

BLACK IN APPALACHIA

research, education and support

2022 **annual report**





Rosie Carden, McMinn County, Tennessee
[courtesy of Ann Boyd Collection]

Expansion, Contraction & Concentration

“2022 saw increased national interest in our work & the Black Mountain South as a whole. In the midst of broader attention our organization also experienced significant shifts in our labor & focus. Dr. Enkeshi El-Amin relocated to WVU in Morgantown, WV and our community archivist, Alona Norwood began graduate school at UNC-Chapel Hill. Those opportunities within our core group has allowed for a honing in on efforts around the Whitesburg, Tennessee Field Office as well as an increased concentration on our immediate geographies. As we head into 2023, we’re excited to continue to serve Black families & communities in unexpected & enlightening ways!”

William Isom II, Director of Black in Appalachia

“

“One of the things we want to highlight in telling you all about the work we do and how we do it is to encourage you to do similar work wherever you are. Even when the story is bad, it’s important to know it.”

Dr. Enkeshi El-Amin

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Black in Appalachia Podcast

Season 3

This year, the Black in Appalachia Podcast built off of the lessons & technical expertise developed from last year’s road show. This year, the podcast team conducted live-recorded episodes at the University of Tennessee’s Black Ecologies Week & at the Southern Sociological Society’s annual gathering in Birmingham, Alabama.

We talked with the likes of curator Kreneshia Whiteside-McGee, environmental worker Pam Nixon, victim of the Critical Race Theory (CRT) fervor Matt Hawn, Crystal Good of Black By God, ornithologist Drew Lanham, as well as a special episode with educators from West Virginia University's National Writers Project.

Topics such as Black Nationalism, regional relationships to swimming pools & Environmental Racism enriched our offerings to classes & individual listeners.

Special treats this year included “*The Black Colonial Experience*” in conjunction with Ken Burns’ Benjamin Franklin, highlights in *TIME* magazine & a dedicated episode on CNN’s *United Shades of America*.



Dr. Ford Ahmed of Athens, Ohio



Carolyn Trammell Cox w/her wedding photo



James Box Middlesboro, KY



WV folkways fellows Angelica & Leisha Lee w/ Black By God herself, Crystal Good



BIA Crew w/ Godfather Dr. William H. Turner



Rendville, OH Residents visiting Scott's Run Museum, WV



Dr. Drew Lanham & Black Ecologies Week



Ruth Kyle Middlesboro, KY



BIA crew w/ Yo Yo Ma, North Carolina



Black in Appalachia taping w/ CNN's United Shades of America, at Highlander Center, New Market



Community History Day Crew, Etowah, TN. William, Jaime Bagwell, Precious Brown, Nelia Knootz & Ann Boyd



Live-recorded podcast in Birmingham w/ Hobson City mayor Alberta McCrory

Documentary Films

Lynchings & Atrocities

This year, we completed a public video of the 1891 lynching of Robert Clark in Bristol, Virginia. That short film is now being utilized by community members in a Remembrance Project to educate & recognize the extrajudicial killing in their town. Additionally, we've continued to provide media support for the Wise County, Virginia Remembrance Project's installation of markers of the 3 lynchings that occurred there. We're continuing these short film productions into 2023.

Funding Provided by Humanities Tennessee, National Endowment for the Humanities, The National Endowment for the Arts, Arts & Cultural Alliance of Greater Knoxville

Field Office

Whitesburg, Tennessee

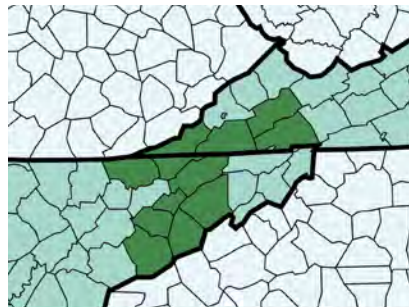
We're continuing to focus on our physical footprint here in East Tennessee by developing outward facing art & imagery, general construction projects, fish fries & the building out of our bookstore & info shop for the public. We now have a proper clip file & reference book library for visiting researchers, as well as public WI-FI. Fundraising to pay off the mortgage is ongoing, with \$46,000 outstanding. Donations to the building fund can be submitted through our website or mailed to:
Black in Appalachia, PO BOX 37, Whitesburg, TN 37891.



Mural Funding Provided by Tennessee Arts Commission

Black Farmers & Landowners: NRCS

Through a Racial Equity and Justice Conservation Cooperative Agreement with the Natural Resource & Conservation Service, we're working to make sure Black producers in Claiborne, Cocke, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Sevier counties in Tennessee, as well as Lee, Russell, Scott, and Washington counties of Virginia, have access to available opportunities & resources.



Research

School Records Digitization & Transcription

Last year, we completed the digitization of Black school records from Greene County, Tennessee & the late Heiskell School in Knoxville. In partnership with Tusculum University's Dr. Everhart, student Rory Church & UMass Boston student Hannah Rose Baker, we've been able to make those records text-searchable for families and researchers.

Census Work

For the past four years, we have been creating a Black census for easy reference for researchers. In 2022, we managed to complete and make available, on Omeka, records associated with Black families in; Johnson County, TN (1860 & 1870), Unicoi County, TN (1880 to 1910), Knox County, TN (1860 & 1870), Washington County, TN (1860 & 1870), 3rd District of Hawkins County (1900 - 1950) & Watauga County, NC (1860 & 1870).

Made possible by the 400 Years of African-American History Commission.

Personal Collections, Jefferson City, TN

This year, we were very excited to receive invitations from residents in the Jay Bird Hill community of Jefferson City, Tennessee, to engage with their personal collections. Made possible by residents Jeffery Wells, Julia Taliafarro & Oliver Springs' Julia Daniels, family histories & Nelson-Merry school materials have been processed & are available on our Omeka site.

Etowah, McMinn County, Tennessee

Berea College student & McMinn County native, Precious Brown conducted her summer Bonner Scholar assignment with us, working to research & document her own community's history. She produced a large collection of bound materials & presented to her community during a community history day at Mt. Olive AME Zion in Etowah, TN.

Support

Oral Histories, Middlesboro, Kentucky

In partnership with the Bell County Historical Society & Museum, we provided technical support & conducted a full day of oral histories with Black elders with roots in Arthur, Middlesboro, Tazewell, Crummies Creek, and Pineville, Kentucky.

Oral Histories, Elizabethton, Tennessee

Black in Appalachia played a technical & advisory role for Elizabethton High School Library Archive's collection of Douglas School's history & integration narratives.

Black Churches of Southwest Virginia

The long term project, bottom-lined by Joshua Outsey, was conducted in partnership with Appalshop Archives & the Appalachian African American Cultural Center to document, catalog, & map narratives of Black churches west of Wytheville, VA. In 2022, we provided approximately 50 hours of workflow and material organizing support.

Community Archiving, Rendville, Ohio

Out of our relationships with the Rendville Historical Preservation Society & Ohio State University's Folklore Studies Department, in 2022, Black in Appalachia worked to provide labor, resources and technical support toward Rendville residents' efforts to digitize & catalog their own history. This project culminated in a presentation at the Appalachian Studies conference and an in-person visit with residents of Scott's Run, West Virginia.

Made possible by the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio's African American Fund & individual donors.

Folkways Reporting, West Virginia State, Charleston, West Virginia

We took advantage of a unique opportunity with West Virginia Public Broadcasting & *Inside Appalachia* to mentor two West Virginia State graduate students in the development of folkways audio stories. That mentorship was done in partnership with Crystal Good of Black By God.

Drums up, Guns Down, Knoxville, Tennessee

In support of their 2022 programming & events, Black in Appalachia provided sponsorship funding to Drums Up Guns Down, whose mission is to help address the cycle of gun violence in Knoxville communities.

Education

Liberated Landscapes, Ohio university Galleries, Athens, Ohio

Documentary photography exhibition by William Isom & Jessica Tezak of Emancipation Celebrations and the 200th Anniversary of Union Baptist Church in Gallia & Lawrence Counties, respectively.

Appalachia in Focus, Denison College, Granville, Ohio

Black in Appalachia contributed video interviews & imagery from Southeast Ohio's Black communities for a regional exhibition & educational resource project, hosted at the campus' Asya Geisberg Gallery.

Kingsport Black History Banner: The Pierce Family

In partnership with the City of Kingsport Archives and Friends of the Kingsport Archives, we produced an informational banner on the history & contributions of the Pierce family. Narratives ran from enslavement through the civil rights era in Kingsport and Sullivan County.

