

The Tennessee A&I State University marching band and majorettes practicing before the Homecoming Parade, 1953.
Image courtesy of Tennessee State University, Brown-Daniel Library

HBCU
Library Alliance

2026 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

"HOMECOMING & HARVEST"

Honoring Our Past. Harvesting Our Impact. Planting Our Future.

Sunday, October 25, 2026 – Tuesday, October 27, 2026
Tennessee State University
Avon Williams Off-Campus Instructional Site
Nashville, TN 37203



Miss Library Homecoming Float, circa 1963.
Photo courtesy of Alabama A&M University Archives

HBCU LIBRARY ALLIANCE MISSION AND VISION

OUR MISSION

The HBCU Library Alliance works to transform and strengthen its membership by developing leaders, preserving collections and planning for the future.

OUR VISION

Transforming for Tomorrow while Preserving the Past

BOARD CHAIR LETTER

Grambling University Digital Library and Learning



Dear HBCU Library Alliance and Guests,

Welcome to Nashville, the home of four respected and storied HBCUs -- American Baptist College, Fisk University, Meharry Medical College, and Tennessee State University. It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 HBCU Library Alliance Biennial Membership Meeting as we gather to network, learn together, and reflect on almost 25 years of the HBCU Library Alliance.

Our theme, "Homecoming & Harvest," invites us to honor where we have been, celebrate what we have cultivated together, and imagine what comes next. For nearly a quarter-century, the Alliance has demonstrated the power of HBCU libraries working collectively to strengthen our institutions, preserve our history, develop leaders, support students, and serve our communities.

Our coming anniversary is more than a milestone. It offers a moment for clear assessment and bold ambition. As technology transforms how knowledge is created, accessed, and shared; as our cultural heritage demands renewed stewardship, and as our students and communities face new challenges and contexts, the work of HBCU libraries has never been more important.

Thank you for being part of this extraordinary community and for helping to shape the next chapter of the HBCU Library Alliance. May this Homecoming remind us of who we are, celebrate what we have accomplished together, and inspire us to build an even more powerful future for HBCU libraries, our institutions, our students, and the communities we serve.

During our time together, I encourage you to reconnect, form new relationships, and imagine boldly. Once again, welcome to Nashville. Thank you for being here.

With warmest regards,

Adrienne C. Webber
Chair, HBCU Library Alliance Board
Dean, Grambling State University Digital Library and Learning Commons

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

American Baptist College



Dear Colleagues, Friends, and Partners of the HBCU Library Alliance,

As President of American Baptist College, it is my honor to extend congratulations to the HBCU Library Alliance as you celebrate twenty-five years of service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to preserving and advancing the intellectual and cultural legacy of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The theme of this year's Biennial Membership Meeting,"Homecoming & Harvest," appropriately captures both the accomplishments of the past and the promise of the future.

Throughout the history of Black higher education, libraries have been far more than repositories of books and archives. They have served as centers of learning, discovery, memory, and empowerment. At HBCUs, libraries have played a unique role in cultivating the intellectual curiosity of students, providing access to knowledge that inspires both academic achievement and social transformation. They are places where future leaders learn to ask critical questions, engage diverse perspectives, and develop the skills necessary to address the challenges of their communities and our world.

At American Baptist College, our mission is deeply rooted in cultivating leaders who are intellectually prepared, spiritually grounded, and committed to justice and social change. Academic libraries are indispensable partners in that mission. Whether supporting classroom instruction, advancing scholarly research, preserving historical records, or expanding access to digital resources, libraries create opportunities for students to grow as thinkers, scholars, and servant-leaders.

Libraries also remain essential to advancing student success and research equity. By providing access to information, technology, research support, and academic resources, libraries help level the playing field for students from diverse backgrounds. They create spaces where all learners can engage in inquiry, develop critical thinking skills, and participate fully in the scholarly enterprise. In doing so, libraries help make higher education more accessible, equitable, and transformative.

Equally important is the work of preserving Black cultural heritage. HBCU libraries and archives serve as trusted stewards of stories, documents, artifacts, and voices that might otherwise be lost to history. Through careful preservation and innovative access initiatives, library professionals help ensure that future generations can learn from the experiences, struggles, achievements, and contributions of Black communities. This sacred work strengthens our understanding of who we are and inspires us to continue the pursuit of justice, equity, and opportunity.

Finally, I want to recognize the dedication of HBCU library professionals whose leadership sustains this important work. Through mentorship, professional development, collaboration, and innovation, you are cultivating the next generation of information professionals, archivists, librarians, and scholars. Your commitment ensures that HBCU libraries will continue to thrive as centers of excellence for decades to come.

On behalf of American Baptist College, I offer sincere gratitude to the HBCU Library Alliance for twenty-five years of visionary leadership and partnership. May this anniversary celebration be both a homecoming that honors your remarkable legacy and a harvest that inspires continued growth, collaboration, and impact. We are grateful for your contributions to higher education and look forward to the many ways HBCU libraries will continue to shape the future of our students, institutions, and communities.

With appreciation and best wishes for a successful Biennial Membership Meeting,

President Jackson
Derrick Jackson, D. Min

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Fisk University



Dear Members and Friends of the HBCU Library Alliance:

On behalf of Fisk University, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to Nashville for the 2026 HBCU Library Alliance Biennial Membership Meeting.

This year's theme, "Homecoming & Harvest," is especially fitting. HBCU libraries have long been places where we gather what previous generations have planted—knowledge, memory, scholarship, records, and stories—and preserve and cultivate them for generations yet to come.

At Fisk University, we are proud to stand within that tradition. Since Fisk's founding in 1866, the stewardship of knowledge has been central to our institutional life. Across generations, librarians, archivists, scholars, and benefactors have built collections of extraordinary significance to the study of African American history and culture. Our library tradition bears the imprint of figures such as Arthur Alfonso Schomburg, Arna Bontemps, Beth Madison Howse, and Dr. Jessie Carney Smith, whose work helped extend Fisk's influence far beyond the boundaries of our campus.

Their legacy reminds us that an HBCU library is never merely a repository. It is a keeper of institutional memory, a center for discovery, a guardian of cultural inheritance, and a gateway through which new generations encounter the intellectual traditions that helped make their own possibilities possible.

We are delighted that this gathering brings colleagues from across the HBCU community to Nashville and provides an opportunity to experience the rich library traditions of our city's HBCUs. And there may be no more fitting place for this gathering than Music City. In 1871, nine young Fisk students departed Nashville and carried the spirituals—and the name of Fisk University—across the nation and eventually the world. The Fisk Jubilee Singers® demonstrated the power of preserving a cultural inheritance and giving it new life before new audiences.

In that same spirit, may this gathering allow us to honor what we have inherited, celebrate what we have cultivated, and imagine together what we will leave for those who come after us.

Welcome to Nashville. Welcome to Music City. And when you visit us at Fisk, welcome home.

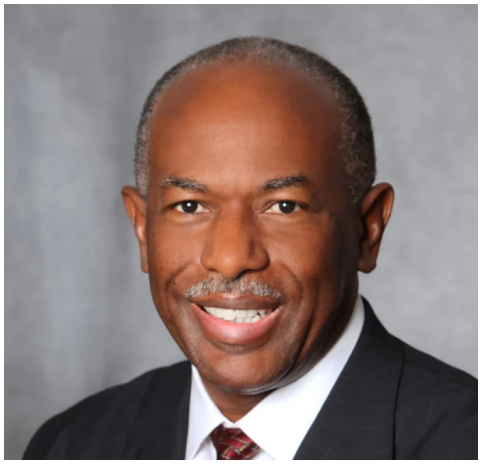
Sincerely,

Dr. Agenia Walker Clark
President

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

CAMPAIGN 150
FOREVER ON THE PATH

Meharry Medical College



A Message of Congratulations to the HBCU Library Alliance

Dear Members of the HBCU Library Alliance,

Let me first welcome you to Nashville, home of four of our oldest HBCUs in the country and thank you for choosing Nashville as your 2026 biennial membership meeting site.

As President and CEO of Meharry Medical College, I am delighted to have the opportunity to congratulate you on the milestone of celebrating 25 years in existence. Your initiatives and leadership in valuable projects have been utilized by the Meharry Library and Archives and have often been recognized as accomplished goals.

Thank you for the unique perspective you bring to the academic arena. Again, kudos to 25 years of achievement. May you continue your mission dedicated to strengthening our most valued entity, the HBCU library.

Sincerely,

James E.K. Hildreth, Sr, PhD, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer

PROVOST'S LETTER

Tennessee State University



Dear Member Institutions of the HBCU Library Alliance,

On behalf of Tennessee State University, I am excited to welcome you and offer congratulations to the HBCU Library Alliance on its 25th anniversary.

For the last quarter century, the HBCU Library Alliance has served as a catalyst for excellence, collaboration, and innovation among the libraries of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Through its leadership, the Alliance has strengthened the capacity of HBCU libraries to support teaching, learning, research, and community engagement while preserving the rich history and cultural legacy of our institutions.

I commend the HBCU Library Alliance for its enduring commitment to developing library leaders, building humanities special collections, and creating digital archives of Black history. The Alliance's work helps ensure that our libraries remain vibrant centers of scholarship, student success, and intellectual discovery for future generations.

Tennessee State University is honored to join our fellow host institutions in welcoming participants to this gathering and celebrating the remarkable achievements of the HBCU Library Alliance over the past twenty-five years. We look forward to your continued impact on higher education and the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

Erik Schmeller

Erik Schmeller, Ph.D.
Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
Professor of History
Tennessee State University

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER

HBCU Library Alliance



Greetings HBCU Library Alliance Community,

It is with tremendous excitement and anticipation that I welcome you to the 11th Biennial Membership Meeting of the HBCU Library Alliance held at Tennessee State University in Nashville. This gathering is especially meaningful to me, as it is my first Membership Meeting as your Executive Director—and it takes place on the eve of an extraordinary milestone, the 25th anniversary of the HBCU Library Alliance.

