

Annual report- Community Partnership Committee

Shamsi Berry was selected to chair the Community Partnership Committee, in September of 2025, after serving on the committee since 2019 and being a member of the Task Force for Human Remains. After the final report of the Task Force, the Committee was tasked with enacting the recommendations.

In collaboration with the Executive Committee a group of AABA members were selected to be members of the committee. Between October 2025 and January 2026 the following members were selected: Joseph Jones, Andreana Cunningham, Carmen Mosley, Alyson Caine, Kirsty Squires, and Gwen Robbins Schug. Members were selected to have a variety of backgrounds, experiences and work on ethical issues. The first meeting was held on November 12, 2025. It was determined that meetings would be bimonthly.

The team has reviewed the recommendations from the Task Force. We have chosen to remain with a focus on African American remains as the Task Force performed extensive research to formulate their recommendations. However, we plan to expand to other marginalized groups and unprovienced remains. Currently we are modifying the inventory sheet to fit unprovienced and legacy remains, in the future we will also form a subcommittee tasked with modifying all documents to address unprovienced and legacy collections.

We determined that we will have an executive committee and an oversight committee whose members shift depending on the research being evaluated. The oversight committee will comprise of community members, museum collections members, and AABA members. A database of available members will be created from which to enlist community members, museum collection members and AABA members to review potential research.

Currently the Committee is focused on finalizing the Inventory sheet, writing an advertisement for community members, and organizing museum buy-in for our oversight committee. Alyson Caine is also creating an inventory sheet for unprovienced and legacy remains.

Next steps involve reaching out to both African American communities (descendant and communities of care) as well as museums, sister organizations and other collections.