Appendix II

A Note on Process

The release of this report is at once the beginning of Harvard’s commitment to a meaningful and sustained process of repair and the culmination of an initiative that comprised deep research and the active participation of a wide range of stakeholders. Process matters greatly in work of this kind, and the initiative’s efforts to engage a wide range of key experts and share its work with a broad audience are described below. The committee is grateful to all those who supported this undertaking.

As noted in section I of this report, Harvard’s 29th president, Lawrence S. Bacow, established the Presidential Initiative on Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery in 2019. He appointed a committee representative of all the University’s schools and charged this group with diving deep into our history and its relationship to the present. President Bacow asked the committee to “give additional dimension to our understanding of the impact of slavery” at Harvard. This work, he said, should “have a strong grounding in rigorous research and critical perspectives” that “will inform ... our understanding of facts” and “how we might address the ramifications of what we learn.” President Bacow also asked the committee to “concentrate on connections, impact, and contributions that are specific to our Harvard community” and “provide opportunities to convene academic events, activities, and conversations that will encourage our broader University community to think seriously and rigorously about the continuing impact and legacy of slavery in 2019 and beyond.”

This charge built on earlier work. In 2016, Drew Gilpin Faust, the University’s 28th president, publicly acknowledged that “Harvard was directly complicit in America’s system of racial bondage from the College’s earliest days in the 17th century until slavery in Massachusetts ended in 1783, and Harvard continued to be indirectly involved through extensive financial and other ties to the slave South up to the time of emancipation.” She established a committee on the University and slavery that, with the aid of the researcher Caitlin Galante DeAngelis (PhD 2014), conducted a preliminary investigation upon which this report builds. These initial efforts included, in 2016, a public ceremony in which then-President Faust and the late civil rights leader US Congressman John Lewis unveiled a plaque affixed to Wadsworth House in Harvard Yard that acknowledges the unfree labor of four enslaved people—Titus, Venus, Juba, and Bilhah—who lived there and worked for two Harvard presidents and their families. A 2017 conference at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, organized at Faust’s suggestion with the support of then-Radcliffe Dean Lizabeth Cohen, brought together prominent thinkers about universities and slavery from around the country.

The work of excavating and confronting the truths that this committee now discloses has been, and continues to be, a community-wide endeavor. Whereas prior histories of Harvard scarcely mentioned the University’s ties to slavery, Harvard scholars and students have worked assiduously in recent years to reveal painful truths. Beginning in 2007, Laird Bell Professor of History Sven Beckert and his undergraduate students began investigating Harvard’s ties to slavery in a multiyear series of research seminars, releasing a report on their findings in 2011. At Harvard Law School in 2008, Royall Professor of Law Janet Halley explored the history of the slave-owning colonial benefactor Isaac Royall Jr., sharing knowledge that helped spur student protests decrying the Law School’s shield, which featured the Royall family crest. Martha Minow, 300th Anniversary University Professor and then-dean of Harvard Law School, established a committee that recommended the retiring of the shield. In 2017, Harvard Law School dedicated a memorial on the School’s campus to the enslaved people whose labor generated Royall’s wealth.

In 2020, Harvard Medical School students petitioned against the “Oliver Wendell Holmes” academic society because of namesake Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.’s role in the expulsion of Black students in 1850 and his promotion of so-called race science. Upon the recommendation of a faculty subcommittee and with the approval of Dean George Q. Daley, the society was...
renamed for William Augustus Hinton (SB 1905; MD 1912), a clinical professor of bacteriology and immunology at HMS and the first Black full professor at Harvard.\textsuperscript{13}

Moreover, as this committee conducted its work, many Harvard alumni engaged with it, including some with family connections to slavery and others who were present on campus during the era of segregation, bearing witness to parts of the history documented in this report. It welcomed broad audiences through more than a dozen events, all of which were free and open to the public. And, with support from the presidential initiative, Harvard students from multiple schools and departments also aided and augmented our efforts through research and the production of poetry and dramatic art.\textsuperscript{14}

**Consultative Process**

In preparing this report and recommendations, the committee consulted a wide range of experts and organizations that provided invaluable input. In particular, committee members met with King Boston and Höweler + Yoon to explore approaches to memorialization; with leaders of the Royall House and Slave Quarters and the Museum of African American History in Boston and Nantucket on questions of public history and partnership; with major library and HBCU leaders on archival collaborations; with University of California system leaders on innovations in education access; and with leaders of the Boston Foundation, the University of Massachusetts Boston, Bunker Hill Community College, Roxbury Community College, and other educational and service organizations that support descendant communities in Massachusetts. Committee members and staff also participated in the City of Cambridge Committee on City Art, Monuments, and Markers and engaged with the Cambridge Historical Commission, History Cambridge (formerly Cambridge Historical Society) and the new Slave Legacy History Coalition, led by Dennis Lloyd, a descendant of Darby Vassall, whose story is discussed in Sections I and III of this report.