Though I have met some of you in my visits to 25 of our over 100 HBCU libraries, I look forward to the opportunity this meeting presents to learn from your accomplishments, to listen to your aspirations, and to engage with you in the spirited conversations that make this Alliance a powerful community. Together, we will explore the issues shaping the future of our libraries and our institutions—from leadership and organizational resilience to digital stewardship, student success, and the evolving role of HBCU libraries in preserving and advancing Black knowledge and cultural heritage.

We will also consider the possibilities before us. How can HBCU libraries gain more access to funding to shore up staffing capacity, to update our spaces and technology in meaningful ways, and to harness artificial intelligence to advance justice, strengthen scholarship, and better serve our communities? What new partnerships and models can help our libraries thrive?

I am particularly eager to connect with our members, institutional leaders, vendors, sponsors, partners, and other stakeholders whose ideas, expertise, and commitment make this work possible. The strength of the Alliance has always been its community—and I am honored to join you in this next chapter.

My deep appreciation goes to Tennessee State University for graciously hosting us, to our Biennial Membership Meeting Planning Committee for its hard work, and to our Board of Directors for its support. I am especially grateful to our remarkable Alliance team for their commitment to the institutional mission that informs this meeting. And I want to offer a special thank you to our four Nashville HBCU libraries whose partnership has helped make this 'Homecoming' possible.

As we gather on the threshold of our silver anniversary, I hope we will celebrate our history while keeping our eyes firmly on the future. The first 25 years established the foundation. Together, we will shape what the next 25 years of the HBCU Library Alliance will be.

Welcome to Nashville. Welcome to Homecoming and Harvest!

Tracie D. Hall
Executive Director
HBCU Library Alliance

LETTER OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Smithsonian
Libraries and Archives



Dear Executive Director Hall and Board of Directors,

Congratulations on the dawning of your 25th year as the HBCU Library Alliance. The 2026 Biennial Membership Meeting theme, Homecoming and Harvest, perfectly celebrates the powerful contributions of the Alliance and your dynamic member institutions who "serve the unique and indispensable role as guardians for history, culture and the African American experience." From preservation to leadership development, to library advocacy, the Alliance has remained a steadfast presence in support of the professionals and institutions it serves.

As the Head Librarian for the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and proud alumna of Jackson State University, I understand firsthand the irreplaceable role that libraries and archives play in making that story accessible to the world.

Again, to Director Hall, the board, the staff, and every single member of the HBCU Library Alliance, heartfelt congratulations on your amazing work!

Sincerely,

Shauna Collier
Head Librarian,
National Museum of African American History & Culture Library



Meharry Medical College, 2015.
Image courtesy of Meharry Medical College Library and Archives

HBCU Library Alliance

2026 BIENNIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING PROGRAM

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Glenda Alvin
Tennessee State University

Sharonda S. Brown
HBCU Library Alliance

Tracie D. Hall
HBCU Library Alliance

Marcus Horton
Tennessee State University

Connor Joseph
Fisk University

DeLisa Minor Harris
Fisk University

Ondrea Murphy
Delaware State University

Angel Sloss, Ph.D.
American Baptist College

Stefanie L. Taylor
Alcorn State University

Ariel K. Wells
Tennessee State University

Kathy Anderson
Philander Smith University

LaTasha Denard
HBCU Library Alliance

Christa V. Hardy, Ph.D.
HBCU Library Alliance

Vanessa Jones, Ph.D.
Tennessee State University

Deborah Lilton
American Baptist College

Robbie K. Melton, Ph.D.
Tennessee State University

Sandra Parham
Meharry Medical College

Vanessa Smith
Meharry Medical College

Trudie Thomas, Ed.D.
Tennessee State University



2026 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

"Homecoming & Harvest"

Honoring Our Past.
Harvesting Our Impact.
Planting Our Future.

Sunday, October 25 – Tuesday, October 27, 2026

Inaugural HBCU Library Alliance Convening, 2002

Sunday, October 25

11:30 AM – 5:30 PM

Registration Opens (3rd Floor Capital Dining Room)

1:00 PM – 4:30 PM

PRE-CONFERENCE (Auditorium)

AI Tools as Open Educational Resources: Empowering Library Staff as Campus Leaders in Artificial Intelligence.

Faculty Instructor: Robbie K. Melton, Tennessee State University (TN)

- Explore the HBCU OER Cultural Collection.
- Delve into digitized historical narratives and architects.
- Gain proficiency, support research and cultural preservation, and enhance writing development.
- Create new possibilities for student success and historical representation.
- Leave with actionable implementation and confidence. Address concerns about academic integrity.
- Bring your laptop or tablet with Internet access and prepare to become an AI champion for your campus community.

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

OPENING RECEPTION (Atrium)

Homecoming and Harvest Tailgating Party

- Welcome to Tennessee State University: TSU academic officers and library leadership.
- Welcome to Nashville: Local Arrangements Committee Members from American Baptist College, Fisk University, Meharry Medical College, and Tennessee State University libraries.
- HBCU Library Alliance Networking and Community Building.
- Homecoming & Higher Education Horizons.
- Library and Technology Tours

The AI & OER pre-conference, the OER sessions, and the Sunday, October 25 reception are made possible with support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

2026 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday, October 26

7:45 AM – 8:30 AM

Registration & Breakfast (3rd Floor Capital Dining Room)

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

OPENING PLENARY SESSION (Auditorium)

- Welcome: Dean Adrienne Webber, Grambling State University (LA) Library and Chair, HBCU Library Alliance Board of Directors
- Introduction of the HBCU Library Alliance Board of Directors: Kimberley Bugg, Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library (GA)
- Opening Remarks: Dr. Agenia Clark, Fisk University (TN) President
- 11th Biennial Meeting Planning Committee Acknowledgements
- Sponsor Recognition

PLENARY PANEL I

Homegrown Heroes: Leading HBCU Alumni in the LIS Field Reflect On their Careers and the Academic Libraries that Set Them Up for Success

- Tamika Barnes, Georgia State University (GA) and President, American Library Association
- Steven Fullwood, Nomadic Archivists Project (NY)
- Veronda Pitchford, Califa Group (CA)
- Sharonda Brown, Moderator, HBCU Library Alliance (GA)

10:00 AM – 10:10 AM

BREAK

10:10 AM – 11:10 AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

CONCURRENT SESSION 1A (Room 353)
HBCU Libraries as Engines of Student Success:
From Engagement and Belonging to Ethical AI Literacy

- Harvey Long, North Carolina A&T University (NC): How HBCU Students Engage with Libraries
- Gregory Hill, Livingstone College (NC): First-Generation Student Success: The Role of the Academic Library in Supporting Learning and Growth
- Wiley Brazier V, Southern University and A&M College (LA): Teaching Ethical AI to Undergrads: One Ready-to-Teach Lesson

2026 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday, October 26

10:10 AM – 11:10 AM

CONCURRENT SESSION 1B (Room 306)
Forging Future Pathways for All: From Archive to Infrastructure—Building HBCU-Owned Digital Capacity Through Fisk's Portal to Rosenwald

- DeLisa Minor Harris, Fisk University (TN)
- Joanna Soderberg, Fisk University (TN)
- LaTaevia Berry, Fisk University (TN)

CONCURRENT SESSION 1C (Training Room 2)
New Approaches to Revenue Generation for HBCU Libraries: From Fundraising to Collection Monetization

- North Carolina A&T University (NC): Successful Fundraising at HBCU Libraries
- Ira Revels, My Grant Copilot (CT): Demystifying Grant-seeking with My Grant Copilot
- Fannie Cox, University of Louisville (KY): Is Monetizing Library and Collections Services an Option When Donations, Fundraising, and/or State-Funding Are Not Enough?

CONCURRENT SESSION 1D (Training Room 1)
Open Educational Resources Hands-on Lab

- Robbie K. Melton, Tennessee State University (TN)

11:10 AM – 11:30 AM

BREAK/VENDOR VISITS

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM

PLENARY PANEL II & LUNCH (Atrium)
Sowing Seed, Reaping Legacy: HBCU Library Alliance Founders' Panel

- Janice Franklin, Alabama State University (AL)
- Loretta Parham, Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library (GA), Retired
- Dawn Kight, Southern University and A&M College (LA)
- Tina Rollins, Hampton University (VA)
- Christa Hardy, Moderator, HBCU Library Alliance (GA)

12:45 PM – 1:00 PM

BREAK

2026 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday, October 26

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

CONCURRENT SESSION 2A (Room 353)
Expanding Research Opportunities Through the Springer Nature & Lyrasis Read and Publish Agreement

- Courtney Little (Springer Nature)
- Valencia Bradley (Springer Nature)
- Christy Cortes (Lyrasis)
- Marilyn "Mimi" Hendricks (Springer Nature)
- Bernadette Bynoe (Springer Nature)

CONCURRENT SESSION 2B (Room 306)
Expanding and Enhancing Access to HBCU History, Archives, Culture and Legacy through the HBCU Digital Library Trust

- Andrea Jackson Gavin, HBCU Digital Library Trust (GA)
- Alexandra Scissom, Shelton State Community College (AL)
- Angel Sloss, American Baptist College (TN)
- Veronica Henderson, Alabama A&M University (AL)

CONCURRENT SESSION 2C (Training Room 2)
AI Sandbox: Creating a Safe Space for Faculty Research and Innovation

- Terrence J. Martin, Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library (GA)

2:00 PM –2:15 PM

BREAK/VENDOR VISITS



PSU Homecoming, 2025.
Image courtesy of Philander Smith University, Donald W. Reynolds Library and Technology Center

