain to expand the formation of Central Park in the Upper west part of NYC. TikTok captured the surrounding area as an AARN member narrated a few basic facts about Seneca Village. Captions of the narration were provided to ensure accessibility. Other areas that were filmed on TikTok are the Chelsea School, No. 4, the African Burial Ground, and the abolition exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In addition, videos advertising ongoing grassroots activist efforts, such as those at Brown Grove, as well as



the Reparations 2022 Conference were also filmed. AARN also has an Instagram account that gives updates on descendant communities and their reparations efforts.

Communications

AARN's communication efforts drastically expanded throughout the fiscal year. AARN communications assistant, Pat Lilly, maintained consistent communication via emails to organizations that wanted to collaborate with the Network. Ms. Lily also connected students who wanted to find ways to mobilize and support grassroots organizations in their own communities. AARN holds preliminary meetings with new network members to discuss the community's needs and interests and to explore how the Network might provide technical assistance.

AARN communications was essential to planning major conferences that were held throughout this past year. AARN sent out invitations to community organizers to attend a Strategic Planning Retreat for the Brown Grove Preservation Group in Brown Grove, VA. Additionally, AARN communications was vital to identifying potential allies and alliances in preparation for the August 2022 workshop, "Building a Coalition: Multiracial Organizing for Reparative Justice."

Podcast

AARN piloted a podcast titled *Let's Talk Reparations*. The show is intended to provide a space to raise up local reputation efforts. AARN intern, Corey Shaw Jr. hosted the podcast and conducted oral history style interviews with members of two different communities advancing reparations. Erik K. Washington, a NYC historian, discussed his work to preserve former Colored School No. 4 in Manhattan. Washington shared the history of the school and the need to have difficult discussions about our nation's history and efforts to erase significant landmarks such as Colored School No. 4. Mr. Shaw also met with members of the Brown Grove Preservation Group (BGPG). Brown Grove, Virginia was settled by freedmen and freedwomen during the late 1800s. The BGPG organized to stand up for environmental justice. The community has faced several instances of industrial encroachment from heavy polluting industries. In 2021, the county government approved a Wegmans distribution center, the size of the Pentagon, to be constructed in the heart of the Brown Grove. This act spurred community members into action to form the BGPG. Shaw spoke with Fawn Dendy and Diane Drake from the Brown Grove Preservation Group to learn more about their history and their fight for clean air and water for generations to come. While *Let's Talk Reparations* has been put on hold, the spirit of the show lives on in the work of the Network.

Students

AARN technical assistance and communications would not be possible without the significant contributions and dedication of an exemplary volunteer, student group. Since Fall 2020, AARN has had a consistent student team of 7 research volunteers. Students comments for their commitment to AARN include:

Columbia University

Erica Ivins, Human Rights, MA, Columbia University, 2023

Safia Southey, Human Rights, BA, Columbia University, 2021
Ilana Hamer, Human Rights and Jewish Ethics, Human Rights, BA, Columbia University, 2022
Grace Miner, BA, Human Rights, History, Columbia University 2021; Masters of Public Policy, Oxford University, 2022
Pat Lilly, School of General Studies, Human Rights, BA, Columbia University, 2022
Alexandra Clark, International Relations and Affairs, MA, Columbia University, 2022
Michal Sered-Schoenberg, Human Rights, MA, Columbia University, 2022
Kathy Santana, Public Administration, MA, Columbia University, 2022
Claire Choi, Political Science and Human Rights, BA, Columbia University, 2023

Barnard College

Irene Jang, Political Science and Russian Studies, BA, Barnard College, 2024

Howard University

Courtney Taylor, J.D. Candidate, Howard Law School, 2022
Tenette Smith, esq., Howard Law School affiliate
Jy'Mir Starks, JD/BA, Howard Law School, 2023
Charkera Ervin, Howard Law School, 2022

Other universities

Summer Durant, Masters of Science in Law, Georgetown University, 2021
Breanna Moore, History PhD candidate, University of Pennsylvania, 2022
Wendi Zhou, Philosophy, BA, University of Washington, 2023

