

NEWSLETTER

GREATER TULSA AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

September 2025

Next Meeting: 9/9/25

EVENTS

- 1: Step Up to the Grill on Greenwood - Deep Greenwood, 11 a.m.
- 1: Jazz Night - Vintage Wine Bar
- 5: First Friday Art Crawl - Arts District, 6 p.m.
- 5: Spirits Art Exhibit - Vast Bank, 6 p.m.
- 6: It's An 80s Thang Cookout - O'Brien Park, 4 p.m.
- 13: Wompa Bazaar Indoor Night Market - Wompa, 5 p.m.
- 18: 918 Day Panel: I Love North Tulsa! - Rudisill Library, 4 p.m.
- 18: Mural Your Story - Martin Library, 4:30 p.m.
- 18: 918 Day Festival - Chapman Green, 5 p.m.
Drop by the GTAAAC table!
- 18: Entrepreneurship Panel - Central Library, 5:30 p.m.
- 18: 918 Day Fashion Show - Boxyard Rooftop, 6 p.m.
- 18: 918 Speakeasy: Tulsa's Hidden History - Hardesty Library, 6 p.m.
- 24: FACTivities Fun with Planets - Suburban Acres Library, 4 p.m.
- 25: Adult Book Fair - NEFF Brewing, 3 p.m.
- 25: Cooking for a Cause - Iron Gate, 6:30 p.m.
- 27: Verses Literacy Fundraiser - Central Library, 6 p.m.

CHAIR REPORT

Dr. Dickens, chair, led the commissioners through an initial step of networking action plan at the August commission meeting. The next step includes ongoing monthly follow ups with identified networks as commissioners begin to develop a Network Engagement Protocol that can help commissioners be better advocates for the community as liaisons with the mayor and City Councilors.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Black Educator Excellence Award will be on October 28th at 6 p.m. Nominations are now open!
Nominate your favorite educator [here](#).
Nominations close 9/7/2025.

CULTURE & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The culture committee is scheduling outreach events! The group is working to determine which events the commission will attend to spread more information about GTAAAC. Be on the lookout for them - starting on 9/18 at the 918 Day Festival!

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The HRC created a letter to deliver to the city councilors in support of a human rights ordinance. This ordinance would unify the nondiscrimination protections in public accommodations and housing, specifically in regard to individuals that are veterans and/or members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. The ordinance was up for discussion at the City Council Urban and Economic Development committee meeting. Unfortunately, the ordinance will not be moving to vote at this time because of the lack of votes to pass the ordinance. The HRC will regroup to determine how to advance these human rights.



Commissioner Marquess Dennis, executive director of Birthright Living Legacy, is featured on the cover of this month's The Best Life - South Tulsa edition with his son. The article captures his story, his legacy, and the mission of Birthright.

POLICY COMMITTEE

At the August meeting, District 1 Councilwoman Vanessa Hall-Harper spoke about concerns involving the Greenwood Leadership Development Corporation (GLCDC) and the development of the Kirkpatrick Heights and Evans Fintube areas. Her cited concerns included lack of transparency and seating on GLCDC's board without community input - when the corporation had promised for consistent transparency and community collaboration. Councilor Hall-Harper has garnered support from local faith leaders and other community members, with the wish to have the land ownership transferred to Mayor Nichols' newly created Greenwood Trust. She has also asked for GTAAAC's support. The policy committee's priorities have shifted temporarily to learn more about this issue.

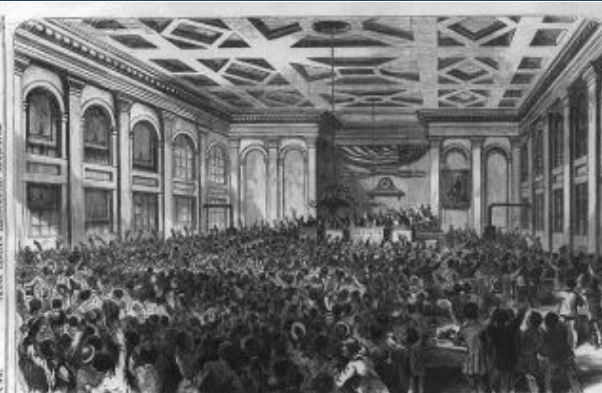


Photo: The 1872 National Convention of Colored Citizens, held during Reconstruction in New Orleans, La. Source: Library of Congress

HISTORY CORNER: National Negro Conventions Movement

On September 20, 1830, the first meeting of the "Colored Conventions Movement" was held, so named after a series of national meetings that were hosted from 1830 to the 1890s. These meetings were created after the Cincinnati Riots in 1829 pushed a free 16 year old from Baltimore named Hezekiel Grice to act. He reached out to Black organizations and other prominent Black leaders such as Bishop Richard Allen in Pennsylvania, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, to organize a convention to speak about issues plaguing the Black community. These organizations selected 40 representatives to meet in Philadelphia to address topics such as emancipation, education, and Black rights. After the Civil War, these numbers grew to continue the conversations on safety and Jim Crow, voting rights, derogatory representations, and other concerns. To learn more, check out the Zinn Education Project's website or click [here](#).