



## Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission

December 16, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

General Assembly Building, House Committee Room A

[mlkcommission.dls.virginia.gov](http://mlkcommission.dls.virginia.gov)

The Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission (the Commission) met in Richmond with Delores L. McQuinn, chair, presiding.<sup>1</sup> The meeting began with introductions and opening remarks followed by presentations and discussion. Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [Commission's meetings webpage](#). Video of the meeting is archived on the [House of Delegates Video Streaming](#) webpage.

### History of Lynching in Virginia

The History of Lynching in Virginia work group met on September 8, 2024, for its first meeting since 2021. Members heard a presentation from faculty of James Madison University, who are working with work group member Dr. Gianluca de Fazio to create lesson plans to help teach the history of lynching in Virginia schools. Members of the work group also discussed the possibility of drafting a resolution to create a day of recognition in Virginia for victims of lynching. To plan for the coming year, the work group created a subgroup that is appointed to create a work plan.

### Tribute to Senator Yvonne B. Miller

The Tribute to Senator Yvonne B. Miller work group met on September 4 and December 16, 2024, to develop a recommendation for a memorial tribute to Senator Yvonne B. Miller, to be placed in the Capitol or on Capitol Square. The work group discussed possibilities for a memorial tribute in the form of a statue or portrait. Kirk T. Schroder, J.D., Ph.D., reported the work group's recommendation to pursue space inside the Capitol for a life-size portrait of Senator Miller. However, the Commission determined that it would move forward with creating both a portrait of Senator Miller to be placed in the Capitol and a statue of Senator Miller to be placed on the Women's Monument or elsewhere on Capitol Square. To ensure that the processes begins quickly, members of the Commission agreed that work on the portrait should take place first and that such work should happen within a year.

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<sup>1</sup> **Members Present:** Delegate Delores L. McQuinn (chair), Delegate Alex Q. Askew, Delegate Betsy B. Carr, Delegate Mike A. Cherry, Delegate Joshua G. Cole, Delegate A.C. Cordoza, Jr., Senator Adam P. Ebbin (virtual), Senator William M. Stanley, Reverend Ricardo Brown, Dr. Matthew S. Gibson, Kirk T. Schroder, J.D., Ph.D., Thomas Turner, Dr. Karen Turner Ward

**Members Absent:** Senator Mamie E. Locke (vice-chair), Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi, Tim Parrish, Paula P. Williams, Tobi Wiseman

## **2025 King Holiday Event in Richmond**

*Reverend Ricardo Brown*

Rev. Ricardo Brown presented plans for "The Liberation Songs of the Civil Rights Movement of the 20th Century," an event to be held in Richmond on Sunday, January 19, 2025, commemorating the King Holiday. The Commission voted to provide up to \$2,500 to support the event.

## **Virginia Union University Community Leaders Breakfast**

The Commission voted to purchase a \$2,000 community sponsorship package for Virginia Union University's Community Leaders Breakfast on Friday, January 17, 2025. The Commission annually purchases a table at the event.

## **Virginia Civil Rights History Digital Archives and Workshops**

*Brian Grogan*

Mr. Grogan updated the Commission on projects previously described to the Commission at its June 5, 2024, meeting. Mr. Grogan reported on the extensive Virginia civil rights history archives maintained by Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in the university's Special Collections and Archives and requested the Commission's assistance in organizing his own collection, which includes extensive video footage, interviews, and transcripts, for transfer to and archival at VCU. Mr. Grogan also requested assistance in funding workshops at the Moton Museum relating to Virginia's civil rights history. The Commission agreed to fund Mr. Grogan's projects in an amount up to \$5,000.

## **Next Meeting**

Members will be polled for the date of the Commission's next meeting, to be held after the end of the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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For more information, see the [Commission's website](#) or contact the Division of Legislative Services staff:

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