African-American Health, Education, and Religion News

Sponsorship of AHERN's annual banquet, Knoxville, Tennessee

Juneteenth & the 8th of August

Black in Appalachia tabled at regional emancipation celebrations in 2022, providing books, brief presentations & programming support. We also produced history of Juneteenth boards for two (2) celebrations; Greeneville & Bristol. Attending Juneteenth celebrations in Big Stone Gap, VA & Greeneville, TN, as well as the 8th of August events, Pennington Gap, Virginia.

Presentations, Workshops & Panels

- Museum Talk, 100.1FM Bristol Radio, Birthplace of Country Music Museum, Bristol, VA
 - Live Podcast w/Pam Nixon, Black Ecologies Week, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN
 - Live Podcast w/Drew Lanham, Black Ecologies Week, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN
 - *Our Community: Identity, Representation & Legacy Preservation*, Bell County Historical Society, Middlesboro, KY
 - *A Black Sense of Place: Centering Black Voice in Perceptions of Knoxville*, Reece Museum, East Tennessee State U, Johnson City, TN
 - *New Media in Appalachia: Empowering Our Communities Through Storytelling*, Appalachian Studies Conference, Morgantown, WV
 - *Crafting Community Narratives in Rendville, Ohio*, Appalachian Studies Conference, Morgantown, WV
 - *Freed People in Appalachia*, Northeast Tennessee Association of Black Social Workers, Johnson City, TN
 - Live Podcast, *Stop Sleeping on Bama*, Southern Sociological Society, Birmingham, AL
 - *Black Appalachian Youth Pilgrimage*, Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, Pennington Gap, VA
 - *Enslavement to National Emancipation: Black Data Washington County*, TN, Heritage Alliance, Jonesboro, TN
 - *8th of August: East Tennessee's Emancipation Day*, East Tennessee Historical Society, Knoxville, TN
 - *Anti-Racist Action*, United Methodist Appalachian Ministry Network, Wheeling, WV
 - *Knoxville's 8th of August*, Knoxville History Project, Knoxville, TN
 - *Black in Appalachia*, Sociology of Appalachia, Maryville College, Maryville, TN
 - *Appalachian Artist Crawl*, United States Artists, Chicago, IL
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Professional & Cultural Development

In 2022, Black in Appalachia staff members, William Isom II & Alona Norwood pursued at least two professional development opportunities:

William Isom, 2022 Voqal Fellowship Cohort, Longmont, Colorado

Alona Norwood, 2022 NAACP Amos Brown Fellowship, Ghana, West Africa

Community Partners



2022 Numbers

Income

Individual Donations: \$10,829.70

Foundational Support: \$210,049.05 (*\$50,000 in fiscal sponsorship*)

Building Rental: \$1,975.00

Merchandise Sales: \$4,990.70

\$285,125.24 - Total Income

Expenses (Research, Education & Support)

Labor: \$69,146.72

Support (Other Orgs): \$16,807.31

Mortgage & Utilities: \$85,197.74

Travel: \$23,631.32

Materials/Equipment: \$12,089.10

Digital Services: \$4,556.61

\$211,428.82 - Total Expenses

SUPPORTING FUNDERS & FOUNDATIONS



BLACK IN APPALACHIA

We work to highlight the history & contributions of African Americans in the development of the Mountain South & its culture. We do that through research, local narratives, public engagement & exhibition. Black in Appalachia is a community service for Appalachian residents and families with roots in & through the region.

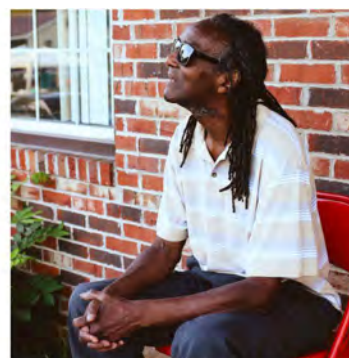
Those We've Lost



Walter DeBarr, 9/21/82 - 2/07/22



Brandon Gibson, 6/08/86 - 11/16/22



Walter Maddox, 3/05/44 - 1/31/22

Team Members

Alona Norwood, Community Archivist
 Angela Dennis, Podcast Co-Host
 C. Lee Smith, Director of Production Development
 Dr. Enkeshi El-Amin, Podcast Co-Host & Producer
 Jaime Bagwell, Researcher & Digitization Support
 Kathleen Kelley, Researcher & Historian
 Kelle Jolly, Narration & Story Development
 Misha Awad, Researcher & GIS
 Nelia Knootz, Researcher
 Pumpkin Starr, Podcast Co-Host
 Rory Church, Transcriptions
 William Isom II, Director

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