



Journeys to Justice

Reckoning with Illinois' History
and Legacy of Anti-Black Terror

SYMPOSIUM AND WORKSHOP

APRIL 4-5, 2025

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

An initiative to promote and support reparative memorialization and research on the histories and ongoing legacies of lynching, race riots, and race massacres across Illinois.

About Journeys to Justice

The core project activities have included a trip for Illinois residents to the Equal Justice Initiative sites in Montgomery, Alabama, in September 2024 – the nation’s most significant institution for commemorating racial violence – and this follow-up symposium and workshop in Springfield.

Goals and Mission

Trauma-Informed, Restorative Focus

- Partners center health, justice, and equity for communities most-impacted by historical and contemporary racial terror.

Towards a Statewide Coalition

- Foster a statewide approach to understanding anti-Black terror, acknowledging the state’s geographic breadth.

Collaboration and Networking

- Support and create connections between organizations, researchers, and cultural and memory workers that have equity, justice, and reparation as their core missions.

Sponsors and Supporters

Journeys to Justice is primarily funded through an Illinois Innovation Network (IIN) Social Innovation and Impact Seed Grant. IIN supports “projects that translate research into activities that directly affect lives, address complex social problems, build trusted partnerships in the community, demonstrate longer-term engagement or depth of engagement, and are scalable or replicable.”

Additional Support

- **University of Illinois System**
- **Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville**
- **Illinois Humanities**
- **UIS Center for Lincoln Studies**
- **Memorial Health**
- **Organic Oneness**

Learn more about our sponsors at
journeystojustice.org

Program Schedule

Learn more about our presenters at
journeystojustice.org

Friday, April 4

2:00 PM

1908 Springfield Race Riot Sites Bus Tour

Meet by 1:45 PM at University of Illinois Springfield,
Parking Lot I-South

6:00 PM

Opening Reception and Dinner

University of Illinois Springfield, Student Union Ballroom,
221 Richard Wright Dr, Springfield, IL 62703

- Cash bar and light refreshments
- Musical performance by Senabella Gill and Robert Irving III
- Short film: "I Bear Witness: The Untold Stories of American Race Riots"
- **Keynote panel:** "Descendants of the Greats," with Dan Duster, Myiti Sengstacke Rice, and Barbara Talley

Program Schedule

Saturday, April 5

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum
(ALPLM), 112 N. 6th St, Springfield, IL 62701

8:00 AM

Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 to 10:30: Multipurpose Room

**Un-Silencing and Memorializing Anti-Black
Terror**

- Clifton Jackson, independent scholar
- Abby Troxell, Western Illinois University
- Christian Fumey, Western Illinois University
- Brian Mitchell, independent scholar

10:45 to 12:15: Multipurpose Room

**Reflections on Visiting the Equal Justice
Initiative Heritage Sites, Montgomery, AL**

- Aniya Sykes, Armani Willis, Kayla Taborn, Lashawnda Williams, Alexis Kepplee, and Jaidyn Sibaja, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville
- Moderator: Bryan Jack, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville

12:30 to 1:30: Multipurpose Room
Lunch and Presentation

- Cequyna Moore, World Heritage-USA Monuments Toolkit Project Director
 - “Restoring Justice through the Monuments Landscape”

1:45 to 3:15: Multipurpose Room
State and Nation: “Forward Ever, Never Backward”

- Twyla Moore, Board Member, State of Illinois African-Descendants Reparations Commission
- Jeffrey Trask, PhD, Board Member, State of Illinois African-American Descendants Reparations Commission
- Pamela Hoff, PhD, James J. Stukel Distinguished Professor in Educational Policy and Equity, University of Illinois Springfield
- Moderator: Tiffani Saunders, MA

3:30 to 5:00: Multipurpose Room Healing Circle

- Facilitated by Terrence Pruitt and Justin Walker, Project Restore Initiative

Open at 10 AM for the day: The “Black Rest is Resistance” Room

- Curated and hosted by Brittini “Ree Belle” Gray-Chiquillo from Mama Scrap’s, Inc. Sponsored by the UIS School of Education and the Unveiling Black Springfield Project.

Open at 11 AM for the day: The “Black Joy and Creative Spirit” Spaces

- Curated and hosted by Shatriya Smith, poet and executive director of the Garvey-Tubman Cultural Arts and Research Center, Springfield.

Parking and Directions

University of Illinois Springfield Parking Lot I-South (Friday bus tour departure only)

Meet by 1:45 at University of Illinois Springfield, **Parking Lot I-South**

UIS Student Union Ballroom (Upper Level)

University of Illinois Springfield, Student Union Ballroom,
221 Richard Wright Dr, Springfield, IL 62703

- Parking: Guests may park for no fee in **Lot J** or **Lot F**
- UIS Parking Map: https://www.uis.edu/parking/visitor-parking_

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum 112 N. 6th St. Springfield, IL 62701 (Library Building)

- The parking garage for the ALPLM is located on the corner of 6th and Madison Streets, with entry on 6th (\$10 full day)
- Street parking is free in downtown Springfield, with some time restrictions
- **Allow for extra time, due to road closures for other events on April 5--arrive via the north if possible**

Project Partners

Journeys to Justice partners include organizations that support the project mission and values, and promote project events and programs. Contact us to learn more about becoming a partner. Our growing list of partners includes:

- The Chicago Race Riot of 1919 Commemoration Project
- The Community Archive
- Organic Oneness
- University of Illinois Springfield History Department
- University of Illinois Springfield Sociology/Anthropology Department
- Think Black
- Garvey-Tubman Cultural Arts Center
- Project Restore Initiative

See features about our partners, including info about supporting their work, at journeystojustice.org/journeys-to-justice-partners/.

Journeys to Justice Co-Conveners

**Peter Cole, PhD, Western Illinois
University Department of History and
the Chicago Race Riot of 1919
Commemoration Project**

**Devin Hunter, PhD, University of Illinois
Springfield History Department**

**Lesa Johnson, PhD, University of Illinois
Springfield Sociology and Anthropology
Department**

**Tandra Taylor, PhD, Southern Illinois
University-Edwardsville, Institute for
Community Justice and Racial Equity**

Contact: dhunte2@uis.edu
journeystojustice.org