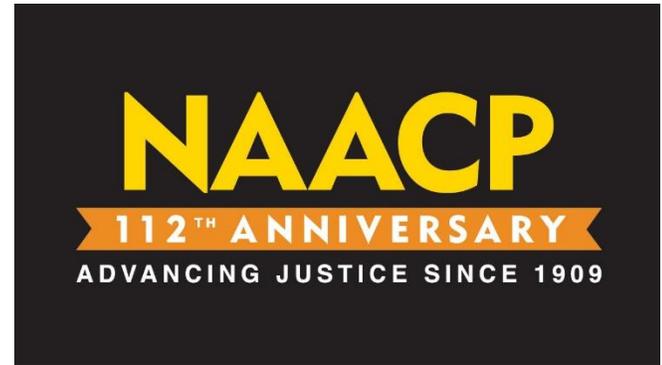




ARLINGTON BRANCH #7047

NAACP

Briefing by Branch President
April 14, 2021
Arlington Committee of 100



The NAACP on Confederate Symbols

Since the release of *Birth of a Nation* in 1915, the NAACP has been fighting against symbols that glorify the Confederacy and its “defenders.” The NAACP launched a campaign to ban the film racist, propagandistic film and protested President Woodrow Wilson’s decision to screen it at the White House.

In more recent years, the [NAACP held an economic boycott of South Carolina for refusing to take the Confederate flag off of state capitol grounds](#). The fifteen-year boycott came to a close in 2015 when the state legislature finally voted to remove the flag once and for all.

And, on August 20, 2017, [President & CEO Derrick Johnson spoke out condemning Confederate imagery](#) as a symbol of hate that should not be venerated.

Confederate Symbols in Virginia

Virginia, the birthplace of Robert E. Lee and the **home of Charlottesville**, contains the **highest density of Confederate symbols**: more than 220.



(Map source: [Politico](#); data source: [SPLC](#))

Monuments and Statues

The United States contains **more than 700 statues and monuments** dedicated to the Confederacy. Virginia and Georgia house more than a quarter of these 700, and Texas, South Carolina, and Mississippi collectively contain almost a third. The majority were constructed before 1950, but **four percent were built or rededicated in the 21st century**.

Schools

109 public schools are named after Confederate figures, such as Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, and Stonewall Jackson. Of these 109 schools, **nearly 25% have a student body that is primarily black**, and nearly 10% have a student body that is 90% black.

As the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) reports, many Southern colleges and universities have recently made moves to remove Confederate statues and monuments that dot their campuses.

