



The Waterfront Revisited: *Birth and Rebirth, 1730-2023*
Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum
October 20, 2023

Speaker Biographies

Susan Cohen

Member, African American Heritage Trail Committee

Susie Cohen has lived in Alexandria since 1966. She was an art teacher for over 40 years, including with Burgundy Farm Country Day School and The Art League. Susie has a studio on the second floor of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. She served two terms on the Commission for the Arts, two terms on the Waterfront Commission, and is a member of the African American Heritage Trail Committee.

Audrey P. Davis

Director, African American History Division, Office of Historic Alexandria

Audrey has worked with the Office of Historic Alexandria for 30 years and was the former Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum. She is a past president of the Alexandria Historical Society and was appointed by Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe to the Task Force for the Identification of the History of Formerly Enslaved African Americans in Virginia, one of six gubernatorial appointments. Audrey was on-set historical advisor for the PBS series *Mercy Street* and the editor of the new anthology *Alexandria at War 1861-1865: African American Emancipation in an Occupied City*. Audrey holds her B.A. and M.A. from the University of Virginia.

Gwen Day-Fuller

Member, African American Heritage Trail Committee

Gwen Day-Fuller is a retired educator with 30 years of experience. She is an alumni member of the Boston Chapter of Links, Inc., a member of the Northern, VA Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, a member of The Northeasterners, The New England Arts Group, and past board member of the Children's Museum in Boston. Gwen served as secretary on the Alexandria, VA Library Board, co-chair of Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria, and co-chair of the Superintendent's Committee on African American Achievement. In 2010, she and her father, Ferdinand T. Day, received a "Generation to Generation Award" from Senior Services of Alexandria, VA.

Garrett R. Fesler, PhD

Deputy City Archaeologist, Alexandria Archaeology, Office of Historic Alexandria

Since the mid-1980s Garrett has worked as a historical archaeologist in the Chesapeake region. Since 2011 he has served as Deputy City Archaeologist with the City of Alexandria. Before his time here, Garrett co-owned and operated the James River Institute for Archaeology in Williamsburg, Virginia. His academic career took him from the University of California at Santa Cruz (go Slugs!) to The College of William and Mary and finally to the University of Virginia. Over his career he has pursued a host of research interests, all of which focus on inching toward a better understanding of the human condition in all its facets, both in the past and in relation to the present.

Oscar Fitzgerald, PhD

A nationally known furniture historian, Oscar was an Adjunct Professor in the Smithsonian Institution/George Washington University Master's Program in the History of Decorative Arts and Design. His publications include *American Furniture: 1650 to the Present*, the standard text book in the field, and *The Green Family of Cabinetmakers: An Alexandria Institution*. He has served on a number of boards and commissions in Alexandria including the Alexandria Archeological Commission, first chairman of the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission, president of the Friends of Carlyle House, chairman of the Board of Architectural Review, and currently serves on the Alexandria Library Board. He has the distinction of being the last chair of the Alexandria Antiques Forum. Oscar received his Ph.D. in history from Georgetown University and served as Director of the U. S. Navy Museum.

Molly H. Kerr, MA

Founding Director, History Revealed, Inc.

With educational interests in cultural anthropology (University of Mary Washington) and archaeology (University of Arkansas, Fayetteville), Molly's professional experience ranges from contract archaeology to teaching teachers how to make history more engaging in the classroom to the creation of a database cataloging the enslaved of George Washington. Most recently, she has focused on store accounts from the 18th century for what they tell us about the people, places, events, and material culture of the communities residing in Colchester and Alexandria, Virginia.

Krystyn Moon, PhD

*Professor of History and American Studies, University of Mary Washington
Chair, African American Heritage Trail Committee*

Krystyn is a professor of History and American Studies at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Her teaching and research include US immigration history, popular culture, race and ethnic studies, foodways, gender and sexuality, and consumerism. She has collaborated on several public history projects with Alexandria Archaeology, most notably the "Finding the Fort," a history of the Fort neighborhood located at the present site of Fort Ward Park and Museum, and Immigrant Alexandria oral history project, funded by Virginia Humanities. Krystyn holds master's and doctoral degrees in History from The Johns Hopkins University.

Tatiana Niculescu, PhD, RPA

Archaeologist, Alexandria Archaeology, Office of Historic Alexandria

Tatiana is an archaeologist and collections manager for the City of Alexandria. She manages the preservation and conservation of the four historic ship remnants in addition to the many other amazing finds from both the waterfront and beyond. She holds bachelor's degrees in physics and archaeology from the University of Virginia and master's and doctoral degrees in Anthropology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

McArthur Myers

Member, African American Heritage Trail Committee

McArthur Myers is a dedicated advocate for landmarks identifying the significant contributions of African Americans to Alexandria's history. McArthur has been a member of many organizations including the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage, the Alexandria Historic Resources Commission, and the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project. McArthur is currently the Worshipful Grand Historian for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia. He received the Ben Brenman Award from the Alexandria Archaeological Commission in 2019 and has been an instrumental part of integrating the Freedom House Museum into the Office of Historic Alexandria museum system. In 2020, McArthur was named an Alexandria Living Legend for his service to the community, his social justice work, and his advocacy for the preservation of the historic fabric of Alexandria.

Ted Pulliam

Member, African American Heritage Trail Committee

Ted Pulliam is a current member of the Alexandria Archaeology Commission; a past member of the Waterfront Commission and the Art and History Waterfront Plan Implementation Committee; and served on the board of directors for the Alexandria Historical Society. He is the author of two books of Alexandria History – *Historic Alexandria: An Illustrative History* published by the City and the recently published *True Tales of Old Alexandria*, as well as a number of articles on history published in the *Alexandria Gazette-Packet*, *American History* magazine; *WWII History* magazine, *The Washington Post*, and other publications.

Abby Schreiber, PhD

Waterfront Historian, Alexandria Archaeology, Office of Historic Alexandria

Abby is an award-winning public historian who specializes in economic history and material culture in the Early Republic. She has worked on the role of merchants in early Baltimore through novel means of social network analysis. With the Homewood Museum in Baltimore, she has researched and developed an interpretive tour of the historic house that centers the lives of enslaved people, called "Families of Homewood." Abby holds an MA in American Material Culture from the Winterthur Program at the University of Delaware and a PhD in Early U.S. History from The Ohio State University.

Terry A. Suehr, PE, PMP, DBIA

Director, Department of Project Implementation

Terry joined the City of Alexandria in 2019, after over two decades of experience designing and managing public and private infrastructure projects. Her expertise includes project and program management; site, stormwater, and utility design; design-build project delivery; and multi-discipline team leadership. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the United States Coast Guard Academy. Terry is a licensed professional engineer and credentialed as a Project Management Professional by the Project Management Institute and as a Design-Build Professional by the Design-Build Institute of America.

Benjamin A. Skolnik, PhD

Archaeologist, Alexandria Archaeology, Office of Historic Alexandria

Dr. Skolnik received his PhD in Anthropology from the University of Maryland, College Park and has been an archaeologist with the City of Alexandria since 2015. He was extensively involved in the documentation and recovery of four historic ships from the City's waterfront and in researching the history of the domestic slave trade in Alexandria and the Slave Pen at 1315 Duke Street.

Blake Wilson

Research Historian, African American Division, Office of Historic Alexandria

Blake Wilson is a research historian contracted by the city of Alexandria through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding. He is currently working on a self-guided tours focusing on African American history on Duke Street and Civil Rights history across the city. Blake is a PhD candidate in U.S. History at Howard University.