Other HBCU

James Lennox, Political Science, Bachelors, University District of Columbia, 2023
Corey Shaw, Political Science, Bachelors, University District of Columbia, 2022

Intern Continued Success:

Grace Miner, board member of [Plan International](#)
Wendi Zhou, University of Washington Sleizer Scholar; Mary Gates Research Scholarship
Kwolanne Felix, UN OCHR Fellow and Scholar at the Saltzman Institute for War and Peace

Consulting

The Global Research Consulting groups from Yale University and Columbia University provided valuable project and landscape analysis for AARN which resulted in improved AARN operational systems. In addition, GRC Yale provided survey analysis which was provided to the BVP as part of their upcoming efforts to survey Black Veterans on benefits and benefit obstruction.



Steering Committee Biographies



Justin Hansford was recently elected as the UN delegate for the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (2022-2024). He is a Professor of Law and the Executive Director of the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at Howard University, where he has become recognized as a leading scholar and activist in critical race theory, human rights, and law and social movements. Hansford He co-authored the Ferguson to Geneva human rights shadow report and accompanied the Ferguson protesters and Mike Brown's family to Geneva, Switzerland to testify at the United Nations.



Linda J. Mann, PhD, co-founder and Research Director of AARN. She also works as an adjunct professor at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. Previously Mann served as the Executive Director at Northeastern University School of Law, Director of Clinical Experiences at Marymount University in Arlington, VA, and VP of Research for the Georgetown Memory Project. Mann's research focuses on the analysis of historical injustices and contemporary reparations based on the voices of those wronged to determine their restorative justice potential.



Billi Wilkerson, JD, serves as co-director of AARN and the Managing Director of the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at Howard University School of Law. As a law student, Wilkerson found her true calling in Human and Civil Rights, bringing years of experience in community activism, grassroots organizing, and advocacy to reparations advocacy work.



Kristina Eberbach is currently an Associate Adjunct Professor at the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University. Previously she served as the Director of Education at Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human Rights. Kristina Eberbach is Deputy Director of the Institute and an Adjunct Assistant Professor of International and Public Affairs at SIPA. From 2010-2019 she served as the Institute's Director of Education. She has developed and facilitated human rights courses and workshops for university students, members of civil society and government officials in Colombia, Iraq, Myanmar, and the U.S. and has undertaken research, reporting, and advocacy work in Kenya, Myanmar, The Netherlands, South Africa, Uganda, and the U.S. She is on the steering committee of Human Rights Educators USA and is a co-founder and steering committee member of the University and College Consortium for Human Rights Education. Her research interests focus on human rights education and human rights in conflict and transitional contexts. Eberbach holds a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.



Dr. Elazar Barkan is Professor of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University and Director of SIPA's Human Rights and Humanitarian Policy Concentration. Barkan also works as Director of Columbia's Institute for the Study of Human Rights. He is also the founding Director of the Institute for Historical Justice and Reconciliation (IHJR) in The Hague. Barkan served on ISHR's board of directors before becoming ISHR's co-director in 2007 and director in 2008. Previously, Professor Barkan served as chair of the History Department and the Cultural Studies Department at the Claremont Graduate University, where he was the founding director of the Humanities Center. Professor Barkan is a historian by training and received his PhD from Brandeis University in Comparative European History and BA from Tel Aviv University.

Barkan's research interests focus on human rights and on the role of history in contemporary society and politics and the response to gross historical crimes and injustices. His human rights work seeks to achieve conflict resolution and reconciliation by bringing scholars from two or more sides of a conflict together and employing historical methodology to create shared narratives across political divides and to turn historical dialogue into a fundamental tool of political reconciliation. Barkan's article, "Historians and Historical Reconciliation," in October 2009 *American Historical Review*. Professor Barkan's other research interests include refugee repatriation, comparative analysis of historical commissions, shared sacred sites, and the question of human rights impact, specifically with regard to redress and transitional justice.



