



Board of Directors Meeting

6pm, September 20, 2016

**The Balch Library, (basement meeting room)
2089 W Market, Street, Leesburg, Virginia**



Agenda

- Introductions and Call To Order
- Approval of Agenda
- Diversity and Equality Fairs of Virginia
 - History
 - Legal Status
 - Lines of Work, current and potential.
 - Reappointment of Officers.
- The Edwin Washington Project
 - History
 - Awards and Media Attention.
 - Budget and Draft Multi-year Plan of Action
- Time for Next Meeting



History

- The firm was formed in 2014 as an outgrowth of discussions and efforts between Randy Ihara, Hari Sharma and Larry Roeder to use fairs to fostering better understanding between cultures in Loudoun, Northern Virginia and elsewhere.
- Unfortunately, due to a variety of problems, some of them health related for Larry, the project was put on hold until 2015 when the Edwin Washington Project began.
- Day to Day management is handled by a President (Larry Roeder) who reports to a Board of Directors and Randy Ihara (Vice President). Currently, there is a vacancy for Secretary. Hari Sharma acts as Treasurer.
- The Board of Directors consists of Larry Roeder (Chair), Randy Ihara, Hari Sharma, Doug Miller and Anthony Arciero. We would like to add a woman and an African-American in 2017.



Legal Status

- The firm is incorporated in Loudoun County, the State of Virginia and has received 501©(3) status from the Internal Revenue Service.
- The firm has also applied for non-profit status from the State of Virginia.
- Bylaws exist.



Lines of Work

- There are currently three lines of work.
 - **Fairs and Meetings:** The original idea was to use annual fairs to advance diversity; but the County of Loudoun is now doing that. The President proposes that we instead partner with fairs when appropriate and host smaller meetings with specific agendas that advance targeted initiatives.
 - **At Risk Schools:** Around the nation, country schools once used for rural whites, African-Americans, Native Americans, linguistic groups and other minorities are disappearing. The President proposes we maintain a blog highlighting preservation projects for such schools in order to help sponsors raise money. In this way, we can without cost be a useful aid to endangered historic educational structures. We can also highlight specific buildings we find our own needing protection.
 - **The Edwin Washington Project:** This is the main line of work. The project aims to define the impact of segregated education on African Americans in Loudoun, through an examination of lost records of which we have been granted access by the Loudoun County Public School system. Through the project, we also hope to show why segregated education is generally a socially destructive idea. In addition, the Loudoun Chapter of the NAACP has proposed that we consider similar projects elsewhere in Virginia and the southern states.



Appointment of Officers

- This meeting would be a good opportunity to reappoint officers who wish to stay in their posts or appoint fresh faces.
- President: Currently Larry Roeder
- Vice President: Currently Randy Ihara
- Secretary: Vacant
- Treasurer: Hari Sharma



The Edwin Washington Project

History

The project began as an outgrowth of work Larry Roeder did as:

- **Historian for Conklin**, a defunct African-American Village, on behalf of the Prosperity Baptist Church.
- **Chair for Research** of the Black History Committee of the Friends of the Balch Library.

The Records Office of Loudoun County Public Schools have possession of student and administrative records from 1846 to the mid-1960's that had been lost for several decades. Using the Conklin study as a model, the Records Office asked Larry to organize and catalog the records, as well as explain their relevance to the African-Americans during the segregated era.

Subsequently, the Loudoun chapter of the NAACP asked Larry to consider broadening the project to other counties and southern states that had segregation.



Awards, Media and Public Support for the Edwin Washington Project

The project is gaining a lot of political and public support, which we believe should translate into donor dollars and grants, if we design a good fund-raising strategy.

- **March, 2016: Virginia House of Delegates Commends preservation of school records.** Thanks to bi-partisan leadership by Delegate John Bell, a joint resolution of the Virginia House of Delegates Senate commended the effort to preserve the records at LCPS Records Office.
- **May, 2016: Loudoun Now,** a local newspaper, a very positive front page story.
- **Summer, 2016:** Loudoun County School for the Gifted agreed to be a partner. The Middleburg Academy is considering doing the same thing. We also have a positive relationship with the Circuit Court Archives of Loudoun.
- **The 2015-2016 Annual Report** of the Superintendent of Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) lauded the project with a full page.
- **September 22, 2016. NBC News (Channel 4)** did a very positive story on the project.



Multi-Year Project

Please turn to spreadsheet for this portion of the discussion

We have proposed a draft multi-year budget, draft because we likely will need to make adjustments each year in consultation with the Board.

Loudoun: One portion of the budget deals specifically with preservation of records and documenting the impact of segregation on African-Americans, to start with, and then white students. Our theory is that segregation victimizes both populations and build stereotypes that inhibit growth of a healthy society.

The bigger picture: We are also interested in stimulating the same kind of research in other counties of Virginia and in southern states. As part of that research, we will compare data between Loudoun and the other venues and see what conclusions can be drawn, based on evidence.

Finally, segregation still exists in other countries, based on religion, tribal affiliation, race. We are interested in our project being a Monument to the fight against Jim Crow and a tool against segregation anywhere.



- Last thoughts for the evening.
- When to meet again.
- Action items for the next meet.