2026 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday, October 26

2:15 PM – 3:15 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

CONCURRENT SESSION 3A (Room 353)
HBCU Libraries Building New Pedagogies, Pipelines, and Programs

- Jerome Offord, Jr., Harvard University (MA): Harvard Business School Teaching with the Case Method Course for HBCU Business Faculty and CIOs
- Christa Hardy, HBCU Library Alliance (GA): Expanding HBCU Scholarship, Building a Pipeline of HBCU Scholars: Updates on Alliance Program Activity

CONCURRENT SESSION 3B (Room 306)
Utilizing Title III to Build HBCU Library Capacity

- Angel Sloss, American Baptist College (TN)
- Andrea Tyler, Tennessee State University (TN)

CONCURRENT SESSION 3C (Training Room 2)
Artificial Intelligence, Authorship, and Innovation in HBCU Libraries

- Constance Caddell, Tuskegee University (AL): Don't Fear It, Steer It: A Practical Model from Tuskegee University Library Services on Library-Led AI Governance
- Lisa Krajecki, Tennessee State University (TN): Artificial Intelligence Library Guides: How to Create a Guide for the Community

3:15 PM – 3:30 PM

BREAK/VENDOR VISITS

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

PLENARY PANEL III (Auditorium)
Brothers and Keepers: The Role of Black Male Librarians in Strengthening HBCU Student Outcomes

- Harvey Long, North Carolina A&T University (NC)
- Jerome Offord, Jr., Harvard University (MA)
- Gregory Hill, Livingstone College (NC)
- Wiley Brazier V, Moderator, Southern University and A&M College

4:30 PM – 4:45 PM

Group Photo

2026 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday, October 26

5:45 PM AND 6:00 PM	**BUSES TO NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC**
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	**"HOMECOMING & HARVEST" RECEPTION** (National Museum of African American Music) • Alliance Roll Call • School Spirit Contest • Testimonies & Libation
7:45 PM AND 8:00 PM	**Leave Museum to Return to TSU Avon Williams**



Miss Meharry 1970, Miss Bernice Grant and Attendants.
Meharry Medical College Library and Archives

2026 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, October 27

7:45 AM – 8:30 AM

Breakfast (Atrium)

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

OPENING PLENARY SESSION (Auditorium)

- Welcome: Adrienne Webber, Grambling State University (LA) Library and Chair, HBCU Library Alliance Board of Directors
- Opening Remarks: American Baptist College and Meharry Medical College Representatives and Officers
- 11th Biennial Meeting Planning Committee Acknowledgements
- Sponsor Recognition

PLENARY PANEL IV

HBCU Libraries, Artificial Intelligence, and the Digital Future

- Siobahn Day Grady, North Carolina Central University (NC)
- Douglas Fisher, Vanderbilt University (TN), Retired
- Mark McBride, Ithaka S+R (NY)
- Dylan Ruediger, Ithaka S+R (NY)
- Del Hornbuckle, Moderator, Howard University (DC)

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

BREAK/VENDOR VISITS

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

CONCURRENT SESSION 4A (Room 312)

AHRI Libraries Sub-Convening

HBCU Library Alliance Member Institutions seeking R1 and R2 designation are invited to attend this working session to create alignment with the Association of HBCU Research Institutions (AHRI) partnership.

- Dawn Kight, Working Session Moderator, Southern University and A&M College (LA)

CONCURRENT SESSION 4B (Training Room 1)

Small College Libraries Sub-Convening

HBCU Library Alliance Member Institutions serving student bodies of less than 1,100 students are invited to attend this working session to create alignment with the Carnegie Student Access and Earnings designation.

- Gregory Hill, Working Session Moderator, Livingstone College (NC)

2026 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, October 27

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

CONCURRENT SESSION 4C (Training Room 2)

Open Educational Resources Hands-on Lab

- Robbie K. Melton, Tennessee State University (TN)

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

CLOSING DOUBLE PLENARY PANEL V & LUNCH (Atrium)

The Vision: HBCUs and the Next Twenty-Five years of Cultural Heritage Institution Stewardship

- Joy Bivins, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (NY)
- Alexia Hudson Ward, Georgetown University and President – Association of College and Research Libraries
- Robbie K. Melton, Tennessee State University (TN)
- Adrienne Webber, Grambling State University (LA)

Sustaining the Vision: Insights and Opportunities for Funding Cultural Stewardship

- John Bracken, Digital Public Library of America (IL)
- Sharon Burney, Council on Library and Information Resources (VA)
- Patricia Hswe, Mellon Foundation (NY)
- Faye Watkins, Moderator, Florida A&M University (FL)

1:00 PM - 1:10 PM

Program Concludes/Transition to Members Only Meeting

Thank you for attending our 11th Biennial Membership Meeting

1:10 PM – 1:50 PM

Transition to HBCU Library Alliance Members Only Meeting

- Board and Bylaws Updates
- Introduction to Strategic Plan and Planning Consultant

1:50 PM - 1:55 PM

BUSES TO POST CONFERENCE TOURS

2:10 PM - 5:30 PM

POST-CONFERENCE LIBRARY TOURS

Order of Visits (Times Approximate)

2:10 pm – 2:45 pm	**American Baptist College**
3:15 pm – 3:45 pm	**Fisk University**
3:55 pm – 4:25 pm	**Meharry Medical College**
4:45 pm – 5:15 pm	**Tennessee State University** Main Campus
5:15 pm – 5:30 pm	**Return TSU Avon Williams**



Image courtesy of American Baptist College, Susie McClure Library

HBCU Library Alliance

2026 BIENNIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Tamika Barnes is the Associate Dean for Perimeter Library Services at Georgia State University, where she provides strategic leadership for libraries across five metro Atlanta campuses. Barnes earned her bachelor's degree in biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her Master of Library Science from North Carolina Central University. Her career has spanned a range of institutions, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, North Carolina A&T State University, North Carolina State University, and Georgia State University. Her experiences at North Carolina Central University and North Carolina A&T State University have contributed to her deep appreciation for the vital role HBCUs play in higher education, scholarship, community, and the library profession. Throughout her career, she has remained committed to advancing equity, advocacy, mentorship, and strong, transparent leadership while creating opportunities for the next generation of library professionals.

Tamika Barnes

Georgia State University

President, American Library Association



LaTaevia Berry is a visionary software engineer with over 14 years of experience transforming ideas into impactful solutions. She is dedicated to using technology to empower the African American community. Her career spans work with Fortune 500 companies, global consulting firms, and the music industry. As Senior Software Engineer for Fisk University's digital collection project, LaTaevia leads efforts to highlight Julius Rosenwald's contributions to African Americans.

LaTaevia Berry

Fisk University



Joy L. Bivins has served as Director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture since June 2021, leading the institution into its 100th anniversary year. A division of The New York Public Library, the Schomburg Center is the world's premier archive devoted to the global Black experience. Bivins first joined the Center in 2020 as Associate Director of Collections and Research Services, bringing nearly two decades of leadership in museums and cultural institutions. She previously served as Chief Curator at the International African American Museum in Charleston, South Carolina, and as Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Chicago History Museum. A proud native of Chicago's South Side, Bivins is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Cornell University.

Joy Bivins

Schomburg Center

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



John Bracken

Digital Public Library of America

John (he/him) has been DPLA's executive director since 2017. Previously John worked for nearly two decades as a philanthropic investor in digital media, media policy, and innovation. He most recently served as vice president for technology innovation at the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, where he oversaw the Knight News Challenge, Knight's Prototype Fund, and other efforts to improve the creation, curation, and accessibility of information. He previously managed technology and civic innovation programs at the MacArthur Foundation and the Ford Foundation. He has a master's degree from the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania and a B.A. from Pitzer College. He serves on the board of the Poetry Foundation.



Valencia Bradley

Springer Nature

Valencia Bradley is an experienced Account Development Manager at Springer Nature, specializing in Read and Publish agreements and open access strategies for academic and research institutions. With more than 20 years of experience in scholarly publishing and library engagement, she is a passionate advocate for librarians and the communities they serve. Valencia manages seven consortium agreements serving more than 200 institutions across North America, as well as one institutional-level transformative agreement. She partners closely with librarians, researchers, and administrators to maximize the value of their agreements, and increase awareness of publishing opportunities. Valencia helps libraries navigate the evolving landscape of scholarly communication while advancing institutional research goals. Her deep industry knowledge, commitment to customer success, and approachable style have made her a trusted resource and partner within the library community. Valencia is dedicated to empowering librarians with the tools, insights, and support needed to expand access to research, foster knowledge sharing, and increase the global impact of scholarly work.



Wiley Brazier, V

John B. Cade Library

Wiley Brazier, V, serves as STEM and AI Librarian at Southern University and A&M College's John B. Cade Library, an instructor, speaker and Executive Director of We Greaux People. A former teacher, principal, and district administrator, Brazier brings experience translating innovation into instruction. His work emphasizes ethical AI literacy, academic integrity, information evaluation, and equitable access. Brazier is a Google Certified Educator, Trainer and Admin. He's an HBCU Library Alliance Lifting As We Climb Fellow, a recipient of the ISTE Award for Exemplary Leadership and Google Technology Leadership Award. A Southern University alumnus pursuing his Master of Library Science at North Carolina Central University, he champions HBCU libraries as campus leaders in responsible innovation. His presentations connect emerging possibilities with actionable strategies librarians can adapt for instruction, faculty partnerships, and student engagement.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Sharonda S. Brown

Atlanta University Center

Robert W. Woodruff Library

Sharonda S. Brown earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration - Finance from Clark Atlanta University and obtained a Master of Library and Information Science from Wayne State University. Brown received the appointment as the inaugural Dorothy Porter Wesley Visiting Fellow with the HBCU Library Alliance. Brown works closely with HBCU Library Alliance staff and member libraries to assess shared resource needs, identify opportunities for collaborative purchasing, evaluate library technologies and electronic resources, engage with vendors, and help develop the infrastructure necessary to expand access to high-quality collections, services, and technologies across HBCU Library Alliance member institutions. In her role as Social Science Librarian at the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library, she guides students, faculty, and staff through each stage of the research process. Brown's diverse professional background, combined with expertise in insurance, research, instruction, outreach, and relationship building, demonstrates a strong commitment to exceptional customer service, collaboration, and continuous professional growth.



