

Annapolis City Council FY 2025 Budget Presentation

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Patsy Baker Blackshear and I'm the President of the Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Foundation, Inc.

The Foundation is requesting \$4,000 in funding for the FY 2025 grant year. These funds are requested to support the ongoing programs and operating expenses of the Foundation.

Who are we and How do we Differ From the Kunta Kinte Festival Group...

Because of the name similarity, we're often asked how we differ from the KK festival group. First, The Festival and Foundation were founded by the same board of directors. They are sister organizations and periodically we work together on various projects. The festival continues to provide the annual Kunta Kinte Festival. The Foundation continues to uncover, promote, and share African American heritage and history endeavors within the area. In the past and in the most recent few years, the Foundation holds its annual Kunta Kinte Arrival Ceremony on the City Docks, as the opening event for the Festival. This Annual Arrival Ceremony has been held every year since 1987.

We are a Small-Budget Organization...

We operate with a very small budget and accomplish our work by leveraging community partnerships and volunteers. Hence, for a small grant, we make a big impact.

How will These Grant Funds be Used...

As a result of these funds, we will be able to leverage this grant with more than a three-fold increase in funding from other sources.

We will continue to provide ongoing support for African American genealogy and history in the area, through support from a free genealogist, the provision of a genealogy and research library that is open one day per week, and through other programs.

We will expand our research and community presentations on the African American Female Pioneers in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. These are the women in the areas who were the first to make significant accomplishments in their area of endeavor.

We will continue to work with the City in the monitoring and support for maintenance of the Haley Memorial.

Some Past Accomplishments...

Researched and published a book about African American female pioneers...currently we are continuing research to expand the pioneers beyond the 34 identified in the book and we make community presentations about the women, including panel discussions with some of the pioneers.

...by the way, 2 copies of our book on the pioneers, Celebrating African American Female Pioneers in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, Maryland, were approved and placed in all County public middle schools and high schools, the Anne Arundel County Public Library System and even two copies were requested by and placed in circulation in the Library of Congress, among other area placements of the book.

We worked cooperatively with the Bates Legacy Center to create a 1 hr documentary film about Bates HS during its segregated school existence. This documentary includes the interview of the then 15 remaining teachers from the area who taught at Bates during this period.... And periodically even now we make presentations on this film.

And among other areas, we have conducted oral and video interviews of several historic African American communities and created archival records of the communities... these have included the communities of Parole, Bestgate, Galesville, Freetown, and Senior over 90 years of age at Asbury United Methodist Church, the oldest African American church in the county.

These are just a few of our many accomplishments and activities.

Thank You...

We appreciate the past support from the City and consider the provision of these funds a positive return on the investment made in the Foundation.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT.