

Aging in Place: Black Perspectives (held Feb 8, 2022)

Aging in place refers to the ability to live in one’s own home and community safely, independently, and comfortably, regardless of age, income, or ability level, and this session centers the perspectives of senior people of African descent in their own words. In a roundtable session, individuals from several areas including Black history, arts, educational, and activist organizations will share stories of how they’ve made a place called home in New England and how they've navigated living in the region including the hopes, challenges and dreams they have for themselves and future generations. Their stories help interweave longer histories of regional, labor, and seasonal migration, the work of maintaining family connections and political presence as citizens, and what it takes to define themselves and the “Black community.”

PANELISTS



Bobbie D. Bagley, MS, MPH, RN, CPH is the Director of the City of Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Services, which operates in the role of Chief Public Health Strategist for the Greater Nashua Public Health Region the first accredited health department in New Hampshire. Before returning to work at the local public health department for the City of Nashua, Bobbie was the Director of the Public Health Undergraduate and Graduate Programs at Rivier University. She is a preceptor for MS Students in the Nursing Leadership Program and provides preceptorship for medical students at the NE School of Osteopathic Medical with Southern NH Medical Center. Bobbie is a member of several boards and commissions including the NH Children's Health Foundation Board, and the NH Charitable Foundation Regional Advisory Board. Bobbie strongly believes without the context of culture there is no prevention and embodies this belief in all of her work.



Kelvin Edwards hails from Alabama and has lived in the Seacoast for decades where he's proudly raised a family with his wife Royaline. Mr. Edwards earned a degree from Tennessee State and was a Hydraulic Systems Engineer and Program Manager at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard until his retirement. He was a former member of the Kittery Planning Board, former Vice President of the Seacoast NAACP, and was one of the founding members of both the Seacoast African American Cultural Center (SAACC) and the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail (now the Black Heritage Trail of NH). He still serves as a SAACC Board Member and Trustee of one of the longest-standing majority-Black churches in NH, New Hope Baptist.



Dr. Dottie R. Morris, is the Associate Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, Keene State College and is a member of the Keene State College President's Cabinet. Dottie has worked with undergraduate and graduate students in the capacity of counselor, teacher, and academic advisor. Her main foci are providing support and direction to the Executive, Academic, Student Affairs, Advancement and Finance and Planning divisions of the college as the institution works to fulfill its commitment to diversity and multiculturalism. Dr. Morris is actively engaged in numerous racial justice initiatives throughout New Hampshire and Vermont.



Deo Mwano is the business owner of Deo Mwano Consultancy (DMC) which offers services for education and workforce success through diversity and inclusion strategies. He grew up in Manchester after fleeing political unrest 20 years ago in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo. Deo earned his BA in International Relations and History and an MBA in Strategic Leadership. He has worked for the Federal Government, State Department, non-profits, educational institutions and tech startups- EdTech and IOT Security Management.