Kimberley Bugg

Atlanta University Center

Robert W. Woodruff Library

Kimberley Bugg is CEO and Library Director of the Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library, which serves Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, and Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. Before AUC Woodruff Library, she was Chief of the Researcher & Reference Services Division at the Library of Congress. Dr. Bugg holds a PhD in Library Science, Masters of Library Science, Masters of Liberal Arts, and a BA in Speech Communications. She is also a graduate of the UCLA Library Fellows Program. Dr. Bugg's areas of expertise include academic library innovation and user services. She is committed to cultivating reflective, culturally competent library leadership. Her record of professional service correlates with her scholarly activities. Dr. Bugg maintains active membership in ALA, ACRL, BCALA, and IFLA. Currently, she serves as Vice-Chair of the HBCU Library Alliance Board of Directors and serves on the ACRL Board of Directors.



Sharon Burney

Council on Library and

Information Resources (CLIR)

Sharon Burney is a Program Officer with the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), supporting the Recordings at Risk, Digitizing Hidden Special Collections, and Digitizing Hidden Collections: Amplifying Unheard Voices grant programs. She specializes in academic, cultural heritage and institutional support systems, navigating administrative policy adherence with an interpersonal connection that promotes community building. She created the inaugural Safe Spaces in Cultural Heritage program. She was also host of the award-winning season 3 of the CLIR Material Memory Podcast featuring a tour of the HBCU Library Alliance member institutions. Prior to joining CLIR, spent 15 years providing program support to the University of Florida African American Studies Program.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Bernadette Bynoe-Mack

Springer Nature

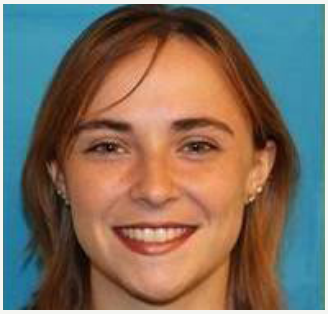
Bernadette Bynoe-Mack is an accomplished publishing and business leader with more than 20 years of experience spanning sales, account management, operations, project management, and strategic partnerships. Throughout her career, she has built a reputation for cultivating trusted relationships, leading complex initiatives, and aligning business strategy with meaningful outcomes. In academic publishing and scholarly communications, Bernadette manages a multimillion-dollar portfolio and partners with colleges, universities, libraries, and consortia to develop innovative solutions that support institutional priorities and expand access to scholarly content. Her expertise includes strategic account management, complex licensing agreements, business development, and cross-functional collaboration. She has also contributed to transformative agreement negotiations with several historically Black colleges and universities and continues to work consultatively with institutions exploring sustainable pathways to broaden research access and impact.



Constance M. Caddell

Tuskegee University

Dr. Constance M. Caddell is the Director of Library Services, Archives and Museums at Tuskegee University, a role she assumed on July 1, 2026, after serving as University Archivist and Assistant Professor since 2024. She holds a Ph.D. in Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina, an M.L.S. in Archives and Records Management from North Carolina Central University, an M.B.A. in Marketing from Colorado Technical University, and a B.A. in History from Tuskegee University. Before returning to Tuskegee, she was an Archivist at the University of South Carolina's Center for Civil Rights History and Research, where her doctoral research examined Black educators' experiences within cultural heritage institutions documenting the civil rights movement. Dr. Caddell's work centers on preserving and expanding access to African American library, archival, and museum collections, including grant-funded initiatives with CLIR, IMLS, Lyrasis, the Association of African American Museums, and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.



Christy Cortes

Lyrasis

Christy Urquieta Cortes serves as a Strategist for the Content & Scholarly Communication Initiatives at Lyrasis, where she advances innovative consortial licensing and open scholarship at the national scale. She previously served as the Electronic Resources Librarian at the University of Tennessee (Knoxville), where she led the Resource Management team in maintaining consistent and seamless access to electronic resources provided by the library through licensing, renewals, troubleshooting, and regular eResource maintenance. Christy is committed to providing information and resources to as many people as possible through strategic partnerships and collaborations in the broad information community.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Fannie M. Cox

University of Louisville Libraries

Professor Fannie M. Cox has served the University of Louisville (UofL) Libraries since 1999, when she became the inaugural Electronic Resources Coordinator. Currently she serves as Community Engagement Consultant and Liaison Librarian. She promotes information literacy, critical thinking, diversity, and community partnerships while mentoring faculty. A co-editor of the monograph, Library Collaborations and Community Partnerships: Enhancing Health and Quality of Life (2020), she is the first African American librarian at UofL to earn tenure and become a full professor. Her extensive service and leadership have significantly advanced library advocacy working with the Louisville Free Public Library Foundation to help secure $44m, as she continues to promote equitable access to information throughout Louisville and beyond.



Siobahn Day Grady

North Carolina Central University

Dr. Siobahn Day Grady is an associate professor in the School of Library and Information Sciences at North Carolina Central University and the founding director of the Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Research (IAIER). In 2018, she became the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in Computer Science from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University — a pioneering milestone that continues to shape her commitment to expanding opportunity and advancing innovation in computing and higher education. A dedicated advocate for student access and success, she has established six merit-based, STEM-focused endowed scholarships across every HBCU in the University of North Carolina System. She serves on several advisory boards, including the Winston-Salem State University Foundation and the National Girls Collaborative Project, and is a life member of both the NCCU and WSSU alumni associations. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Alpha Zeta Omega Chapter.



Douglas Fisher

Vanderbilt University

Doug Fisher is Professor of the Practice of Computer Science at Vanderbilt University, where he has been a faculty member for 39 years. He has taught and conducted research in artificial intelligence (AI) for more than four decades, beginning with his doctoral work at the University of California, Irvine. His research has addressed machine learning, computational models of human classification and problem solving, and applications that include cancer informatics. Recently, his work has examined artificially intelligent storytelling, AI for environmental sustainability, and the “cognitive psychology” of large language and reasoning models. With Clifford Anderson and Helen Shin, Doug is writing on artificial intelligence, theology, and libraries. He and Shin taught an early course on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, and he authored, with Anderson, Artificial Intelligence for Academic Libraries (Routledge), with goals of helping libraries and citizenry approach AI knowledgeably, critically, creatively, and responsibly.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Janice Franklin

Alabama State University

Dr. Janice R. Franklin is Dean of Library and Learning Resources at Alabama State University, a tenured Professor and Project Director for the National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African-American Culture at Alabama State University. Franklin is co-founder of the HBCU Library Alliance, a consortium of libraries representing Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). She has led digitization initiatives for the organization and is an advocate for preserving the cultural legacy of HBCUs. She successfully managed a 25 million dollar expansion of the Levi Watkins Learning Center at ASU and has received commendations for implementing her vision of "a cultural learning place." In her capacity as Project Manager for the National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African-American Culture, she successfully led the effort to establish the National Park Service's Montgomery Interpretive Center for the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March on the campus of ASU.



Steven G. Fullwood

Nomadic Archivist Project

Steven G Fullwood is a curator, archivist and writer. He is the former associate curator of the Manuscripts, Archives & Rare Books Division at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. In 1998, Fullwood launched the In the Life Archive (ITLA) to aid in the preservation of materials produced by LGBTQ people of African descent, housed at the Schomburg Center. In 2017, Fullwood and archivist Miranda Mims founded the Nomadic Archivists Project, an initiative that partners with organizations, institutions, and individuals to establish, preserve, and enhance collections that explore the African Diasporic experience. Fullwood's published works include Artists as Writers: Living and Sustaining a Creative Life (with Seph Rodney) in 2025; Black Gay Genius: Answering Joseph Beam's Call (with Charles Stephens) in 2014; To Be Left with the Body (with Cheryl Clarke) in 2008; and Carry the Word: A Bibliography of Black LGBTQ Books (with Lisa C. Moore) in 2007. Fullwood graduated from the School of Library and Information Studies at Clark Atlanta University with a Master of Science in Library Service in 1997.



Andrea Jackson Gavin

HBCU Digital Library Trust

Andrea Jackson Gavin is an accomplished archivist dedicated to preserving and making accessible African American and HBCU history and culture. She is the Program Director of the HBCU Digital Library Trust, Atlanta University Center (AUC) Woodruff Library, and previously at Harvard University. Jackson Gavin's past leadership roles include Head of the Archives Research Center and Director of Engagement and Scholarship (AUC Woodruff Library), Executive Director of the Black Metropolis Research Consortium (University of Chicago), and University Archivist (Fisk University). An alumna of Spelman College and New York University with an M.A. in U.S. History and certification in Archival Management, she was named a Fellow of the Society of Georgia Archivists in 2018. She has also been appointed to the national archives committees for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and The Links, Incorporated. Jackson Gavin is co-author of "Funding the Future of African American Religion Archival Collections at the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library" in the Theological Librarianship Journal.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Chasitie S. Goodman

Tennessee State University

Dr. Chasitie S. Goodman is an education and workforce leader who builds learning programs at scale and leads the teams that deliver them. With nearly 15 years of experience spanning K-12, higher education, and national technology partnerships, she turns complex goals into training, curriculum, and operations that produce measurable results. At Tennessee State University, Dr. Goodman serves as Executive Director of HBCU C2, an Apple Initiative, where she leads 30 program managers across a 45-institution national network with international delivery in Ghana, Liberia, and Malawi. She also serves as Executive Director of Open Educational Resources and Director of Continuing Education. She has trained more than 500 faculty and developed an AI Careers curriculum adopted by New York City Public Schools.



