WikiHBCUDIO Launch Event at Washington National Cathedral *(draft blurb)*

List under category "Special Event"
Admission: free for congregation and public
Date and time: Sunday, January 19, 2020, 1–4 p.m.
Location: Perry Auditorium and Pilgrim Observation Gallery

Wikipedia, as a free encyclopedia that everyone can edit, inevitably incorporates biases that mirror society's own; improving Wikipedia means confronting real world inequalities, and vice versa. WikiHBCUDIO is a coalition of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, along with other Departments, Institutions and Organizations representing people of color, leveraging their unique resources to address the under-representation of minorities on and off Wikipedia.

Join us for this first ever WikiHBCUDIO offline event, where technology, academia and activism intersect at Washington National Cathedral. A 30-minute panel kicks off the discussion on **how people of faith can lead the fight for equality in today's digital world**, followed by two parallel sessions stretching into the afternoon:
Unconference *(just outside Perry Auditorium)*: Focusing on WikiHBCUDIO's role outside Wikipedia, attendees chat and mingle with each of the panelists/guests in an informal setting, generate ideas, and learn about the work of their respective organizations.
Edit-a-thon *(inside Perry Auditorium)*: Led by seasoned Wikipedia editors, attendees gather in groups of three to five; each group edit/create a specific page/topic of interest to the Cathedral community.

Coffee and snacks are served. **First-timers welcome, no special skills required!** If you wish to participate in active editing, please bring your own laptop.

Welcome speaker:
The Rev. Dr. Leonard Hamlin, Canon Missioner of Washington National Cathedral

Panelists:
Jim Hayes, Board Member, Wikimedia District of Columbia
Dr. Mitchell Neaves, VP for Institutional Advancement, University of the Virgin Islands
The Rev. Dr. Gail Fisher-Stewart, General Secretary, Union of Black Episcopalians

With an introduction to editing Wikipedia by:
Darold Cuba, Wikimedian-in-Residence at Columbia University Oral History Department

And guests from:
Hampton University, Howard University, Congressional Black Caucus, National Association of Black Journalists, AfroCrowd, …

#WikiHBCUDIO
Launch Event

Proposal

for the

Washington National Cathedral

Racial Justice Task Force

and

Outreach and Social Justice Committee

Wikimedia Foundation

- Not a sales pitch: Wikimedians (editors, contributors, etc.) ≠ employees

Wikimedians ↔ WMF

Congregation member ↔ WNC

WikiHBCUDIO (I didn't coin it!)

- Wiki = Wikipedia (and, to a lesser extent, other Wikimedia projects: Commons, Wikidata, etc.)
- HBCUDIO = HBCU + Historically Black Departments, Institutions, Organizations, e.g. Union of Black Episcopalians, Congressional Black Caucus
- Birthplace: WikiCon '18

Why WikiHBCUDIO?

- Leveraging resouces of HBCU/DIOs ...
  - Unique collections: archives, oral history, etc.
  - Formidable institutional presence
- ... to address inequality on/off Wikipedia
  - Wikipedia **mirrors** society's bias, and **projects** its bias back to society —Katherine Maher, WMF Exec. Dir.
    - *People of color* and *organized religion* being two of Wikipedia's "blind spots"
    - Female editors 13%, women's biographies 18%
    - Race/ethnicity not tracked in WMF stats

Why Cathedral? (1/2)

- Fulfilling the Cathedral's **racial justice mission**
  - Educational and eye-opening for congregation
  - Digital: a new frontier to combat racism

Why Cathedral? (2/2)

- Cementing the Cathedral's **leading** role in the discussion of social issues
  - Cathedral as a **crossroads** of secular organizations: *where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the cries of race and clan (Hymn 609)*
  - A neutral and holy place

Macro Timeline

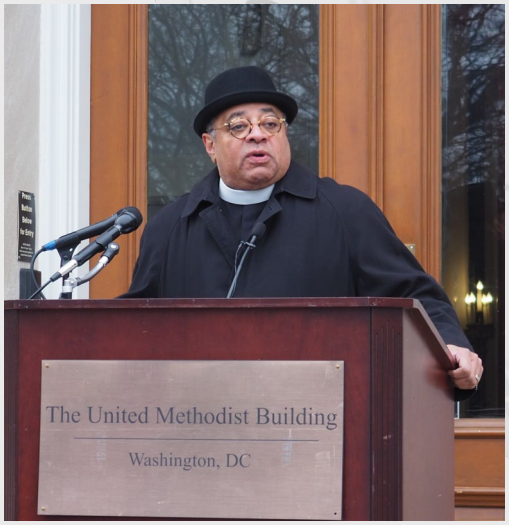
- Nov ’19: UBE Wikipedia page edit session *w/ RJTF + WNC Congregation*
- Dec ’19: WikiHBCUDIO joins OSJ/RJTF meetings
- **Jan ’20 (MLK Weekend): Main Event**
- Feb ’ 20 and beyond: institutional partnership w/ Wikimedia D.C. chapter

Event Structure

1. Welcome speech (5 min)
2. Intro to Wikipedia Inequality (15 min)
3. Panel discussion (30 min)
4. Breakout sessions
    a) Unconference (observation gallery)
    b) edit-a-thon (Perry Auditorium)

1. Welcome Speech

- Delivered by key Cathedral clergy
  - Dean/Provost/Canon Missioner
  - Need not stay until end of event
- Highlights Cathedral's involvement



← *Leonard is on Wikimedia Commons!*

2. Intro to Wikipedia

- Columbia Univ. Wikimedian-in-Residence
  - Expert in Wikipedia inequality
  - Fluent in Wikipedia editing (edit wars!)
  - Institutional presence (not just another nerd)

3. Panel discussion

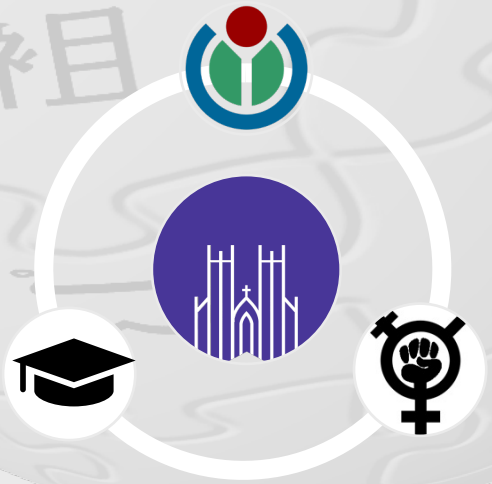
- Panelists *on stage leading discussion*
  - Each representing separate discipline: church, Wiki, academia, activism
- Guests *may also answer question*
- People *ask questions*

4a. Unconference

4b. Edit-a-thon

Institutional Partnership

- Utilize Cathedral's own archives
- With Wikimedia DC
- With HBCU/DIOs (academia)
- With local activist groups



Random Project Ideas

- Cathedral clergy biographies
  - Notability?
- Stained glass windows
  - Wikipedia: separate from WNC main page
  - Commons: HD image of each window
  - Wikidata: artist, date of creation, etc.
- WikiProject Episcopal Church
  - Episcopal theology, notable church buildings
  - Commons: pictures of liturgy in action
  - Wikipedia Church Day?

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