

# African American Fellowship Project Ideas

1. Rosenwald Network: Oral Histories - [Virginia Humanities](#) has already begun a digital database of oral histories. Individual schools have their own focus like Cape Charles, Pine Grove, [Goochland County](#), Woodville and others.

Survey the schools and organize a symposium of best practices so that the leadership from the schools can share lessons. This project might also involve surveying the schools and colored schools, where they are, how we update our Rosenwald map.

2. Greenbook Sites - An opportunity for a fellowship to survey how other states are approaching organizing and promoting Green Book sites. [UVA launched a mapping program of Green Book sites](#); DHR and [Virginia Tourism](#) are looking at this work. Create a guide to advocate for these historic Green Book sites.
3. Funding to support the efforts of the BIPOC communities - best practice videos. Where would we place this information, is there a website or clearing house of philanthropic resources, locally and nationally? A Clearinghouse for African Americans, VA Indians, i.e., the National Trust African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, Cultural Heritage Partners, VA Humanities Virginia Scholars Fellowship, etc.
4. Descendant Groups: Oral Histories - How do you involve the descendants in decision-making? What are the best practices for working with descendant communities? Rubric Creation
5. HBCUs in VA Remembered - Petersburg, Richmond, Lynchburg, and Hampton Roads.
6. Race and Racism in Historic Spaces - How do you break down the barriers, making the results tangible and beneficial to historic sites and spaces?
7. John Marshall House (JMH) - Consider the JMH and Wickham House as the research core for an exhibit or symposium on urban slavery.
8. Scotchtown Cemetery - The 250th anniversary of America will be in 2026. It is the 250th anniversary of Patrick Henry's '*Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death*' speech. The fellow can research and organize a collaborative symposium with VMHC, DHR, PVA and other related entities to focus on the contradictions between Henry's words and those of other founders. What are the realities that freedom and liberty would only be enjoyed by a few?

9. Bacon's Castle and Smith's Fort: *the African American experience/communities in Surry County*. This research builds on the work that the tourism department is doing to build an AA heritage trail. Assist PVA with research and the interpretive ideals of the Bolling Morris period at Smith's Fort, identifying and mapping AA schools, churches and gathering places, collecting oral histories.
10. Advocacy: Social Justice, and Environmental Justice - Shockoe Bottom, Pine Grove, Rassawek, Research methods for tracking, organizing, and attracting support for these historic spaces.
11. Black Cemeteries - Across Virginia, are historic Black cemeteries: Shockoe Hill, Shockoe Bottom, Evergreen, Louisa, Fluvanna, to name a few. What research is conducted to identify and preserve these sacred spaces?