Christa V. Hardy

HBCU Library Alliance

Christa V. Hardy serves as Program Manager for the HBCU Library Alliance, where her work focuses on engaging the next generation in preserving and advancing African American history and information access. Her background spans instructional technology, digital literacy, and program development. Previous roles include Senior Training Specialist at D2L; Digital Literacy Trainer with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's U.S. Library program, supporting public libraries nationwide; and Information Literacy Coordinator at Alabama State University. She has also served as adjunct faculty at the University of Illinois and Clayton State University. Hardy holds a doctorate from the University of Illinois and a master's degree from the University of Alabama, both in Library and Information Science. She is the 2026 Outstanding Alumni Award recipient in Library & Information Studies from the University of Alabama's College of Communication & Information Sciences.



Allecia Harley

IntuWork Consulting

Allecia serves as your thought partner and co-designer for your five-year strategic plan. Twenty-five years working alongside nonprofit and higher education leaders. Nine of those years as a Director at Huron Consulting Group, serving academic medical centers, NCI designated cancer centers, and university health systems on research administration, research designation readiness, and process design. That work sits directly alongside the Carnegie standing and enhanced research status questions this plan has to answer. Allecia also leads the revenue diversification and sustainability components of this plan. Fundraising strategy is a core IntuWork practice area, and she has built revenue and sustainability strategy for membership associations, statewide networks, and foundations. She has a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Spelman College. She is proud to share that she had a work study semester re-shelving the stacks at the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library as an undergraduate student.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



DeLisa Minor Harris

Fisk University

DeLisa Minor Harris is the Director of Library Services at Fisk University, where she leads efforts to enhance both archival access and current information resources for the university community at the John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library. In her role, she ensures that the library operates to support student, faculty, and staff scholarship and research by providing access to today's information tools. She also serves as Project Director for the Mellon-funded "Portal to Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives," a four-year initiative aimed at digitizing and expanding access to the Julius Rosenwald Fund Collection at Fisk. In addition to her leadership roles, Ms. Minor Harris is pursuing a Ph.D. in Public History at Middle Tennessee State University. Her primary doctoral research centers on the life and legacy of Henrietta Crawley Myers, the longest female tenured director of the Fisk Jubilee Singers, with a secondary focus on African American women's contributions to historic preservation and the interpretation of historic sites.



Veronica Henderson

Alabama A&M University

Veronica Henderson currently serves as the Director of the J. F. Drake Memorial Learning Resources Center & State Black Archives Research Center and Museum at Alabama A&M University. She has extensive knowledge pertaining to Alabama A&M University, evidenced by her years of experience working in the University Archives interpreting, promoting, and assessing collections through instruction, exhibits, events, and presentations. She links the past to the present through her statewide connections and brings to life the stories and recollections of African American forebears. Ms. Henderson has served as a co-panelist at state and national archival conferences on primary source documents.



Marilyn Anne McDonald Hendricks

Springer Nature

Marilyn Anne "Mimi" McDonald Hendricks, MBA, MIM, is Executive Licensing Manager at Springer Nature, where she leads institutional licensing initiatives for the college market across the western United States. During more than twenty years with Springer and Springer Nature, she has partnered with academic libraries and higher education institutions to expand access to scholarly resources that support teaching, learning, and research. A graduate of Wesleyan University with a degree in theoretical mathematics, she also holds graduate degrees in marketing and international management from Case Western Reserve University and Thunderbird School of Global Management. Her professional experience spans economic development, academic publishing, and international engagement throughout Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe. Hendricks is the founding and current chair of Springer Nature's Global Black Researchers Taskforce and is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and The Links, Incorporated. She is passionate about advancing educational opportunity, research equity, and meaningful partnerships that empower students, faculty, and communities.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Gregory Hill

Livingstone College

Gregory Hill is the Circulation/Administrative Services Librarian at Livingstone College (NC). He is an accomplished librarian and community advocate with more than 14 years of experience in higher education and public library services. At Livingstone College, he oversees library operations, collection development, instructional services, and administrative support while also serving as the Director of the Summer School and MBA Program Liaison. His leadership has contributed to major initiatives, including the conversion of the college's library collection from the Dewey Decimal Classification system to the Library of Congress Classification system. In addition to his work at Livingstone College, Gregory serves as a part time librarian with Rowan Public Library, supporting research services, collection development, and community programming. Gregory holds a Master of Library and Information Studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Livingstone College.



Delritta Hornbuckle

Howard University

Del R. Hornbuckle serves as the Executive Director of University Libraries at Howard University, providing strategic leadership for Founders Library and the Wayne A. I. Frederick Undergraduate Library. Before joining Howard University, Hornbuckle served as Dean of Library Services at California State University, Fresno (Fresno State). Prior to Fresno State, she was Library Director at Lasell University in Newton, Massachusetts. Earlier in her career, she held the position of Director of Information Services at Harvard Business School's Baker Library Bloomberg Center, where she began building her foundation in library leadership. Hornbuckle earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Economics from Texas A&M University and a Master of Library and Information Science from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York. Her research interests focus on the evolving business models of libraries, project management in library environments, and the development of organizational ecosystems that foster innovation, collaboration, and sustainable growth in academic libraries.



Patricia Hswe

Mellon Foundation

Patricia Hswe (pronounced "sway") is the program director for Public Knowledge at The Mellon Foundation. As the Foundation's program area that supports libraries and archives, Public Knowledge makes grants that strive to increase equitable access to—and activation of—recorded knowledge that helps to build an informed, heterogeneous, and civically engaged society. Originally a Russian literature scholar, Patricia holds a PhD from Yale University in Slavic languages and literatures. She also has an AB in Russian language and literature from Mount Holyoke College and an MS in library and information science from the UIUC. Patricia is currently a member of the steering committee for the Coalition for Networked Information; sits on the board of trustees for the Metropolitan New York Library Council (also known as METRO); and is on the advisory team for LibraryPAC, a political action committee dedicated to supporting libraries in New York City.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Alexia Hudson-Ward

Georgetown University

ACRL President

Dr. Alexia Hudson-Ward is Dean of the Library and University Librarian at Georgetown University and President of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). An academic library leader, scholar, and author, she has held leadership positions at MIT Libraries, Oberlin College, and Penn State University. Her current work focuses on the future of academic libraries, human-centered artificial intelligence, organizational change, managerial leadership, and the evolving role of libraries in teaching, research, and knowledge creation. At Georgetown, she is leading the development of the Library's first strategic framework for artificial intelligence, focusing particularly on ethical implementation, staff development, and how emerging technologies can enhance library services while preserving the essential role of human expertise and judgment.



Dawn Kight

Southern University

The daughter of educators, born in Baton Rouge, Dawn has spent most of her adult life working to improve the lives of youths in her community and beyond. Her passion is to see others become their best selves, and she believes education, is a vehicle to success. Her journey includes receiving a BS degree in Computer Science, masters in Library and Information Science, and a PhD in Science and Mathematics Education, where her dissertation research focused on information literacy in STEM higher education. Her work life includes positions that focused on libraries, information science, computer applications, and STEM. As Dean of the Library, she combines previous work experiences to strengthen, develop, and provide innovative leadership to the Southern University community. In 2022, she was featured for her work with digital inclusion in American Libraries, the main publication of the American Library Association (ALA) and she was also selected as the LOUIS Libraries 2021 Academic Librarian of the Year.in American Libraries, the main publication of the American Library Association (ALA) and she was also selected as the LOUIS Libraries 2021 Academic Librarian of the Year.



Lisa Krajecki

Tennessee State University

Lisa Krajecki is the Assistant Professor/Scholarly Communications Librarian at Tennessee State University. Krajecki started working at TSU in May 2023 and holds master's degrees in Library and Information Science, Children's Literature, and Public Anthropology. Krajecki is interested in studying interactions between people with functional challenges and various demographic factors.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Courtney Little

Springer Nature

Courtney Little is an accomplished sales and licensing leader with more than 20 years of experience driving revenue growth, developing strategic partnerships, and managing complex accounts within scholarly publishing and digital information services. He currently serves as Senior Licensing Manager at Springer Nature, where he leads strategic sales of digital libraries, eBooks, journals, databases, and Open Access solutions for major academic and research institutions. Throughout his career, Courtney has built a strong record of exceeding revenue targets, expanding key accounts, and negotiating complex, multi-year licensing agreements. Beyond sales, Courtney is passionate about leadership, mentorship, and community engagement. He has served as Global Chair of Springer Nature's Black Employee Network and as Lead Deacon at Chosen Generation Ministries. A graduate of Rutgers University, Courtney brings together commercial expertise, collaborative leadership, and a commitment to building meaningful relationships that create long-term value for organizations and the communities they serve.



Harvey Long

F.D. Bluford Library

Harvey Long serves as the Student Success Librarian at the F.D. Bluford Library at North Carolina A&T State University and is a Ph.D. student at the School of Data and Information Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He holds a Master of Arts in Library and Infor-mation Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Winston-Salem State University. With over a decade of experience in academic libraries, he has worked as an archivist assistant, department head, and librarian. His research explores the his-tories of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and how HBCU students engage with libraries. In recognition of his contributions to the field, he was named a 2022 American Library Association (ALA) Emerging Leader.



