



Executive Action Sheet for Senate Legislation

- Senate Bill 331- **036**
 Resolution 331-

I, Sydney Thayer, President of the Student Assembly of William & Mary do hereby:

- Approve
 Veto

The Student Assembly Senate Legislation: **7th Annual Sankofa Gala Act**

Sydney Thayer

President, 331st Student Assembly (23-24)

DATE: **12/6/23**

331th Student Assembly,
Senate Bill 331-036

A Bill

A Student Assembly sponsored event to promote the history of African-American individuals on campus as well promote the gathering and fostering of relationships between students in the Black community

The Seventh Annual Sankofa Gala Act

An Act of the 331th Student Assembly of William & Mary,

Sponsored by Senator Daniel A. Bess ('24) and Senator Soleil Garnett ('24)

Supported by Secretary of Diversity Initiatives Oscar Lazo ('25)

WHEREAS, the College of William and Mary has expressed its dedication to diversity initiatives and programming that allows the College to compensate for historical wrongs it has perpetrated against African-Americans through both direct action and complacency;

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time for all Americans, especially African-Americans, to celebrate the contributions, cultural impact, innovation, and sociopolitical presence of the Black community despite continuing efforts by majority groups to oppress, marginalize and discriminate against them;

WHEREAS, the past six iterations of the Sankofa Gala have created a sense of unity and spirit of rejoicing for William & Mary students during Black History Month, embodying the spirit of Sankofa, of reaching back and remembering the past in reverence and celebration;

WHEREAS, In the spirit of Sankofa we aim to acknowledge the past and its significant events while also educating the broader community as a collective and creating meaningful steps for progress into the future;

WHEREAS, This formal black-tie event will allow African-American students to come together at a lavish event to celebrate their presence and accomplishments especially their advocacy as well as providing an environment for African-American students to not dwell on being judged and they can be their true authentic selves around their Black peers with great food and music;

WHEREAS, Culturally for African-American students great food, music, and deep conversations are the foundation of the community and how they establish lasting relationships;

WHEREAS, The Sixth Annual Sankofa Gala had approximately 400 students and we expect that number to increase;

WHEREAS, We hope the Seventh Annual Sankofa Gala will foster lasting relationships for African-American students and show a small portion of our full appreciation of their contributions to the William and Mary Community.

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Student Assembly of William & Mary:

1. Allocates \$8,150 from the Student Assembly Reserves for the Seventh Annual Sankofa Gala, to be held in February, accordingly:
 - a. \$6700 for Catering & Food
 - b. \$600 for DJ Fees
 - c. \$500 for Event Decorations
 - d. \$300 for Photography and Media
 - e. \$50 for Flyers
2. Charges the sponsors of the bill with executing and planning this event in conjunction with the Department of Diversity Initiatives.
3. Charges the members of the Senate of Student Assembly to share posts advertising the Seventh Annual Sankofa Gala on Instagram and other channels of social media, and/or assist the Department of Outreach in hanging flyers/posters/other physical advertisements on campus.
4. Encourages the members of the Student Assembly to attend the event in order to connect with the broader Black student community at William & Mary and to reinforce Student Assembly's commitment to diversity & inclusion initiatives and efforts.
5. Encourages the members of the Student Assembly to volunteer for the event in order to help alleviate work for an underrepresented community.
6. Stipulates that all unused funds be returned to the Student Assembly Reserves.