Harvard is one of many institutions reckoning with historical ties to slavery, and the committee also benefited from partnership with the Universities Studying Slavery consortium as well as generous advice from faculty members, administrators, and advocates involved with similar efforts at other universities. The committee chair is particularly grateful to Prairie View A&M President Ruth Simmons, who convened the Brown University Steering Committee on Slavery and Justice as president of that university in 2003, and to James Campbell, the Edgar E. Robinson Professor in United States History at Stanford University (formerly of Brown University); David Blight, Sterling Professor of History, of African American Studies, and of American Studies at Yale; David Collins, associate professor and Haub Director of Catholic Studies at Georgetown University; and Kirt von Daacke, assistant dean and associate professor of history at the University of Virginia.

Within Harvard, the committee consulted with the Steering Committee on Human Remains in Harvard Museum Collections, chaired by the historian of science and medicine Evelynn M. Hammonds, who also served on the legacy of slavery committee; with the Committee to Articulate Principles on Renaming, chaired by Harvard President Emerita Drew Gilpin Faust; and with the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Task Force on Visual Culture and Signage, chaired by Robin Kelsey, dean of arts and humanities. Leaders and staff of the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology, the Harvard Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, and the Warren Anatomical Museum also provided support. The committee also benefited from consultation and partnership with the University’s Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging; the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research and its director, Henry Louis Gates Jr.; the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History; the Harvard Office for the Arts; the Department of Music; the American Repertory Theater; and several students involved with the Harvard Generational African American Students Association.

We received particular support from the Harvard University Archives, Houghton Library, and the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at Harvard Radcliffe Institute, all of which granted our researchers safe physical access during the COVID-19 pandemic and digitized parts of their collections for us. Many other Harvard libraries and departments digitized materials and provided additional support, including:

- Arnold Arboretum Horticultural Library and Archives
- Baker Library, Harvard Business School
- Countway Library, Harvard Medical School, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, and Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health
- Department of African and African American Studies, Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences
- Ernst Mayr Library of the Museum of Comparative Zoology
- Frances Loeb Library, Harvard Graduate School of Design
- Harvard Fine Arts Library
- Harvard Law School Library
We also engaged with numerous libraries and special collections in eastern Massachusetts and across the United States. In particular, the leadership and staff at the Massachusetts Historical Society and the Boston Athenaeum provided us with invaluable guidance and access to their collections. Colleagues at the William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan and the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University digitized items in their collections for our use, and staff at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York Public Library and the Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center at the University of Massachusetts Amherst assisted us in accessing important materials. We also consulted the collections of the American Philosophical Society Library, the Boston Public Library, the Milton (Massachusetts) Historical Society, and the Williams Research Center at the Historic New Orleans Collections.

Research and Creative Projects

Harvard faculty and students engaged in a wide range of research and creative projects with support from the Presidential Initiative on Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery. You can learn more about their work online.

Student Research and Creative Project

Grant Recipients

- Thandi Nyambose
- Eve O’Connor
- Ogechukwu Ogboju
- Suzannah Omonuk
- Nicole Piepenbrink
- Cresa Pugh
- Kiana Rawji
- Avi Robinson
- Malachi Robinson
- Divya Saraf
- Jack “Alex” White III
- Cecilia Zhou

Faculty-led Research Projects

When Campus Is Closed: Privilege, Poverty, and Pandemic Life at Harvard University

Researcher: Anthony Abraham Jack, assistant professor of education, Harvard Graduate School of Education, and Shutzer Assistant Professor, Harvard Radcliffe Institute

This study examines the impact of the convergence of a reckoning over long-standing racial inequalities, a global pandemic, and—for many—an economic crisis. Jack and his research team have interviewed 120 Black, white, Latinx, Asian and Native undergraduates, with particular emphasis on understanding the experiences of generational African American students at Harvard. This research informed the recommendations presented in section VII of this report.

Mapping Post-Mortem Segregation: A Survey of the Old Burying Ground in Cambridge

Researchers: Aja Lans, 2021–2023 postdoctoral fellow, Inequality in America Initiative; Jason Ur, Stephen Phillips Professor of Archaeology and Ethnology; and Andrew Bair, PhD candidate, Harvard Department of Archaeology

Compared to the white colonial settler population, Black residents of colonial Cambridge are currently nearly invisible in death, with only two headstones known to mark gravesites of “negro servants” in the Old Burying Ground in Harvard Square. Yet the documentary record shows that there were many more enslaved persons living and working in Cambridge and at Harvard. What became of them in death? Can we find them and give them the same visibility afforded to white colonists? To answer these questions, this project brings the tools of historical archaeology, spatial analysis, and
archaeological remote sensing to the Old Burying Ground in an effort to locate the graves of marginalized members of the colonial Cambridge community.

