

Community Remembrance Project of Greenville County, SC (CRP)

CRP 2.0: Fueling Change in Our Community

Strategic Plan 2024

CRP 1.0: 2019- 2023

The Community Remembrance Project of Greenville County, SC, was formed in the spring of 2019 in collaboration with the Equal Justice Initiative's (EJI) work to bring the discussion of race and racial injustice in America into the forefront of our society. EJI launched the Community Remembrance Project to help communities around the country to remember and address the legacy of slavery, lynching, and racial segregation that still impacts communities to this day.

The mission of CRP is to honor the lives and memories of victims of racial terror and preserve the social memory of our local community by engaging in a more honest conversation about the history of racial injustice in Greenville County through restorative truth-telling and healing.

EJI has documented 4 victims of racial terror lynching in Greenville County, SC

- Robert Williams – November 4, 1881
- Ira Johnson – July 15, 1895
- Tom Keith – August 16, 1899
- George Green – November 16, 1933

The CRP of Greenville County, SC, set out to recognize these victims of lynching by hosting public education events to promote dialogue about historic and current day racial inequity in our community, holding public soil collection ceremonies from lynching sites, erecting historical markers to memorialize the four victims of racial terror lynching, and conducting essay writing contests with Greenville County public high school students. By the end of 2024 we will have completed all of these initial goals. We recognize that our work is not complete, as there is more work to be done to promote healing in this community. Hence, the Leadership Team has engaged in a strategic planning process to focus our future work.

CRP 2.0: FUELING CHANGE IN OUR COMMUNITY 2024- 2026

As we approach the next few years of our work in Greenville County, we will focus on ways to engage in consistent and substantive community building through addressing racially sensitive issues with the goal of education and empowerment. The CRP wants to not only preserve truthful historical narratives, but also wants to emphasize the resilience, strength, and leadership of the Black community despite the legacy of racial terror, continuing atrocities, and systemic inequities.

The dominant theme for our future work is truth and reconciliation. We will continue to engage the community through educational events that seek to heal relations between opposing sides by uncovering all pertinent facts, distinguishing truth from lies, and allowing for acknowledgement, appropriate public mourning, forgiveness, and healing. Continued collaboration with coalition partners in Greenville will be an on-going priority. Creatively engaging the community with our permanent Soil Collection exhibit at the Upcountry History Museum and with our historical markers will keep the names of our victims relevant in the minds of our community and help ensure that we create a more just community for everyone.

**EVENTS HELD BY
COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE PROJECT OF GREENVILLE COUTY, SC**

- November 14, 2019 Say His Name: The Lynching of George Green - Panel Discussion and Community Conversation at Long Branch Baptist Church, Greenville
- June 8, 2020 Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome Panel - Panel Discussion and Community Conversation an On-line Event
- August 6, 2020 Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community? - Panel Discussion and Community Conversation an On-line Event
- November 7, 2020 Say His Name: George Green Soil Collection Ceremony at Taylors First Baptist Church Property, Taylors
- March 30, 2021 The Presumption of Guilt (Tom Keith Lynching) - Panel Discussion and Community Conversation an On-line Event
- May 31, 2021 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commemoration at Phyllis Wheatley Center, Greenville
- June 19, 2021 Say His Name: Tom Keith Soil Collection Ceremony at Mt. Sinai Baptist Church Property, Greenville
- April 30, 2022 Judicial Complicity in Greenville County (Robert Williams, Ira Johnson, Willie Earle Lynchings) - Panel Discussion and Community Conversation at Phyllis Wheatley Center, Greenville
- June 15, 2022 Forum Series event in collaboration with Warehouse Theatre’s production of “Appropriate”
- July 31, 2022 Talk Back Panel in collaboration with GLOW Lyric Theatre’s production of “Stinney: An American Execution”
- August 20, 2022 Say His Name: Robert Williams Soil Collection Ceremony at New Shady Grove Church, Pelzer
- October 22, 2022 Say His Name: Ira Johnson Soil Collection Ceremony at Village Church Anglican, Greenville
- February 18, 2023 Redemption in Remembrance (Based on the book: The Cross and the Lynching Tree by Dr. James Cone) - Panel Discussion and Community Conversation at Springfield Baptist Church, Greenville
- June 19, 2023 Reclaimed: The Black Male Mental Health Narrative - Panel Discussion and Community Conversation at Nicholtown Missionary Baptist Church, Greenville
- October 7, 2023 Say His Name: George Green Historical Market Ceremony at St. Matthews Church and Summary Court, Taylors
- October 21, 2023 83 Days (the George Stinney, Jr story) – Film Screening & Discussion at Changing Your Mind Ministries, Greenville in collaboration with South Carolinians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (SCADP)