

## Beecher Terrace Consulting Parties Meeting 20

Teleconference and WEBEX, September 7, 2023

Facilitator: Savannah Darr



Topics for Discussion	Contributor(s)	Start	Stop	Duration (mins)
Welcome and Introductions	Darr	6:00	6:05	5 mins
Beecher 1 - 4 Residential Update	MBS/O'Neil	6:10	6:20	10 mins
Baxter Community Center/Stage 5 Update	O'Neil	6:20	6:35	15 mins
<b>Mitigation Activities Update for Stage I</b> □ Western Library African American Archives – Natalie Woods □ Data Recovery & Public Participation – Anne Bader	Darr	6:35	6:55	20 mins
Next Meeting/Conclusion and Thanks	Darr	6:55	7:00	5 mins

## **Beecher Terrace Consulting Parties Meeting 20 Teleconference and WEBEX, September 7, 2023**

### **Welcome and Introduction of new attendee, Gabrielle Fernandez**

**Beecher 1 - 4 Residential Update (MBS, Ashley)** - Phases I-III are complete. Closed on Phase IV, construction will start soon and will last two years to complete 210 apartments; 5 will be live-work units (in the larger buildings along W. Muhammad Ali Blvd). Groundbreaking event was held on 9-5-23. The Mayor and various political reps were in attendance and spoke. Kyleen from HUD came for a visit. Working on homeownership phase of 20 units (in the for future development in top left corner of map). Commitment from Republic bank to give mortgages to interested homeowners. MBS will not develop but helping a local developer to put a plan together and get it started.

**Baxter Community Center/Stage 5 Update (Emily Allison for Kathleen O'Neil)** - Kathleen was unable to join tonight but provided updates for reporting. Baxter Community Center (below the park on the map) work continues to progress. Overall the project is 40% complete. For those who want detail: Storm water and sewer lines are started, exterior footings for extension/95%. Interior demo of existing structure/98%. Elevator masonry has started. Site concrete including basketball court has started. Existing building completion updates: Plumbing rough-ins on all floors/75%, HVAC rough-in/95%. Electrical demo/95%. Electrical rough-in/50%. Paint scraping/95% complete. New wall framing/95%. Sprinkler rough-in/66%.

Park is immediately adjacent of BCC. Plans are under review by LMG. Metro Parks hope to put out bid for GC in September and anticipate awarding in Nov. Beecher Terrace Recreational Amenities Leadership Group meeting is next week on 9-11-23 to discuss next steps.

New name selected and approved by Metro Council: "New Walnut Street Park". This will be formally announced at Groundbreaking, date TBD.

### **Mitigation Activities Update for Stage I**

#### Western Library African American Archives – Natalie Woods

LFPL website is updated, slide to show how it looks now and how to navigate. To find archival items, got to Research/African American Archives. There is a button to schedule tour or appt. Digitized items are now listed under individual names. Click on each name to view info about them. First bullet point has writings and lectures from Rev. Blue. Western Library digital archives are at the bottom and will take you to a document called "Negro Housing Problem in Louisville". New manuscripts from Professor Cotter Senior and Junior are digitized (around 15). Many are unpublished so she has to be careful what to share. Slowly but surely uploading to the page.

Learn More tab has info about Western Library branch, including the "Western Branch: The First African American Public Library" video created from the grant.

Gave a tour this morning to a JCPS student. School Counselor reached out because the student is interested in being an archivist.

She's been to multiple speaking events since Louisville Story came out. Natalie and Bernard Clay were asked to speak at the Filson Historical Society on Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> by Emma Bryant who works there and did her dissertation on Cotter – this is in the archives. Much of what was presented on that date is what is uploaded. During the research Bernard Clay was doing, he found out he is a descendant of Cotter.

Funds should be completely spent by end of year on equipment needed.

Still doing programs for Eastern Cemetery with Savannah. Showing history that is there and spreading the word about digitization.

