



Beyond the Deliberation: Resources for Continued Engagement on Local Legacies of Slavery

One of the key deliberative dispositions that the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI) has identified is an “action orientation.” While dialogue and deliberation are themselves important contributors to a healthy democracy, they become even more valuable when they lead to shared agreement on key issues and an intentional commitment to take either individual or collective action on them.

Such action can come in a range of forms and should be broadly understood. It might involve issuing a set of recommendations or deciding to support a particular policy. It might also manifest as developing a better understanding of a topic, connecting with relevant local or national organizations, participating in continued discussions, or generating new approaches to engaging with the issue.

To support such an orientation, the DCI shares a series of “action pathways” for participants to consider after each event or activity it sponsors. Please see the pathways below related to the topic of “**Local Legacies of Slavery**” Engaging in these activities is voluntary -- participants are free to choose any of the pathways, or none. But we encourage you to at least consider them as options that can build on the conversation you just had with your fellow deliberative citizens.

Get informed:

Understanding the histories of slavery and its relationship to colleges:

- This APM Reports (a non-partisan investigative journalism organization) article, "[Shackled Legacy](#)" provides a more brief overview of the legacies of slavery that are present across U.S. college campuses today.
- If you're looking for an in-depth, comprehensive guide to the history of colleges and slavery, read [Ebony and Ivy: Race, Slavery and the Troubled History of America's Universities](#) by Craig Steven Wilder.

Exploring the ideas for reconciliation on U.S. college campuses:

- Read the American Association of University Professors' article, "[Higher Education's Reckoning with Slavery](#)", an excellent introduction to the work being done around reconciliation, including what has been most successful and what has struggled to work.

- Look at this compilation of articles through the Chronicle of Higher Education about [Reckoning With Slavery](#).
- Read Inside Higher Ed's opinion piece by John Thelin, "[Colleges and Racial Reckoning](#)", which gives some historical context to the racism and legacies of slavery on college campuses.

Doing the work of reconciliation:

- Explore the work at UVA through their public research website, the "[President's Commission on Slavery and the University](#)" and their over five years of research and work on the topic.
- University of Alabama's project on reconciliation, now run by Dr. Green who is at Davidson College this year, is also working to explore their legacy of slavery. You can see a brief overview [here](#) and see Dr. Green's work through gallery images [here](#) and The Hallowed Grounds Project [here](#).

Get Connected:

- Explore the City of Charlotte's [Legacy Commission](#).
- Connect with Davidson College's [Commission on Race and Slavery](#).

Get involved:

- Check out the Stories (Yet) to be Told initiative through Davidson College that looks at collective and individual storytelling. You can find their Instagram [here](#) and their website [here](#).
- Students can apply for a Stories Yet to be Told grant (funded by the Mellon foundation) [here](#). Grant applications are currently being accepted on a rolling basis.
- Explore the photos from the Van Every/Smith Art Galleries at Davidson College Exhibit piece "[Dixie's Land](#)" about the Confederate song and its ties to the south today.
- Watch "[Reconciling Davidson College's Slave Past: Why Scipio Torrence and Hiram Potts Matter](#)", a talk given by Dr. Hilary Green about the work being done by herself and others to understand the lives formerly enslaved college employees, such as Scipio Torrence and Hiram Potts.

About This Guide

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The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative

The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI) is dedicated to the creation of opportunities for Davidson students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the wider community to productively engage with one another on difficult and contentious issues facing our community and society. The DCI regularly hosts facilitated deliberations on a wide range of topics and organizes training workshops for deliberation facilitators. To learn more about these opportunities, visit www.deliberativecitizenship.org.

DCI Deliberation Guides

The DCI has launched this series of Deliberation Guides as a foundation for such conversations. They provide both important background information on the topics in question and a specific framework for engaging with these topics. The Guides are designed to be informative without being overwhelming and structured without being inflexible. They cover a range of topics and come in a variety of formats but share several common elements, including opportunities to commit to a shared set of Conversation Agreements, learn about diverse perspectives, and reflect together on the conversation and its yield. The DCI encourages conversations based on these guides to be moderated by a trained facilitator. After each conversation, the DCI also suggests that its associated Pathways Guide be distributed to the conversation's participants.

DCI Pathways Guides

For every Deliberation Guide, the DCI has also developed an associated Pathways Guide, which outlines opportunities for action that participants can consider that are related to the covered topic. These Pathways Guides reinforce the DCI's commitment to an action orientation, a key deliberative disposition. While dialogue and deliberation are themselves important contributors to a healthy democracy, they become even more valuable when they lead to individual or collective action on the key issues facing society. Such action can come in a range of forms and should be broadly understood. It might involve developing a better understanding of a topic, connecting with relevant local or national organizations, generating new approaches to an issue, or deciding to support a particular policy.

If you make use of this guide in a deliberation, please provide attribution to the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative and email dci@deliberativecitizenship.org to tell us about your event. To access more of our growing library of Deliberation Guides, Pathways Guides and other resources, visit www.deliberativecitizenship.org/readings-and-resources.