Dr. Mario Beatty is an Associate Professor of Afro-American Studies, received his B.A. degree in Black World Studies at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, his M.A. degree in Black Studies at The Ohio State University, and his Ph.D. degree in African-American Studies at Temple University. He has taught at Morris Brown College, Bowie State University, and he served as Chairperson of the Department of African-American Studies at Chicago State University from 2007 to 2010.

Beatty served as an educational consultant for the School District of Philadelphia from 2004 to 2007, where he helped to write curriculum and to train teachers in the novel, district-wide mandatory course in African-American history. He currently serves as President of The Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations (ASCAC). His research interests include the Ancient Egyptian language, history, wisdom literature, astronomy in Ancient Egyptian religious texts, comparative analyses of African cultures, the image and use of ancient Africa in the African-American historical imagination, the theory and practice of African-American Studies, and Pan-Africanism.



Dr. Greg Carr is a professor of Afro American Studies at Howard University. Carr holds a PhD from Temple University. His research focus is on pan-African historiography and instructs courses on Africana Studies normative theory, Africana intellectual history, classical African history and African-American nationalism. Greg's publication include: *Towards an Intellectual History of Africana Studies: Genealogy and Normative Theory* (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2007), and *You Don't Call the Kittens Biscuits: Disciplinary Africana Studies and The Study of Malcolm X* (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2007). As the School District of Philadelphia's First Resident Scholar on Race and Culture (1999-2000). Dr. Carr developed educational policymaking and curriculum frameworks for African-American History courses now required for secondary education students in Philadelphia.



Dr. Michael L. Blakey is a National Endowment for the Humanities Professor of Anthropology, Africana Studies, and American Studies, and Founding Director of the Institute for Historical Biology at the College of William & Mary.

Blakey advised the award-winning "Race: Are We So Different?" exhibition of the American Anthropological Association. He has served as President of the Association of Black Anthropologists and a member of the editorial board of *American Anthropologists*. Blakey represented the United States on the Council of the 4th World Archaeological Congress in

South Africa. He is a member of the Scholarly Advisory Committee of the National Museum of African American History and Culture of the Smithsonian Institution, where he previously held the position of Research Associate in Physical Anthropology at the National Museum of Natural History from 1985 to 1994. He was Scientific Director of the New York African Burial Ground Project from 1992-2009.

Blakey has taught at Spelman College, Columbia, Brown, La Sapienza, and Howard University, where he founded the W. Montague Cobb Biological Anthropology Laboratory. He was director of the Remembering Slavery, Resistance, and Freedom Project sponsored by the Virginia General Assembly from 2010 to 2015. He recently published *The Skeletal Biology of the New York African Burial Ground*, written with Lesley Rankin-Hill. His other writings cover bioarchaeology, publicly engaged archaeology, and scientific racism. He is currently working on a monograph on race and racism in science and society. His awards include an honorary Doctor of Science from York College, CUNY. He earned his B.A. from Howard University and his M.A. and PhD in anthropology from University of Massachusetts-Amherst. He has also completed courses at Oxford and London Universities.



Kamm Howard is a Chicago businessman and activist. He currently owns retail and office spaces that house the businesses of 17 Black entrepreneurs in the Roseland community.

In 2016, Kamm helped organize the United Nations Working Group of Experts for People of African Descent visit to the United States, which resulted in recommendations for the United States to amend centuries of gross human rights violations against people of African Descent with reparations.

Kamm has been a member of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N’COBRA) for 17 years and Kamm has led N’COBRA as its National Male Co-Chair since 2017. He has worked closely with both the late Rep. John Conyers and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee to move HR 40 through Congress. Kamm also aided Alderman Robin Rue Simmons in creating a municipal reparations program in Evanston, Illinois and in June 2020, Kamm worked to create the City of Chicago Subcommittee on Reparations. Kamm also recently authored the manual, “Laying the Foundation for Local Reparations: A Guide for Providing National Symmetry for Local Reparations Efforts.” Kamm has spoken on reparations in both Ethiopia and South Africa.