Received a donation from the Bourgard College of Music and Art. Privately owned art and music school for African American children during segregation when there were no education programs for them. Started in the 1920s and ran until early 2000s to provide education and lessons. This will be digitized in the future.

## Data Recovery & Public Participation – Anne Bader

Still compiling the report, it looks to be very large. Anticipating 4 volumes (The Project, The People, The Excavations, The Artifacts). Not sure where conclusions will be, without doing a 5<sup>th</sup> volume but she will need to tie things together at the end. Wanted to have a percentage complete to report but doesn't have that right now. All 65K Artifacts are cataloged and analyzed but writing them up by lot is over 50% done. Taking all photos and choosing from them is a massive job.

Historian is working with them right now. Looking at Louisville area in terms of region and when certain things were happening and trying to contextualize this in a broader way. Gave a rough outline (showed on slide). Will have a draft in next couple of the weeks and then incorporate that into the overall report going forward.

Getting close to turning over materials to JCPS for educational topics. Have 10 different ideas for themed boxes (Dining, Food Prep & Storage, Childrens Artifacts, Personal and Clothing, Mystery box – what is it?, Beverages, Hygiene, Parlor Room Décor, Health and Advertisement, Manufacturing). Working on curriculums for them. Sometimes not enough artifacts to show what they wanted, so they created the mystery box...sometimes archaeologies don't even know what it is. This box will get the imagination going. Encourage students to think about how all the attributes to an artifact contribute to our understanding on how it was used.

Slide showed what the boxes look like; they will include a folder with several copies of written curriculum, CD and flash drive with digital support. Not very large but each have about 10-12 artifacts in them. Students will compare to what we use today.

Tasked with coming up with permanent displays, needs more discussion. Previously mentioned Senior Living Center, BCC, Frazier and Western Library as considerations. Need to touch base with Kathleen and team to discuss where and what will be displayed. Would like to get these conversations going. Some artifacts are unique and unusual and should be shared with the public instead of hidden in an archive. Natalie – Western would like to display something and it will be seen even if archives aren't open. Dave - Think about any theme she may want to show and they an accommodate.

Curation – how will these be put into permanent storage. While going thru 165 boxes, want to pull out what we want to keep and display. Currently artifacts are slated to go to William S. Webb Museum at the University of KY in Lexington. Would much prefer these stay in Louisville, but we have to face financial realities. UK wants \$42K to hold it, UL wants \$86K. Can't rationalize the higher expense. Very important to pull out what we want for the displays before it gets sent to UK.

Moving full speed as much as they can. They have tossed anything that doesn't offer further discovery value so we aren't paying money to hold them unnecessarily. Would love to be done by end of the year but can't promise. One analysis (animal bone findings) is outgoing with an outside company and she will check in on this.

Savannah – follows them on social media and their findings are so interesting and not commonly found/shared. Dave mentioned a specific family that lived there from 1850s to when Beecher was built – this lot in particular is special and unique. Anne had an idea for a medicinal theme due to the number of doctors that were in the neighborhood (i.e. bottles and syringes that tie to the medical schools), especially considering we had some of the first black practicing women physicians.

### **Next Meeting/Conclusion**

March 7<sup>th</sup> and Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> in 2024

# **SECTION 106 CONSULTING PARTIES MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2023**

**FACILITATOR –**

**SAVANNAH DARR, LOUISVILLE METRO GOVERNMENT**

**PRESENTERS –**

**LAURA KINSELL-BAER & ASHLEY FOELL, MCCORMACK, BARON, SALAZAR**

**NATALIE WOODS, LOUISVILLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**ANNE BADER, CORN ISLAND ARCHAEOLOGY**

**EMILY ALLISON, LOUISVILLE METRO HOUSING AUTHORITY**

This aerial map illustrates the proposed development for the Wilberforce neighborhood. The map is divided into several sections, each representing a different phase of development or a future development area. The phases are labeled as follows:

- Phase I (Senior):** Located in the bottom right corner, featuring a large, rectangular building with a central courtyard and parking area.
- Phase II:** Located in the top right corner, featuring a large, rectangular building with a central courtyard and parking area.
- Phase III:** Located in the middle right section, featuring a large, rectangular building with a central courtyard and parking area.
- Phase IV:** Located in the bottom left corner, featuring a large, rectangular building with a central courtyard and parking area.

