



The Year 2022 in Review



SIUE Charter High School Presentations

The Society began its initial community events in January 2022, with Society organizer and East St. Louis Historian Reginald E. Petty making presentations on February 14 and February 28 in the Learning Center of the SIU Edwardsville Charter School building on the campus the former East St. Louis Higher Education Center, now known as the Wyvetter H. Younge Education Center. The Society collaborated with this group for several additional presentations.

To continue the Black History theme, five additional members of the Society performed during Black History month. On February 15, 2022, Dr. Lillian A. Parks shared thought provoking Black History facts with the attendees. Ms. Redina Medley performed a crowd-pleasing original monologue entitled "Harriet Speaks from Way Up Here." Mr. Norman Ross enthralled the audience with a presentation on Africa and its influences on world history. Finally, poet, playwright, and author Jaye P. Willis delighted the crowd with an original kwansaba (a poetic artform created in 1995 by Dr. Eugene B. Redmond, Poet Laurette of East St. Louis, IL) entitled Praying for Prey, a tribute poem to the memory of Mr. Michael Brown. On February 22, 2022, Mr. Robert 'Bob' Gill presented an informative lecture on the History of East St. Louis.

On March 23, 2022, Dr. Andrew Theising lectured on Reparations of Past and Future to a room capacity crowd. Continuing the series, Ms. Billie G. Turner regaled the students and faculty with information on her families "Migration to East St. Louis" on June 29, 2022.

Oral Histories and Youth and Young Adults

A multitude of other activities took place during this time. Oral histories were facilitated by Ms. Medley with Dr. Lillian A. Parks and Mr. Willie King. The Society collaborated with the SIUE-East St. Louis on their 2022 Juneteenth celebration, with presentations by board members Mr. Ross and Ms. Medley. Members Medley and Willis also collaborated with East St. Louis Senior High School's Poetry Slam contest. Mrs. Willis served as guest poet and Ms. Medley served as a judge.

Our Youth and Young Adult Initiative also featured activities with local youth who assisted with Mrs. Retta's 2022 Health-Wealth Fairs, hiking near the Forest Park waterfall, and several others. There are six dedicated youth working with initiative lead Ms. Medley, including Byronica Harris, Ronasia Harris, Raymond Smith, Devonte Morgan, Tayden Goodwin, Tayla Goodwin and Sincere Simmons.

Mission Statement

To promote program support, educational outreach and public awareness of East Saint Louis, Illinois' history to its citizens, researchers and visitors.

Vision

The Society will create educational programming for the community and visitors to include exhibits, workshops, lectures, hands-on crafting, tours, artistic performances, and sporting events. The Society will engage the community in cultural observances, motivational speaking, fundraisers, and contests. The Society will work collaboratively with other community centric organizations for community events.



Celebrate Black History Month in the Learning Resource Center with legendary East St. Louis historian Reginald Petty.

You can help by Joining Our Mission

If you would like to support the East St. Louis Historical Society by making annual or one-time monetary contributions, we have several ways for you to do so, including postal mail and PayPal.

Checks or money orders may be made out to the East St. Louis Historical Society and mailed to:

P.O. Box 641
East St. Louis, IL 62202

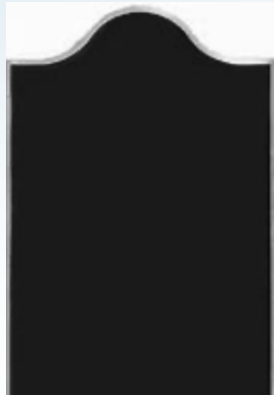
Members of the Historical Society make annual donations to the organization at one of the following levels -

- Friend** (\$15—\$99)
- Supporter** (\$100—\$399)
- Gallery** (\$400 - \$699)
- Exhibition** (\$700—\$999)
- Curator** (\$1000 and above)



2022 Scholarship Presentations

The Society advertised three \$1,000.00 memorial scholarships to citizens of East St. Louis. Mr. Keith Kimbrow, II received the Jerome Harris memorial scholarship. Keith attends Tuskegee University and is majoring in architecture. Ms. Ke'Aujanee Lewis received the Robert Gill memorial scholarship. Ke'Aujanee attends Kentucky State University and is majoring in nursing. Mr. Damien Ross received the Charmaine Savage memorial scholarship. Damien attends Kentucky State University and is majoring in medical studies. Jerome Harris and Robert 'Bob' Gill were original board members of the Society who passed away in 2022. Charmaine Savage was a member of the 1917 Centennial Commission and Cultural Initiative and co-founder of I Am EstL, The Magazine. She passed away in 2019.



In 2022, the Society received a grant from the Illinois State Historical Society to assist in the purchase of an historical marker commemorating the 1917 riot in East St. Louis. The marker is set to be installed at the Wyvetter H. Younge Higher Education Center campus in the spring of 2023.



The Society received a generous grant from Illinois Humanities to assist in our endeavors in 2022. This made it possible for the Society to partner with I Am ESTL, The Magazine, to purchase a one-year subscription of the magazine for each elementary, middle school and high school in the city. The issues will be placed in each library for the youth to read and learn more about the outstanding citizens of the city.

East St. Louis Historical Society

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Facebook: [@East St. Louis Historical Society](https://www.facebook.com/@East-St.-Louis-Historical-Society)

Website: estlhistoricalsociety.org (under construction)