Student Researchers and Creative Partners

Many undergraduate and graduate students, as well as recent graduates and postdoctoral fellows, played critical roles in the work of the initiative, including as researchers working on the report and on supported projects, as participants in the film that accompanies this report, and as voice actors for a virtual walking tour that provides an introduction to the landscape of enslavement—and of resistance—in and around Harvard Yard.

- Busola Banjoh
- Becca Spindel Bassett
- D’Wayne Bell
- Lucian Bessmer
- Vincent Bish
- Robert Clinton
- Mycah Conner
- Galadriel A. Coury
- Theodore Delwiche
- Emily Farnsworth
- Noah Gold
- Ethan Goodnight
- Laura Greenberg
- Lindsey Hightower
- Hiram Jackson
- Chelsea Jno Baptiste
- Orelia Jonathan
- Shandra Jones
- Aja Lans
- Sydney Lewis
- Kya March
- Suzannah Omonuk
- Samantha O'Sullivan
- Phyllis Pawa
- Franco Paz
- James Ramsey
- Claire Rostov
- Mini Saxena
- Ajay Singh
- Nicholas Spragg
- Isabel Strauss
- Ellie Taylor
- Caroline Tucker
- Kemeyawi Wahpepah
- Suleyman Wellings-Longmore
- Nicole Yapp
- Jacqueline Zoeller

Public Programming

The Presidential Initiative on Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery (H&LS) is a University-wide effort anchored at Harvard Radcliffe Institute (HRI). The following public lectures and discussions were organized by HRI in partnership with, and with funding from, the presidential initiative. Recordings of these events are available online.

2019–2020

Naming Racism, June 2020

As part of a series on health inequity in the age of COVID-19, Camara Phyllis Jones and the H&LS committee member David R. Williams explored how we might overcome, “the somnolence of racism denial,” dismantle the system of racism, and put in its place a system in which all people can thrive.

American Policing and Protest, June 2020

Monica C. Bell and Laurence Ralph, with Brandon Terry as moderator, discussed contemporary police violence against people of color along with ethical issues that we must consider as we attempt to envision how our nation might be transformed.

2020–2021

Perfecters of This Democracy: A Conversation with Nikole Hannah-Jones, September 2020

Nikole Hannah-Jones and the H&LS committee chair, Tomiko Brown-Nagin, engaged in conversation about pressing issues of race, civil rights, injustice, desegregation, and resegregation.

The Enduring Legacy of Slavery and Racism in the North, October 2020

Kyera Singleton, Manisha Sinha, and John Stauffer, with the moderator and H&LS committee member Tiya Miles, examined the role and impact of slavery in the North, the influence of scientific racism, and the response of Black abolitionists.

This event was presented in collaboration with the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology and the Harvard Museums of Science and Culture.
Obesity, COVID-19, and Systemic Racism, October 2020

Sara Bleich and Sabrina Strings explored how uneven distribution of social support drives obesity; how framing affects policy; and how lack of research fuels speculation and reinforces racist stereotypes.

The Impact of 2020 on Higher Education: Colleges, COVID-19, and a Time of Racial Reckoning, November 2020

Eddie R. Cole, the H&LS-funded researcher Anthony Abraham Jack, and Jennifer Morton, with the moderator Kemeyawi Wahpepah, discussed how higher education can and should rise to the challenges of 2020 and beyond.

Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery: Reckoning with the Past to Understand the Present, March 2021

The H&LS committee chair, Tomiko Brown-Nagin, and the committee members Tiya Miles and Martha Minow explored the charge of the initiative and the work then under way to explore Harvard’s historical entanglements with slavery and its legacies, along with the initiative’s efforts to support student and community engagement.

Medical Racism from 1619 to the Present: History Matters, May 2021

Jim Downs and Susan M. Reverby, with the moderator and H&LS committee member Evelynn M. Hammonds, examined the roots in slavery of contemporary African American mistrust of the healthcare system, the lack of trust in medical providers fostered by experiences of everyday racism, and the African American community’s long dependence, born of necessity, on care from within the community.

This event was presented in collaboration with the Project on Race & Gender in Science & Medicine at the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research at Harvard University.

2021–2022

Book Talk with Clint Smith, July 2021


This event was presented in collaboration with the Royall House and Slave Quarters, in Medford, Massachusetts.

The Intentional Museum, March 2021

Christy Coleman, Makeda Best, and the H&LS committee member Sven Beckert, with the moderator and H&LS committee chair Tomiko Brown-Nagin, discussed the power that museums have to genuinely engage with communities around what matters most to them.