Other areas on the map include:

- For Future Development:** Several large, yellow-shaded areas are designated for future development, including a large area in the top left, a large area in the middle left, and a large area in the bottom right.
- Wilberforce Street:** A major street running horizontally across the middle of the map.
- West Jefferson Street:** A street running horizontally across the top of the map.
- West Muhammad Ali Boulevard:** A street running horizontally across the bottom of the map.
- West Liberty Street:** A street running horizontally across the middle right of the map.
- Fisk Court:** A street running horizontally across the bottom right of the map.
- S 13th Street:** A street running vertically along the left edge of the map.
- S 12th Street:** A street running vertically along the left edge of the map.
- S 11th Street:** A street running vertically along the left edge of the map.
- S 10th Street:** A street running vertically along the left edge of the map.
- S 9th Street/Roy Wilkins Blvd:** A street running vertically along the right edge of the map.

The map also shows existing buildings, parking areas, and green spaces. A north arrow is located in the bottom right corner of the map.

Phase I   Phase II   Phase III   Phase IV

BEECHER SITE / LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY / FEBRUARY 2022





# Baxter Community Center



**COMING SOON... a NEW and IMPROVED  
Baxter Community Center**



**BT BEECHER  
TERRACE**

**VISION:RUSSELL**  
*A Roadmap for the Future*

**THE BEECH**  
INC  
*Education is Key to a Successful Future.*



**LOUISVILLE  
PARKS  
AND RECREATION**



# WESTERN ARCHIVES

Natalie Woods – Branch Manager

How does Beecher Terrace Project compare to other Louisville sites, such as:

- 18<sup>th</sup> Street
- Maple Street (California)
- Downtown

How does Beecher Terrace compare to regional cities in the north, such as:

- Cincinnati
- Indianapolis
- Pittsburgh

and South:

- Nashville
- New Orleans
- St. Louis

## BEECHER TERRACE

### Volume 1: The Project

### Volume 2: The People

### Volume 3: The Excavations

### Volume 4: The Artifacts





## REGIONAL CONTEXT

1. Urban experience for Black community in Louisville vs. rural experience in rest of county
  - a. When did Black community start migrating to the city?
  - b. What was the urban experience prior to emancipation?
2. Social perceptions of the Black community
  - a. General perceptions/Introduction to local feelings about free Black community and slaves prior to Civil War
  - b. Louisville becoming more “Southern” after the Civil War and the impact on the Black community
3. Comparison between Black community and immigrant communities

## Other Topics

- Real Estate
- Jobs
- Education
- Military
- Church
- Leisure activities
  - Segregation
  - Social organizations
- Racism/activism
  - Social perceptions of Black community
  - Efforts/organizations to combat racism

# JCPS Educational Materials

## Topics

Dining

Food  
Preparation  
and storage

Childrens  
Artifacts

Personal and  
Clothing

Mystery box-  
What is it?

Beverages

Health and  
Advertisement

Parlor room  
décor

Hygiene

Manufacturing



# Displays

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Senior Living Center

Baxter Community Center

Frazier (permanent?)

Western Library

???????



# Curation

Currently slated to go  
to the William S. Webb  
Museum at the  
University of Kentucky  
in Lexington





# Meeting Schedule

Future Consulting Parties Meetings

First Thursday, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

- Thursday, March 7, 2024
- Thursday, September 5, 2024

# Project CONTACTS



- RELOCATION BENEFITS - CATHY HEAD (502) 569-3479
- CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS - KATHLEEN O'NEIL (502) 569-3461
- EVENT CALENDAR – TINA WOODS (502) 569-3460
- RUSSELL NEIGHBORHOOD – MICHAEL KING (502) 574-0032
- HISTORIC PRESERVATION – SAVANNAH DARR (502) 574-5705



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