

Montpelier Descendants Committee Announces a Slate of Twenty Incredible Board Candidates

- Accomplished and renowned luminaries in their fields
- Diverse by gender, age, race, discipline, and background
- Ready on day one to bring their knowledge, skills, resources, and networks to steward James Madison's Montpelier

**MDC is Proud
to Introduce Its
Incredible 2022
Nominees to
The Montpelier
Foundation
Board**



Achieving Structural Parity

- The candidates' acceptance of a seat on the Montpelier Board is contingent on having voting power with immediate effect
- No second-class status for representatives of descendants
- Board term end dates can be staggered to prevent future mass exodus
- May 16th: TMF should vote to approve all nominees as promised
- Candidates are qualified to resolve the crisis at Montpelier
- The world is watching what happens at Montpelier

Introducing the Candidates



Leslie Alexander, PhD

Associate Professor, Arizona State University

PhD and MA in History, Cornell University
BA, Stanford University

Highlights:

- Author of five books on late 18th and early 19th century Black culture, political consciousness, and resistance movements
- Awarded Ford Foundation Senior Fellowship
- President of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
- On the Advisory Councils for the Journal of African American History, The Black Scholar, the International Journal for African Studies, and the Harvey Goldberg Series for Understanding and Teaching History



Daina Ramey Berry, PhD

Oliver H. Radkey Regents Professor of History and
Chair of the History Dept, University of Texas at Austin

**BA, MA, and PhD in African American Studies
and U.S. History, University of California LA**

Highlights:

- Award-winning author and editor of six books and several scholarly articles
- Historical consultant for the remake of ROOTS by Alex Haley and for museums and historical societies around the country
- Member of the Society for American Historians and the American Antiquarian Society and a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians.
- Appears regularly in media like CNN, C-SPAN, National Geographic Explorer, NPR
- Awarded fellowships from National Endowment for the Humanities; the American Council of Learned Societies; the American Association of University Women, and the Ford Foundation



Michael Blakey, PhD

National Endowment for the Humanities Professor of Anthropology, Africana Studies, and American Studies
College of William & Mary

MA and PhD, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

BA, Howard University

Highlights:

- Director of the Institute for Historical Biology
- Scientific Director of the New York African Burial Ground Project (1992-2009)
- Founded the W. Montague Cobb Biological Anthropology Laboratory at Howard University
- Former President of the Association of Black Anthropologists
- Member of the editorial boards of American Anthropologist (2012-2016) and American Antiquity (2021-).



Rev. Cornell Brooks, JD

Hauser Professor of the Practice of Nonprofit Organizations and Professor of the Practice of Public Leadership and Social Justice, Harvard Kennedy School

JD, Yale Law School

MA in Divinity, Boston University

Highlights:

- Former CEO of the NAACP
- Visiting Professor of the Practice of Prophetic Religion and Public Leadership at Harvard Divinity School
- Executive Producer of CNN docuseries *The People v. the Klan*
- Former Senior Counsel at the FCC
- Fourth-generation ordained minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church



Dorian Burton, PhD

Co-Founder and Managing Partner of ParaQuel Capital

PhD in Education Leadership, Harvard University

MBA, Oxford University

MA in Education, New York University

Highlights:

- Co-Director of The TandemED Initiative for Black Male Achievement and Community Improvement at Harvard University Law School
- Consultant for non-profits and school districts
- Wasserman Foundation Fellow in the Doctor of Education Leadership Program at Harvard
- Gordon Ambach Fellow with the National Governors Association Education Division
- Worked for the National Football League
- Awarded the International Marshall Memorial Fellowship from the German Marshall Fund



Elizabeth Clark-Lewis, PhD

Professor of History and Public History Program
Director at Howard University

PhD, University of Maryland-College Park
BA and MA, Howard University

Highlights:

- Founder of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Association
- Author of 8 books on public history in the Virginia/DC area
- Recipient of numerous federal grants for research and public interpretation of history
- Producer on *Freedom Bags*, a PBS documentary that won the Oscar Micheaux Award from the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame
- Served on numerous boards including the Organization of American Historians, National Council on Public History, NPS Landmarks Committee



Alexcia Cleveland, MA

Executive Vice President, ARtGlass

MA in American Studies, Leiden University
BA in History, College of William & Mary

Highlights:

- Creates, implements, and manages augmented reality tour programming at leading historical and cultural sites
- Has participated in innovative projects interpreting the lives of enslaved Virginians at Colonial Williamsburg, George Washington's Mount Vernon, James Monroe's Highland, and on Richmond's Monument Avenue.
- Serves on the Board of Directors of Historic Richmond, including on its Property and Strategic Planning committees



Vedet Coleman-Robinson, PhD

Executive Director of the Association of African
American Museums

PhD in U.S. History, Howard University
BA in U.S. History, Virginia State University

Highlights:

- Raised \$3 million for the Association of African American Museums
- Spearheaded AAAM receiving the 2018 Andrew W. Mellon Grant
- Former Program Lead for the HBCU and Underrepresented Community Grant Programs at the National Park Service
- Consultant on strategic and diversity planning and fundraising for museums, including the Carter G. Woodson Home, the National Electronics Museum, and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture
- Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc



Maureen Costello, MA

Executive Director, Center for Antiracist Education at
Stand for Children

MA in American History, New York University
BA, The New School University

Highlights:

- Former Teaching Tolerance Director at the Southern Poverty Law Center
- Creation of numerous initiatives to support anti-bias programming in classrooms, schools, and districts
- Former Director of the *Newsweek* Education Program at Scholastic, Inc.
- Held a lead role in the production of student friendly documentaries *Bullied* and *Selma: The Bridge to the Ballot*



Ms. DeAnna Cummings

Program Director, Arts & Culture, McKnight Foundation

MPA, Harvard University

Undergraduate psychology major, social statistics concentration, University of Minnesota

Highlights:

- Longtime advocate and funder of arts and education programs in Minnesota
- Founding CEO of Juxtaposition Arts, a social enterprise business in Minneapolis that trains historically underestimated youth in art and design careers
- Former DeVos Institute Fellow at the University of Maryland-College Park
- Named a Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal Women in Business and a Minnesota Public Radio Arts Hero
- Serves on the Bush Foundation's Board of Trustees



Michael Higginbotham, JD

Joseph Curtis Professor of Law, University of Baltimore
Law School

JD, Yale Law School
LLM, Cambridge University
BA, Brown University

Highlights:

- Expert on civil rights, human rights, and constitutional law
- Author of several Books including *Race Law: Cases, Commentary, and Questions*
- Legal Advisor to Senator Ben Cardin
- Worked for the Maryland Public Justice Center
- Regular commentator on CNN Tonight and in journals and newspapers throughout the U.S.



Ms. Conny Graft

Retired President and Principal,
Conny C. Graft Research and Evaluation

BA in American History, Bowdoin College

Highlights:

- Formerly Director of Interpretive Planning and Director of Interpretive Education, Colonial Williamsburg
- Consultant for museums and non-profits to evaluate museum impact, audiences, interpretive planning, evaluation, and interpretation
- Former clients include the Smithsonian, Mount Vernon, Montpelier, Monticello, and the American Association of State and Local History
- Former President of the Virginia Association of Museums
- Served on the board of The Visitor Studies Association



Hasan Jeffries, PhD

Associate Professor of History,
The Ohio State University

PhD in American History, Duke University
BA in History, Morehouse College

Highlights:

- Author of books including *Bloody Lowndes: Civil Rights and Black Power in Alabama's Black Belt*
- Hosts the podcast *Teaching Hard History* from the Southern Poverty Law Center
- Won several awards for his teaching methods, which include bringing students to Montpelier
- Lead historian and primary scriptwriter for the renovation of the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Hotel, Memphis
- Communicates history to public regularly through op-eds, radio, television, and documentaries



Nicole Thorne Jenkins, PhD.

John A. Griffin Dean of the McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia

PhD in Accounting, University of Iowa
BA in Finance and Accounting, Drexel University

Highlights:

- Certified Public Accountant
- Former Von Allmen Chaired Professor of Accountancy and Vice Dean of the Gatton College of Business and Economics at the University of Kentucky
- Former president of the Financial Accounting and Reporting Section of the American Accounting Association
- Serves on the advisory board at the Tippie School of Business at the University of Iowa and on the Board of Trustees for Strada Educational Network and Beta Gamma Sigma (Honor Society)



Ms. Lori Ann LaRocco

Senior Editor of Guests at CNBC

BA in Mass Media Communications & Broadcast Journalism, SUNY College at Plattsburgh

Highlights:

- Nationally renowned business journalist who coordinates high profile interviews and on-location productions for all shows on the network
- Author of five books about global trade and the insights of top business leaders
- Awarded the Distinguished Visiting Alumni Award by SUNY Plattsburgh and named to the Sachem Hall of Honor
- Serves on the board of the Rose Brucia Educational Foundation, which provides free stranger safety to all schools and families around the world