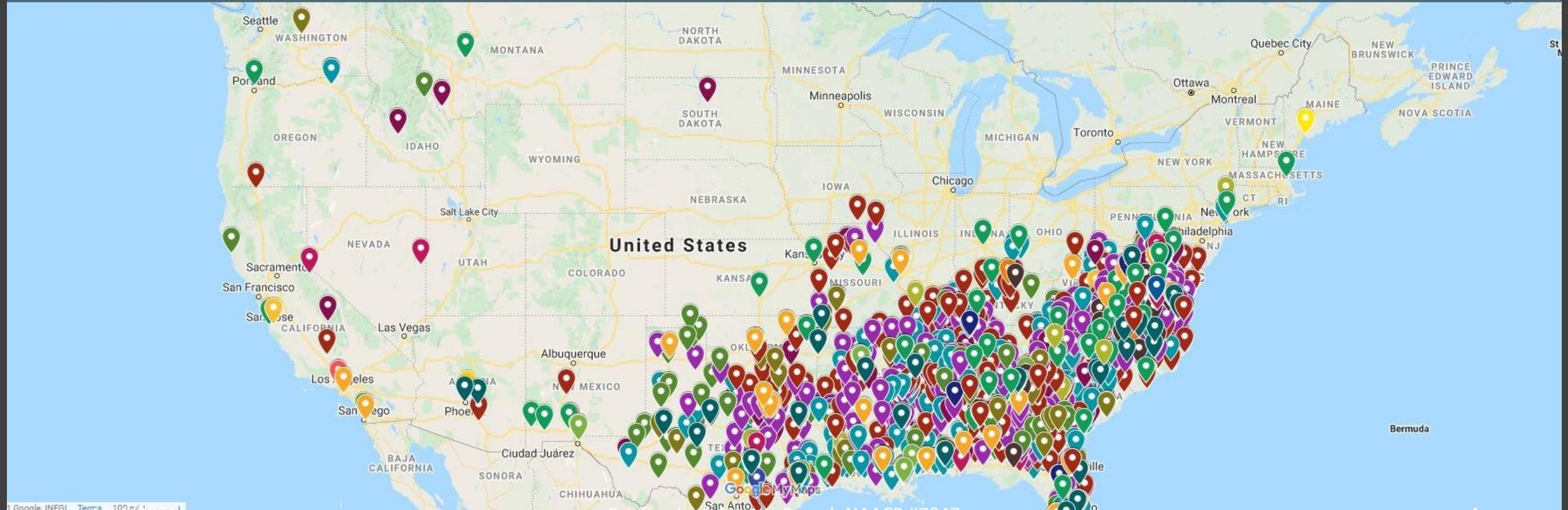


WHOSE HERITAGE?

Public Symbols of the Confederacy

Whose Heritage: Public Symbols of the Confederacy - 4/13/21 *

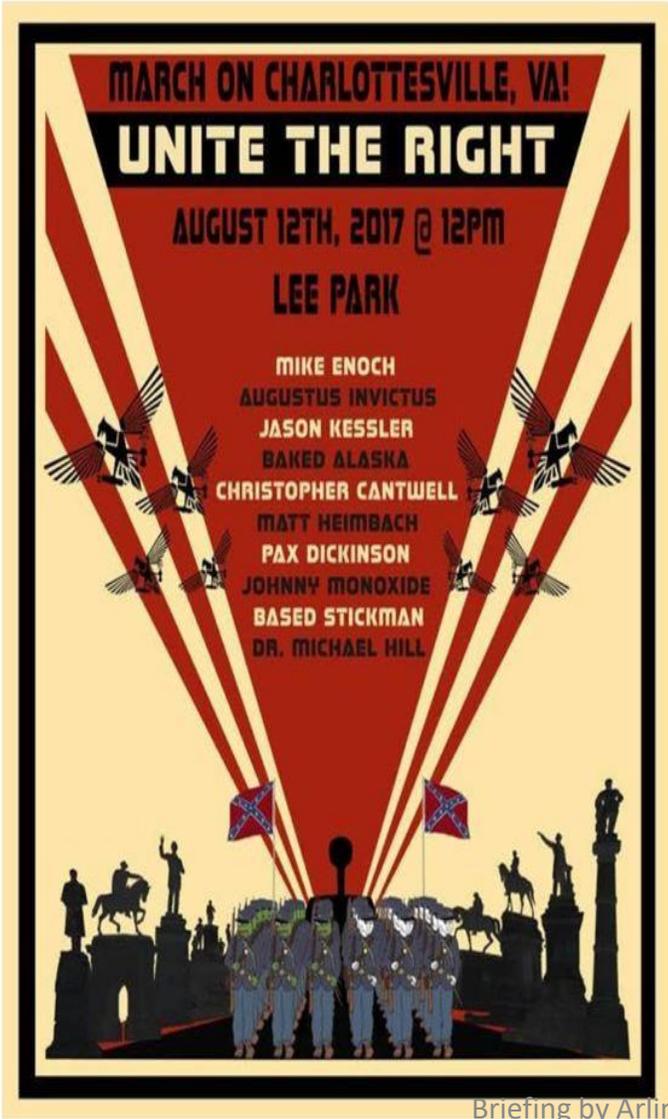
This map was created by a user. Learn how to create your own.



The ways in which these monuments operate in tandem — regardless of which white man they represent — is elegantly illustrated in this poster for the August 12, 2017 “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville:

Dr. Lyra D. Monteiro

PhD: Archaeology & the Ancient World, Brown University; Prof: American Studies, History & African American Studies, Rutgers-Newark; Director: The Museum On Site



Briefing by Arlington Branch NAACP #7047



[Click Here to Read Article](#)

Dr. Lyra D. Monteiro



Power Structures: White Columns, White Marble, White Supremacy

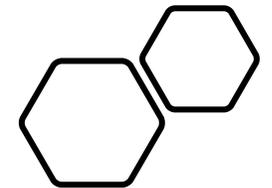
Dr. Lyra D. Monteiro Oct 27, 2020 · 33 min read



SPLC
Southern Poverty
Law Center



- According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, a lot of “schools, parks and streets were **named for Confederate icons during the era of white resistance to equality**. Why do schools have these names in the first place? Some received their Confederate names between 1900 and the 1920s, when Jim Crow laws segregated the south and Confederate monument construction in the country peaked. After *Brown v. Board* declared in 1954 that segregated schools were unconstitutional, some schools in the south as well as in non-Confederate states like [Vermont](#), [Massachusetts](#) and [California](#) began to embrace [Confederacy-related mascots](#) and [iconography](#).” At least 32 schools were built or dedicated between 1950 and 1970 amid white backlash to *Brown v. Board of Education* and the civil rights movement.
- In 1956, Georgia incorporated the Confederate battle flag [into its state flag](#) while white communities were fighting school integration. It flew over all Georgia public schools until 2001.