Terrence Martin

Atlanta University Center

Robert W. Woodruff Library

Terrence J. Martin is Assistant Director of Content & Collection Management Services at the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library, where he leads collection development, electronic resources, scholarly communications, and digital initiatives. His work focuses on using data, technology, and emerging tools to strengthen library services and support teaching, learning, and research across the AUC. He also leads institutional initiatives on artificial intelligence literacy and responsible AI adoption in academic libraries. He brings a practical, collaborative approach to advancing library collections, services, and technologies.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Mark McBride

Ithaca S+R

Mark McBride is senior director of academic mission at Ithaka S+R. He is a thought leader in higher education, with a track record of implementing changes within complex organizations. In his current role at Ithaka S+R, Mark leads a team of researchers and analysts that investigate the talent management strategies of complex memory organizations, specifically focusing on helping to deliver innovative services that support organizational culture, collections, and infra-structure. He has worked in public higher education for nearly 20 years, focusing on academic libraries and student access to education. He is a learning scientist, focused on investigation im-plications of open education in the higher education curriculum and applying design based re-search to methodologies. He is co-founder of the Open Education Research Lab at the Universi-ty at Buffalo and his research interests focus on the impact OER has on teaching and learning.



Robbie Melton

Tennessee State University

Dr. Robbie Melton, Vice President of Strategic SMART AI Technology Innovations, has been named the 2026 Leading African Americans in Advancing Technology, and one of the 2025 Leading Woman in AI. and selected as a founding member of the Center for Digital Education Higher Education AI Council and serves on the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) AI Commission, where she contributes to shaping the future of AI in education. In addition to her leadership roles, she is a tenured professor at Tennessee State University and an esteemed global researcher and international consultant specializing in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Education and Emerging Internet of Everything (IoE) technologies. Driven by a passion for equity and inclusion, Dr. Melton is a tireless advocate for empowering underserved populations, particularly Black women, to become innovators and entrepreneurs in the digital age. Her work continues to push the boundaries of education technology while fostering opportunities for all learners to thrive in the rapidly evolving digital world.



Jerome Offord, Jr.

Harvard University

Dr. Jerome Offord, Jr. is Associate University Librarian for Community Development, Belonging, and Engagement at Harvard University, where he leads strategic initiatives that strengthen institutional culture, connectivity, and inclusive excellence. He holds a Ph.D. in Library and Information Science with a concentration in managerial leadership from Simmons University, along with master's degrees in library and information science from Catholic University of America, student affairs administration from Colorado State University, and an Executive MBA from Washington University in St. Louis. He earned his bachelor's degree in agriculture from Lincoln University (MO). Dr. Offord is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Prince Hall Masons, President of the 62nd and 65th Regiments Legacy Foundation, Inc., President and CEO of Mister and Miss HBCU Leadership Conference and Competition, and he remains actively engaged in national professional and civic organizations.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Loretta Parham

HBCU Library Alliance

Loretta Parham is co-founder and inaugural Chair of the HBCU Library Alliance. For nineteen years, she was the CEO and Director of the Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library, an independent academic library for the shared benefit of four HBCUs (historically black colleges and universities): Morehouse College, Spelman College, the Interdenominational Theological Center, and Clark Atlanta University before retiring in August 2024. Prior positions include University Library Director at Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia, and Deputy Director of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She was District Chief of 20 urban branch libraries for the Chicago Public Library (CPL), and held other administrative and public service positions at CPL and the City Colleges of Chicago. In 2016 Ms. Parham was recognized as Academic Research Librarian of the year by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). Ms. Parham earned a master's degree in Library Science from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's degree in Communications from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.



Veronda J. Pitchford

Califa Group

Veronda J. Pitchford is the Assistant Director of Califa Group, a national nonprofit consortium committed to unleashing the impact of libraries in the communities they serve. As part of her role, she is the Califa lead for national grant projects, and manages Infopeople, Califa's national online library training arm. She is an active member of the American Library Association (ALA) and currently serves on the Public Library Association (PLA) executive board. She consults and presents nationally on the crucial role libraries play in fostering equity, belonging, inclusion, and civic engagement for the communities they serve. She is also a member of the PBS POV Documentaries Library Advisory Group. She is a proud graduate of the North Carolina Central University School of Library and Information Science.



Ira Revels

My Grant Copilot

Ira Revels is a seasoned entrepreneur and business consultant with over 20 years of experience in grant writing, research, management, and reporting. Securing over $10.5M in client grant awards since 2021, she is the founder of My Grant CoPilot, a transformative assistant designed to automate and streamline grant research, writing, and award management for nonprofits, small businesses, and entrepreneurs. Her work is distinguished by a strong focus on emotional intelligence combined with AI to enhance holistic people-centered inspiration, efficiency, and accessibility in the grant application process.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Tina D. Rollins

Hampton University

Tina D. Rollins is the Director of the William R. and Norma B. Harvey Library at Hampton University. She completed her B.S. degree in Criminal Justice at Old Dominion University and her M.L.S. degree at North Carolina Central University. While at NCCU, she was a member of the Diversity Scholars Program funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to recruit students from diverse backgrounds. Rollins also studied International Librarianship in Copenhagen, Denmark, during her studies at NCCU. Rollins is committed to bringing awareness to the lack of diversity in the LIS field. She has served as principal investigator on a grant awarded to Hampton University by IMLS entitled The Hampton University Forum on Minority Recruitment and Retention in the LIS Field. In 2020, subsequent funding was awarded by IMLS for the project entitled Advancing the Recruitment, Retention and Inclusion of People of Color within the Library and Information Science Field. This three-year grant works with LIS administrators to address continued issues related to diversity within the field. Rollins serves as an adjunct faculty member for Syracuse University's Library and Information Science program.



Dylan Ruediger

Ithaca S+R

Dylan Ruediger is a principal at Ithaka S+R, where he leads the Teaching & Learning and Research Enterprise teams, as well as S+R's work on AI in higher education. These programs help university leaders, funders, policymakers, and scholars develop evidence-based responses to the technological, cultural, and political changes reshaping teaching, learning, and the production and circulation of scholarly knowledge. Prior to joining Ithaka S+R, Dylan coordinated a national initiative to better align doctoral education with changing professional opportunities within and beyond the academy at the American Historical Association. Dylan earned a bachelor's degree in critical theory at Hampshire College, and holds a PhD in history from Georgia State University.



Alexandra Scissom

The University of Alabama

Alexandra Scissom serves as the College Archivist at Shelton State Community College and is an Instructor of Archival Studies at the School of Library and Information Studies at The University of Alabama. Throughout nearly a decade of professional archival work, Scissom has led projects that have expanded public access to historically significant collections. She launched the online oral history repository for the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, a collection later featured by the Metropolitan Museum of Art as a resource highlighting Black voices. She also processed the papers of renowned biologist and University of Alabama alumnus E.O. Wilson during her fellowship at the Library of Congress, making the collection available to researchers and the public. As College Archivist at Shelton State Community College, she helped the institution become the first community college with HBCU status to contribute to the HBCU Digital Collection, strengthening access to historically significant materials while preserving institutional history for future generations.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Jarvis Sheffield

Tennessee State University

Jarvis Sheffield, Ed. D. Coordinator of Media Center and MakerSpace
I am a proud father and husband, a member of Lake Providence Missionary Baptist Church and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. I have had the privilege of being involved in various forms of multimedia and education for over 30 years. I have done graphic design, web design, video, animation, multimedia, VR/AR, and 3D Printing. I have written technical articles for various publications. I have taught seminars, workshops, training, and classes on STEAM, technology, and education. I hold a BS degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Tennessee State University and earned a Master's Degree in Education from Trevecca Nazarene University.
Currently, I hold leadership positions as Coordinator of the Tennessee State University Media Center at Historic Tennessee State University, I am Administrator of Black Science Fiction Society, Director of Dragoncon Diversity Track with Dragon Con, Inc, Board Member of Urban Media Makers, and Chair Tenn-Share's Marketing Committee.



Angel Sloss

American Baptist College

Dr. Angel Sloss is a higher education leader, scholar, educator, and information professional with more than 16 years of experience advancing library services, student success, and innovative approaches to teaching and learning. She serves as Director of Library Services at American Baptist College, where she provides strategic leadership for library operations, collections, technology, information literacy, digital scholarship, and community engagement. Dr. Sloss's scholarship and professional practice focus on leadership, organizational intelligence, student success, information literacy, and the preservation of African American and HBCU history and cultural heritage. A committed educator and scholar, Dr. Sloss has taught at Tennessee State University and has published on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in faith-based higher education libraries, archives, and museums; trauma-informed library services; and African American history and culture. She holds a Ph.D. in Leadership from Trevecca Nazarene University. Through her scholarship, leadership, and service, Dr. Sloss is committed to positioning libraries as transformative spaces for knowledge creation, cultural preservation, student achievement, and community impact.



Joanna Soderberg

John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library

Joanna Soderberg is a Swedish-born social justice advocate, digital humanities professional, and former educator. Her passion for human rights and the Civil Rights Movement led her to pursue a master's in social justice at Fisk University, where she developed a deep interest in digital preservation. Currently, she serves as Digital Library Projects Coordinator at the John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library. As an HBCU-NMAAHC Scholar, she is advancing her expertise in digital public humanities through the Smithsonian-Mason Graduate Certificate Program at George Mason University.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Andrea Tyler

Tennessee State University

Dr. Andrea Tyler is the Director of Graduate Students Services and Executive Director of Title III Administration at Tennessee State University. Her research interests include the educational experiences of Black graduate students in STEM, STEM equity and inclusion, the influence of mentoring on academic outcomes, and STEM identity.