This event was presented in collaboration with the Harvard Museums of Science & Culture and the Harvard Art Museums.

Racial Inequity and Housing Instability in Boston: Past, Present, and Future, April 2021

Tatiana Cruz and Lydia Edwards, with Chris Herbert as moderator, discussed how millions of Americans have long struggled to pay for housing, with communities of color additionally burdened by housing discrimination and historical race-based policies, such as legalized segregation, redlining, and mortgage discrimination, with a specific focus on Greater Boston.

This event was presented in collaboration with the Royall House and Slave Quarters, in Medford, Massachusetts.

Book Talk with Tiya Miles, July 2021

Second in a two-part series, featuring the H&LS committee member Tiya Miles, author of All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley’s Sack, a Black Family Keepsake (Random House, 2021), the 2021 National Book Award Winner for Nonfiction.

Opening Discussion for Brown II, September 2021


This event was presented in collaboration with the Royall House and Slave Quarters, in Medford, Massachusetts.

Feeding the Nation: Michael W. Twitty on American Foodways and the History of Enslavement, March 2022

This event was presented in collaboration with the Royall House and Slave Quarters, in Medford, Massachusetts.
Michael W. Twitty shared insights about the role of enslaved people in shaping American foodways, as well as the critical importance of including stories of the enslaved prominently in public history and historical interpretation, followed by a conversation with the H&LS committee chair, Tomiko Brown-Nagin.

"Telling the Truth about All This": Reckoning with Slavery and Its Legacies at Harvard and Beyond, April 29, 2022

"Nations reel and stagger on their way; they make hideous mistakes; they commit frightful wrongs; they do great and beautiful things. And shall we not best guide humanity by telling the truth about all this, so far as the truth is ascertainable?"

Over the past two decades, universities around the world have begun to engage with their legacies related to slavery. Many have issued reports detailing some of their historical ties to slavery, the substantial financial benefits the institutions and their affiliates extracted from slave economies, and universities' intellectual contributions to racist ideologies and practices. At the same time, this research has uncovered a long history of African American resistance, and we are just beginning to address the impact of legacies of slavery on Black students at these institutions into the 21st century.

With this history uncovered, we must now ask: What must institutions of higher education do? What types of repair work can and should we undertake? We will explore these questions in our conference through discussions about a range of topics, including engagement with descendant communities, legacies of slavery in libraries and museums, and novel public engagement and educational opportunities.

Lift Ev’ry Voice: Celebrating the Music of Black Americans, April 2022

A discussion and concert by the Aeolians of Oakwood University, Kuumba Singers of Harvard College, and Harvard Choruses. The Aeolians was founded in 1946 by Eva Beatrice Dykes, a professor of English at Oakwood who in 1921 had become the first Black woman to earn a doctoral degree from Radcliffe College (the women’s college affiliated with Harvard).

This event was presented in collaboration with the Royall House and Slave Quarters, in Medford, Massachusetts.

Inclusions: Envisioning Justice on Harvard’s Campus, April 2022

*Inclusions*—a participatory, student-generated art installation—served as the inspiration for this conversation about the intersection of art, visual culture, and representation at Harvard. Tracy Smith joined the student creators Kiana Rawji ’23 and Cecilia Zhou ’23 in a discussion focusing on how we can use art to envision justice, moderated by the H&LS committee member Stephen Gray.

This event was presented in partnership with Harvard College student artists, the Office for the Arts at Harvard (OFA), the Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the OFA Ceramics Program, and The Monument Project.

Who Is Policing the Police? April 2022

An exploration of what real police accountability looks like, including perspectives of current and former law enforcement officers, activists, and academics.

This event was presented in partnership with the Harvard Generational African American Students Association.
Notes

APPENDIX II


3. The members of the committee were: Sven Beckert (cochair); Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham (cochair); Alejandro de la Fuente; and Bilhah; and John Stauffer.


7. Beckert et al., Harvard and Slavery.


9. See “Royall Must Fall: The Shield is Retired,” Exhibit Addenda, Harvard Law School, accessed February 9, 2022, https://exhibits.law.harvard.edu/royall-must-fall-shield-retired. Isaac Royall Jr. (1719–1781) lived just over three miles from Harvard Yard. The Royall House and Slave Quarters, where the Royalls enslaved more than sixty people and lived off the wealth generated by yet more enslaved people who labored on the family’s sugar plantation in Antigua, has been a historic site for over a century. Since 2005, the Royall House and Slave Quarters has reoriented its programming to focus on educating the public about the lives of the people enslaved there and, more broadly, the history of slavery in New England. See Royall House & Slave Quarters, accessed October 12, 2021, https://royallhouse.org/.


12 See Section IV of this report.