WHEN “HERITAGE” MEANS HATE



Confederate flags and statues abound America. Klansmen, neo-Nazis, and white nationalists defend them as an innocent representation of their “American Heritage,” but we know that these symbols glorify treason and a hateful history of white supremacy and black subjugation.

For our country to move forward – to become a nation united and free from inequity and bigotry – *we must remove Confederate symbols* from the parks, schools, streets, counties, and military bases that define America’s landscape and culture.

“How does it benefit our country to preserve an archaic and treasonous Confederate culture which sought to **devalue, diminish and profit off the suffering of black citizens?**”

“The **Civil War** is a part of our history, but those **symbols belong in textbooks** so we may learn from our past mistakes and grow from them. Symbols of hatred and racism should not be venerated.”

*Derrick Johnson, President and CEO NAACP,
AUGUST 20, 2017*



2016 Petition

4/14/2021

change.org

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Welcome back to Change.org! A new petition wins every hour thanks to signers like you.

Petition details Comments Updates

The NAACP should change their offensive name

Petition Closed

This petition had 34 supporters



NAACP:
Change...

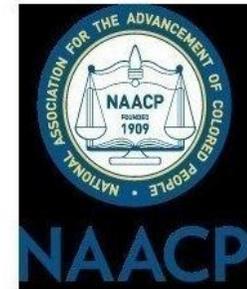
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Christopher L. started this petition to [Hilary O. Shelton NAACP](#)

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has an offensive name, and is offensive even to some of the very people they protect. They were founded in 1909 and perhaps at the time this name was acceptable. However, in the year 2015 we are all very aware and sensitive to the racist and discriminatory history of many things and the phrase "colored people" should be no exception.

Opinion: Arlington County's progress on race and social justice is poisoned by its official logo



An Arlington County crew power-washes chalk protest on June 19 in Arlington. The daughter of a Virginia elementary school teacher had written: "There comes a time when silence is betrayal." (Courtesy of Yvaal Hampton)

Opinion by Julius D. Spain Sr.,
Carolynn Kane and Emma Violand-Sánchez
August 14 at 8:00 AM ET

It's Time to Ditch the County Logo, Arlington NAACP Says

ARLnow.com July 29, 2020 at 3:55pm



VIRGINIA

Arlington residents want to see change in the county's "racist" logo and seal

"I don't think it gives appropriate gravitas to the sacrifices made by Afro Descendants in this country"



dcist DONATE

AUG 10, 2020, 1:01 PM

Robert E. Lee's Name Is Still All Over Arlington, But That Could Be Changing

Matt Blitz



LOCAL DVM NEWS WEATHER SPORTS DEALS ASK THE PROS COMMUNITY CONTESTS

ARLINGTON, VA

NAACP URGES COUNTY SEAL AND LOGO CHANGE

WASHINGTON LOCAL CORONAVIRUS U.S. & WORLD WEATHER INVESTIGATIONS THE SCENE 87° LIVE TV

LOCAL

4/14/20 LOGO CHANGE?

ARLINGTON VIRGINIA

NAACP - JULY 30, 2020 10:29 PM

NAACP Calls for Arlington to Change Its Logo

The Arlington NAACP calls on the county to change its logo which features the home of Confederate General Robert E. Lee.