Faye Watkins

Florida A&M University Library

Faye Watkins currently serves as the dean of libraries at Florida A&M University (FAMU). In this position, Watkins works to continue the mission of providing access to library resources and services and expanding access to the extensive knowledge base offered by the global academic community. Watkins earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Texas at Austin in 1990. In 1998, she earned a dual master's degree in English and library and information science from the University of South Carolina. Watkins began her professional career as the collection development librarian at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, N.C. She was promoted to systems and collection development librarian and served in this position from 1999 to 2004, and was appointed director of the library after a series of promotions. Watkins is a long-time advocate for library and information initiatives that focus on meeting the needs and expectations of students and faculty.



Adrienne Webber

Grambling University

Adrienne C. Webber, Dean of Library, brings a plethora of academic library experiences spanning over 19 years in library management. She has worked in small and large libraries as well as private and public higher education institutions. Through these experiences, she has learned to become an advocate for the student centered environments, encouraging students to use the library by incorporating non traditional methods. Webber received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communications from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, LA and a Master of Science degree in Library Science from Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, GA. The Spring of 2012, Webber received University approval to develop and implement the Library Development and Fundraising plan with the office of Institutional Advancement. Webber's vision is for the library to be engaging, creating lifelong learners, information seekers and most of all an INFORMATION LITERATE COMMUNITY.

TRIBUTE TO OUR FOUNDERS

"We Were on a Mission..."
-Elsie Weatherington



Emma Bradford

Southern University and A&M College (LA)

(Retired)



Janice Franklin

Alabama State University

(Active)



Tommy Holton

Dillard University (LA)

(Deceased)



Loretta Parham

Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library (GA)

(Retired)



Elsie Weatherington

Virginia State University

(Retired)

Thank You!

FOR YOUR COMMITMENT AND VISION

Congratulations to the
HBCU LIBRARY ALLIANCE
25TH
ANNIVERSARY

Philander Smith University proudly celebrates the HBCU Library Alliance on 25 years of leadership, collaboration, and unwavering commitment to strengthening library collections, resources, and services across HBCUs.

As one of the founding members, Philander Smith University has been honored to be a part of this remarkable journey for all 25 years, supporting the Alliance's mission to advance knowledge, access, and opportunity for our students, faculty, and communities.

As we celebrate this milestone with the HBCU Library Alliance, we also embark on our own extraordinary chapter — our Sesquicentennial.

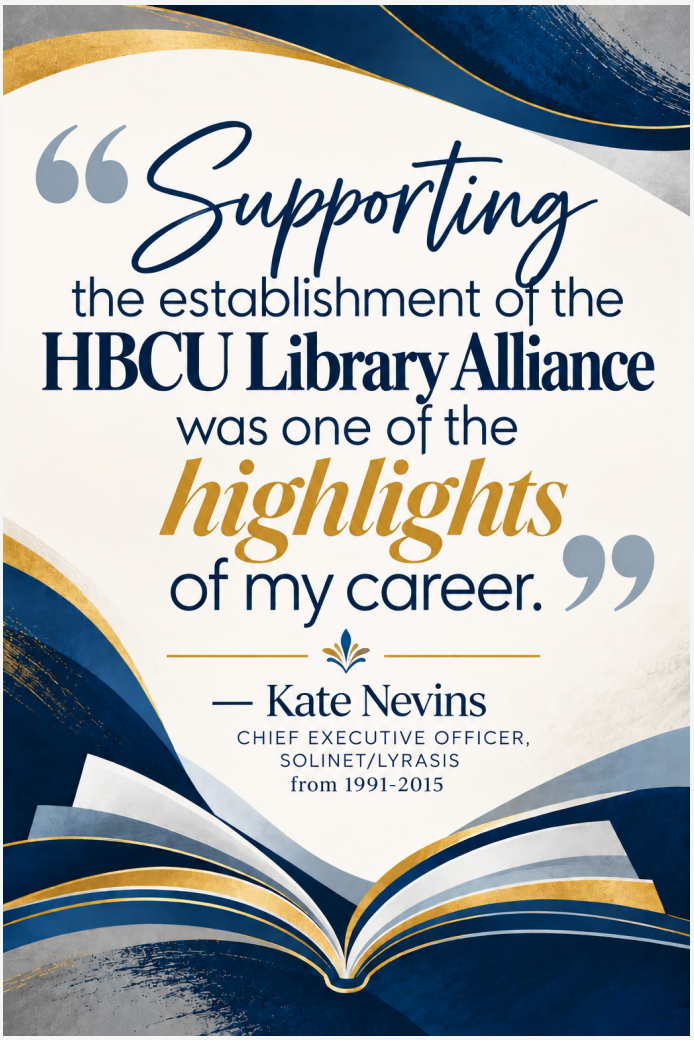
150 YEARS OF HISTORY.
A BRIGHTER TOMORROW.

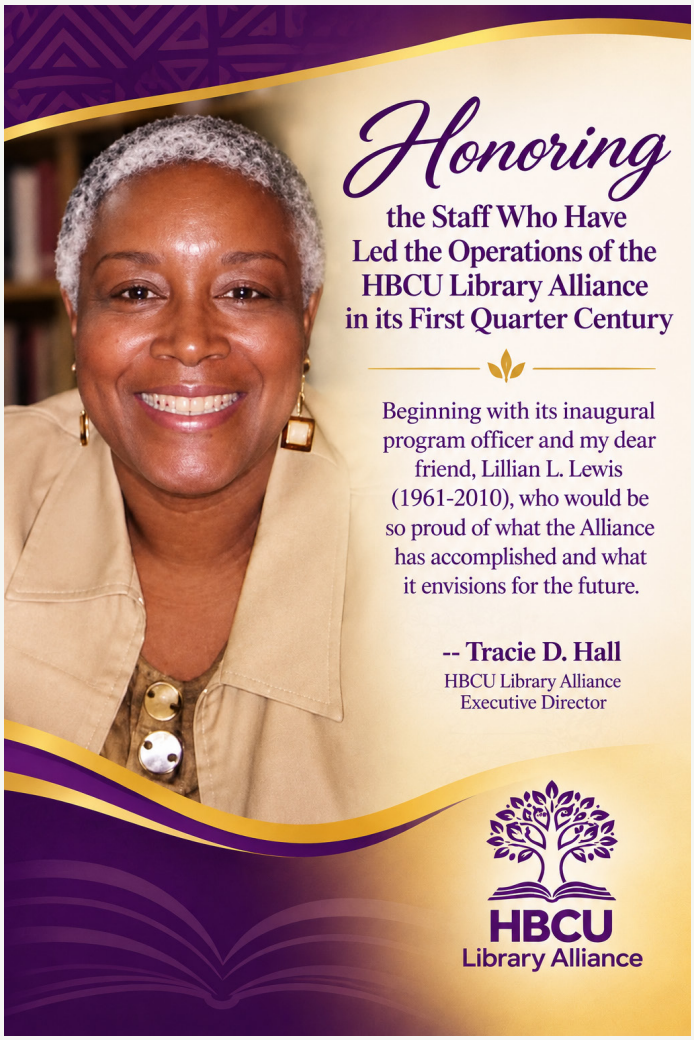
EST. 1877
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15TH PRESIDENT



Fisk University, Class of 1971.
Image courtesy of Fisk University John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library.





CLIR congratulates the
HBCU Library Alliance on 25 years.

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CURRENT HBCU LIBRARY ALLIANCE PARTNERSHIPS

American Institute of Physics

Brown University

Conservation Center for Art and Historic Arts

Harvard Library

Digital Public Library of America

HBCU Digital Library Trust

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History of Science Collecting Fellows Initiative



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Acquisitions & Technical Services Librarian
Southern University and A&M College



Vinny Barraza

Head of Archives and Special Collections
Xavier University of Louisiana



Wiley Brazier V

STEM & AI Librarian
Southern University and A&M College



Jeffrey Cockerl

Reference/Instruction Librarian
Livingstone College



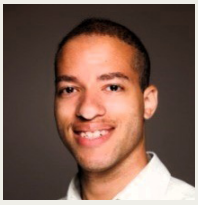
Ferin E. Jones

Archivist
Southern University and A&M College



George Ongadi

Library IT Support Specialist
Morgan State University



Timothy Patterson

Library Assistant - Circulation/Stacks
Delaware State University



Kimberly Prosper

Science, Engineering and
Social Work Librarian
Howard University



Lynne Simpson

Interim Director
Morehouse School of Medicine



Nicole Whetsel

University Library Technician
North Carolina A&T University



Cliff Whitfield

Digital Scholarship Librarian and Assistant
Professor
North Carolina A&T University

CURRENT FELLOWS

HBCU Library Alliance

Lifting As We Climb Fellows



Wiley Brazier V

STEM & AI Librarian & Adjunct Faculty
Southern University and A&M College



John Thomas Hewitt IV

University Library Technician
North Carolina Central University



Frances Adaeze Ikeokwu

Sr. Library Technical Assistant
Florida A&M University



Ebony Njrie Sampson

Mary McLeod Bethune Foundation
Coordinator
Bethune-Cookman University



Nicole Marie Whetsel

University Library Technician
North Carolina A&T State University

Dorothy Porter Wesley Visiting Fellow



Sharonda S. Brown

Social Science Librarian
Atlanta University Center
Robert W. Woodruff Library

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Tennessee A&I State University marching band.
Image courtesy of Tennessee State University Brown – Daniel Library.

