

**5/14 Memorial Commission
Minutes for July 25, 2023
Rich Products, 1 Rich Way, Buffalo NY**

PRESENT IN PERSON ATTENDANCE

Pastor Mark Blue, Chairman

Dr. Amitra Wall, Associate Provost Buffalo State University

Mo Sumbundu, NYS Empire State Development

Diane Colgan, Senior Vice President, Tops Friendly Markets

Garnell Whitfield, 5/14 Family Member

Dr. Norman Lewin, Buffalo Arts Commission

Jonathan Dandes, Corporate Vice President of Government Relations and Special Projects Rich Products

PRESENT ONLINE ATTENDANCE

Tiffany Gaines, Curatorial & Digital Content Associate, Burchfield Penney Art Center

Fragrance Harris-Stanfield, Tops Employee and 514 Survivor

Special Presentation -- 9/11 Memorial Museum

The group listened to a special presentation regarding the planning process for the 9/11 Memorial Museum. Allison Blais, Executive Vice President & Chief Strategy & Operations Officer of the 9/11 Memorial Museum made the presentation.

- Blais shared her organization's experience hosting a competition for the memorial.
- She says that community engagement was key to the planning and development process of the living memorial.
- She says they hosted more than 200 public meetings and included the families of those who died.
- The group hosted a worldwide competition for design.

Tips for maintenance:

- Blais urged the group to start thinking about sustainability and operations during the early planning stages of the memorial.
- She says the group should think about what will be required to preserve the condition of the memorial in the future.
- She says the group should have funding earmarked in the early stages of the planning process for memorial maintenance.
- Dr. Lewin asked about the process for deciding where to put the memorial. Blais says the group should focus on gathering opinions from the family members of the deceased, those whose lives were impacted and the community. She says getting everyone to agree on a location is possibly the hardest part.

5/14 Survey Update -- Dr. Amitra Wall

- Dr. Wall says there are 199 survey responses so far.
- The most popular viewpoints expressed so far include -- Respondents want a physical memorial outside, they want the memorial to represent "Remembrance, Healing, Love, Resilience."
- Dr. Wall explained that there was a split on if the memorial should reference other instances of mass violence. However, the majority said they do not want other instances of mass violence represented.
- It was suggested that flyers be passed out during a jazz festival at MLK Park.
- The group suggested passing out flyers at Food Truck Thursday, Larkinville, Hispanic Day Parade and other local events.
- The group suggested 5/14 Ambassadors are needed to pass out flyers at Walmart and Galleria Mall. (However, the group should keep in mind that permission from the business owner will be needed for this type of solicitation, or the ambassadors would be removed from the premises)
- The group decided to extend the survey to November 1st.

The Next Commission Meeting: Monday, August 21, 2023 at 5:30pm at Rich Products.