Col. Patricia McDaniel, JD

Information Technology Attorney with the U.S.
Department of Veterans Affairs

JD, University of Texas at Austin
MBA, Wheeling Jesuit University
MPA, Texas A&M University

Highlights:

- Retired Chief of the U.S. Army Trial Defense Service in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps
- Former Senior Executive Fellow of the Harvard Kennedy School
- Descendant of Benjamin McDaniel of Montpelier (1790-1875)
- Serves on the Montpelier Descendants Committee Board of Directors



Ms. Soledad O'Brien

Founder and CEO of Soledad O'Brien Productions

BA, Harvard University

Highlights:

- Award-winning critically acclaimed author, speaker, and philanthropist
- Anchors and produces “Matter of Fact with Soledad O'Brien”
- Founder of PowHERful Foundation, a nonprofit that helps disadvantaged women complete college
- Recipient of three Emmys, the George Foster Peabody award, an Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia University Prize in journalism
- Member of the National Association of Black Journalists and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists



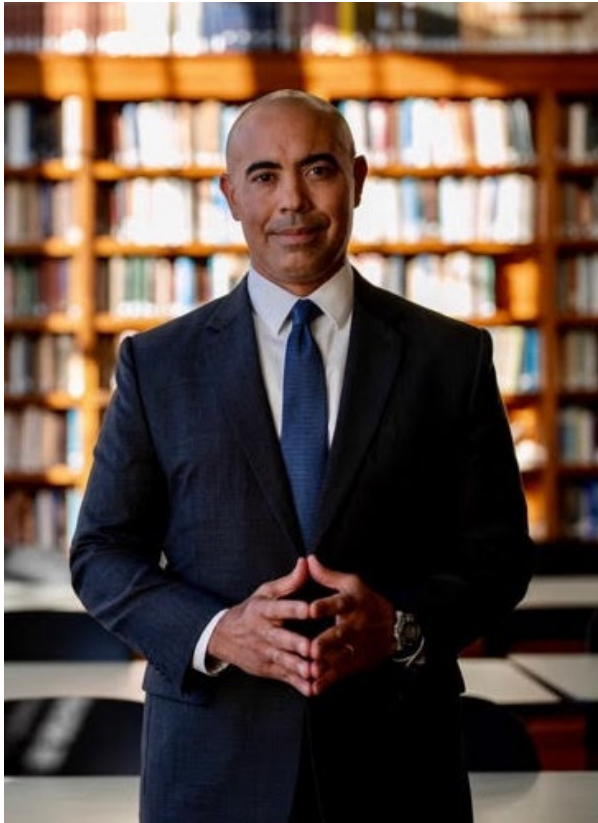
Joshua Rothman, PhD

Professor and Chair of the Department of History at the University of Alabama

**PhD in History, University of Virginia
BA, Cornell University**

Highlights:

- Former Director of the Frances S. Summersell Center for the Study of the South
- Co-Director, *Freedom on the Move: A Database of Fugitives from North American Slavery*
- Author of three award-winning books about 18th and 19th century slavery and race relations
- Won grants from the American Philosophical Society, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Southern Foodways Alliance
- Fellowships include American Council for Learned Societies, the American Antiquarian Society, the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, and the Huntington Library



Ian Solomon, JD

Dean and Professor of Practice at the University of Virginia's Franks Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy

JD, Yale Law School

BA, Harvard University

Highlights:

- Appointed to the University of Virginia's Racial Equity Task Force
- International expert on private-sector development in Africa, international relations, and conflict resolution
- Former Executive Director for the World Bank Group
- Former administrator at Yale Law School and at the University of Chicago
- Member of the Council on Foreign Relations
- Expert in negotiation and multi-stakeholder agreements



Rev. Larry Walker, Sr.

Deputy Pastor and Chief-of-Staff at Celebration Church
at Columbia

**BS Business Admin. Southern University,
Baton Rouge**

Highlights:

- Montpelier descendant of Benjamin McDaniel
- Howard County Library Systems Equity Alliance
- Former President of the African American Community Roundtable of Howard County.
- Howard County Racial Equity Collaborative
- Served on the Howard County Board of Education
- Received statewide Parent Involvement Matters Award from the Maryland Dept of Education
- Former National Director, Sigma Beta Clubs of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.