HBCU Library Alliance

2026 BIENNIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SPONSORS

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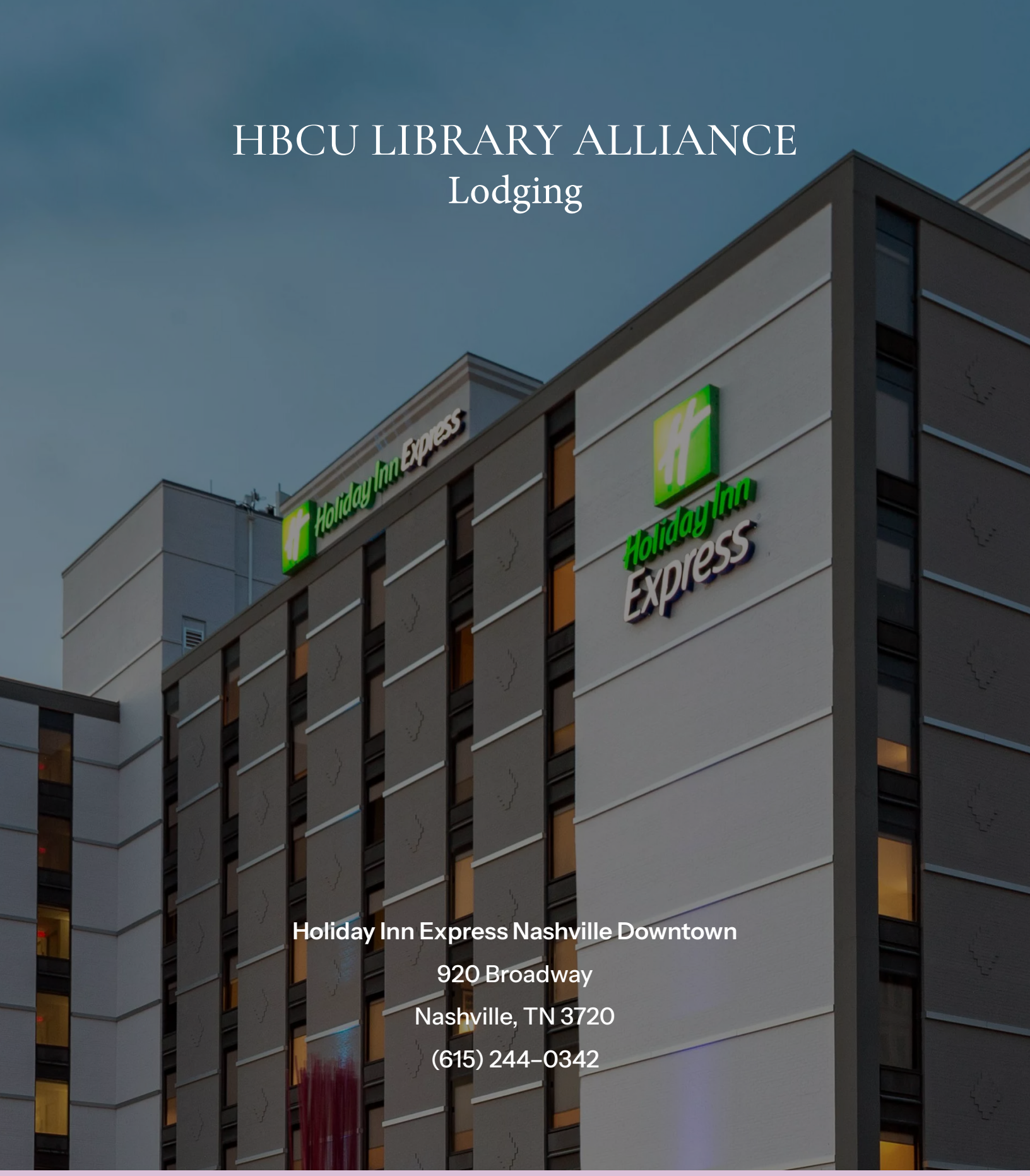


Image courtesy of American Baptist College, Susie McClure Library

HBCU Library Alliance

2026 BIENNIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING LOCAL INFORMATION

HBCU LIBRARY ALLIANCE
Lodging



Holiday Inn Express Nashville Downtown

920 Broadway

Nashville, TN 3720

(615) 244–0342

GREATER NASHVILLE

Cultural Sites

Alkebu-Lan Images

2721 Jefferson St Nashville, TN 37208

Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum

222 Rep. John Lewis Way S, Nashville, TN 37203

Dolly Parton Songteller and Life of Many Colors Museum

211 Commerce St, Nashville, TN 37201

Fort Negley Visitors Center and Park

1100 Fort Negley Blvd, Nashville, TN 37203

Frist Art Museum

919 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203

Grand Ole Opry

600 Opry Mills Dr, Nashville, TN 37214

Jefferson Street Sound Museum

2004 Jefferson St, Nashville, TN 37208

Kingdom Cafe & Grill

2610 Jefferson St, Nashville, TN 37208

Nashville Public Library

615 Church St, Nashville, TN 37219

Prince's Hot Chicken

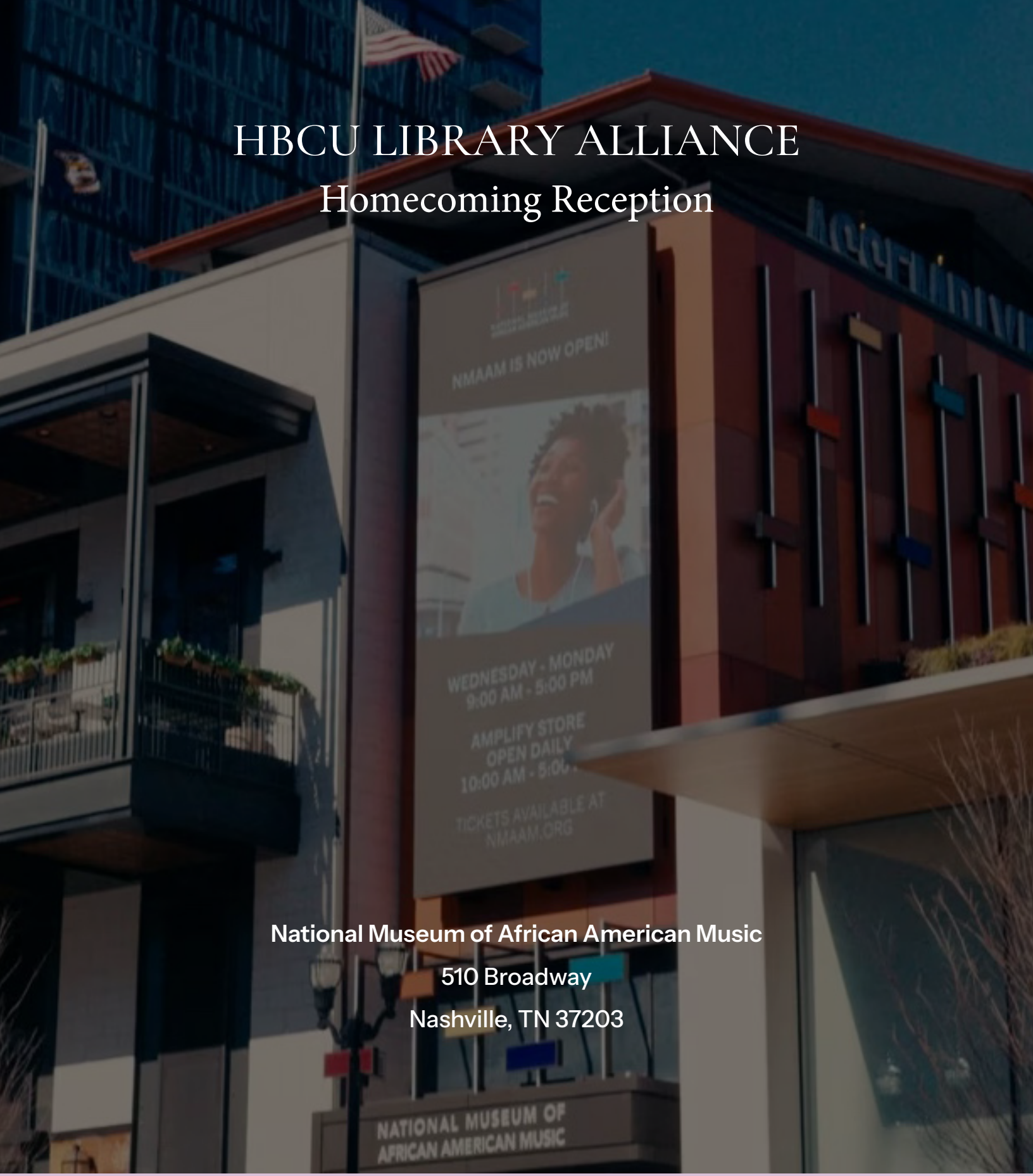
5055 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203

Swett's Restaurant

2725 Clifton Ave, Nashville, TN 37209

Uncle Nearest, Inc.

3125 Highway 231 N Shelbyville, TN



HBCU LIBRARY ALLIANCE

Homecoming Reception

National Museum of African American Music

510 Broadway

Nashville, TN 37203

Our enduring gratitude to Tennessee State University for serving as our host institution.



The Tennessee A&I State University marching band warming up for the Homecoming Parade in 1962.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

OUR HOMECOMING IS OUR HARVEST

May we reap the bounty of the ideas and hopes for the future sown at this conference in the quarter century to come.

























THANKS

to our HBCU Library Alliance members
for sharing their archival memories.

2026 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

"HOMECOMING & HARVEST"

Honoring Our Past. Harvesting Our Impact. Planting Our Future.



PSC Homecoming Parade, 1949. Image courtesy of Philander Smith University, Donald W. Reynolds Library and Technology Center

HBCU Library Alliance

The HBCU Library Alliance works to transform and strengthen its membership by developing leaders, preserving collections and planning for the future.

Address

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Atlanta, GA 30314

Phone & Email

Phone: (678) 210-5801
Email: info@hbculibraries.org

Office hours: Monday–Friday
9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. ET
HBCU Library Alliance

Online

Website: hbculibraries.org

Instagram: @hbcu_library_alliance
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