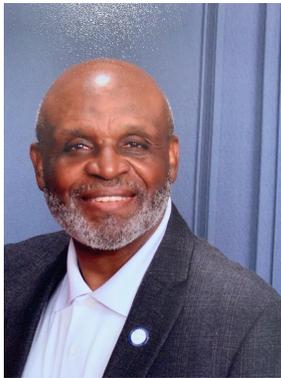


Mélisande Short-Colomb serves as the Research and Community Engagement Associate, Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics, Georgetown University and is a founding member of the GU272 Advocacy Team. She also serves on the Georgetown Memory Project's Board of Advisors, as well as Council Elder of the GU272 Descendants Association. Ms Short-Colomb received a 2019 Fr. Bunn

Award for journalistic excellence for commentary in support of the "GU272 Referendum to Create a New Legacy."

Short-Colomb is a descendant of two families sold in 1838 by the Society of Jesus. Short-Colomb wrote and performed a one person show, titled *Here I Am*. The play includes her personal story of discovering she was descended from slaves sold for the benefit of Georgetown and her attendance at the same institution. *Here I Am* also includes archival excerpts which give voice to the slaves, Jesuits, and others around the time of the sale. Short-Colomb also speaks frequently on the subjects of the GU272 and reparations. She has testified before the InterAmerican Commission on Human Rights, lectured at the [Brooklyn Historical Society](#), and has given a [TEDx talk](#). Short-Colomb has been published in the [Washington Post](#), [The New Yorker](#), and the [AARP Journal](#). Short-Colomb appeared in a [Full Frontal with Samantha Bee](#) episode on reparations, among other television appearances.

From New Orleans, LA, Short-Colomb began studies at Georgetown in August 2017, one of two undergraduate students from recognized descendant families. Short-Colomb retired from a lengthy culinary career to attend Georgetown. Her family includes four adult children and four-granddaughters, and scores of newly identified cousins.



Anderson Flen is the Vice President of Africatown C.H.E.S.S. Flen was born in Magazine Point, Alabama (Africatown) and is a 1968 graduate of Mobile County Training School (MCTS). The culture and history of the descendants of the slave ship Clotilda, the founders of Africatown, affected his entire education.

Flen works to ensure local churches have the support necessary to better serve the community and share their stories. Flen served 30 years as Director of Health Promotions and Planning in the North Georgia Health District until his retirement in 2015. In this role, Flen collaborated with government and community organizations representing academia, business, non-profits, healthcare and religious institutions. Flen has played a foundational role in the formation of all the current community organizations in the Africatown Community, including the Mobile County Training School Alumni Association (MCTSAA), the Africatown Heritage Preservation Foundation (AHPF), the Africatown Community Development Corporation (ACDC), and C.H.E.S.S.

Flen served as the first Alumni Association President of the newly reorganized MCTSAA, now a 501-c3 non-profit. In 2016, Flen worked on the Africatown Connections Blueway Project with the National Park Service (NPS)



Dr. Valethia Watkins is Director of the Women's Studies Graduate Certificate Program and Associate Professor of Africana Studies in the Department of Afro-American Studies at Howard University. She earned her Ph.D. in African American Studies at Temple University and a Law Degree at The Ohio State University College of Law. Dr. Watkins previously served as an educational consultant for the School District of Philadelphia, where she assisted in the writing and training of teachers in a district-wide required course in African-American history.

Dr. Watkins is the former National Secretary for the Association of Black Women Historians. She serves as a member of the editorial board of *The Compass: Journal of the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations*, where she has also published her work. Dr. Watkins has also published in journals such as *The Journal of Pan African Studies*, *Phylon: The Clark Atlanta University Review of Race and Culture*, *The African Journal of Rhetoric*. Her research interests include Black Women's Intellectual History, Africana Gender Studies, the Politics of Race and Racism in American Feminist Thought, and conceptualizing Africana Studies approaches to the study of gender. Dr. Watkins has lectured on the Racial Politics of the Woman Suffrage movement and Black Women's History across the United States and internationally in countries such as Ghana, Egypt, and Great Britain.

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