SQUARESPACE

AWARD-WINNING WEBSITE DESIGNS FOR BUSINESS OWNERS

5:19 92° WORKING 4 YOU



4/14/2021

SCHOOLS

School Board Slams 'Westover Village' Name Suggestion For Reed School

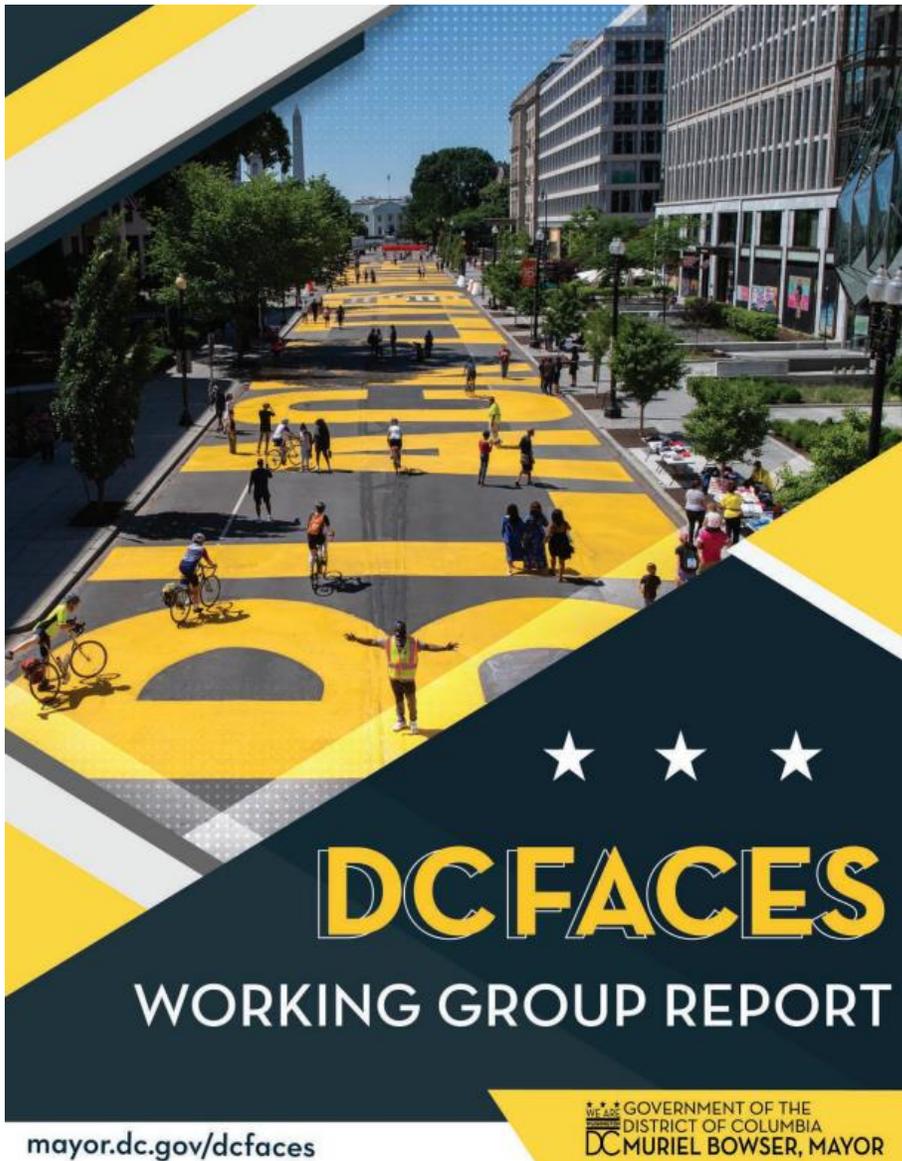
Jo DeVoe March 26, 2021 at 11:40am



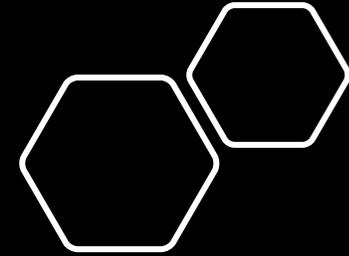
Construction on the new school at the Reed site in Westover (Staff Photo by Jay Westcott)
Briefing by Arlington Branch NAACP #7047

“It’s imperative that we **look at our values**, our push to ensure that we have **equity**, that we **embrace all students**, that they **feel safe and valued** and that we **do not** continue to **raise up the name of institutions that built their success on the backs of people of color.**”

Monique O’Grady, Arlington School Board, Chair, March 25, 2021



Mayor Muriel Bowser announced the formation of the **District of Columbia Facilities and Commemorative Expressions Working Group** or the **DC FACES Working Group** to review the legacy of namesakes, including buildings, parks, public spaces and monuments, in order to ensure the individuals' personal and public policy views did not contribute to the nation's history of slavery, systemic racism and other biases, and, instead, are consistent with our DC values — empowering and uplifting African Americans and other communities of color





I have great respect for the past. If you don't know where you've come from, you don't know where you're going. I have respect for the past, but I'm a person of the moment. I'm here, and I do my best to be completely centered at the place I'm at, then I go forward to the next place.

— *Maya Angelou* —

Maya Angelou was an American author, actress, screenwriter, dancer, poet and civil rights activist