



THE ALEXANDRIA ORAL HISTORY CENTER  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA  
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA



# Oral History Interview

with

## Vicky Seeley

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**Interviewer:** *Francesco De Salvatore*

**Narrator:** *Vicky Seeley*

**Location of Interview:**

*Lloyd House, 220 N Washington St, Alexandria, VA 22314*

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**Transcriber:** *Terilee Edwards-Hewitt*

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### **Summary:**

*Vicky Seeley reflects on her experiences traveling with the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project to Montgomery, Alabama in October 2022. She also discusses growing up in Brooklyn, New York, attending the University of Alabama, and her perspective of Alexandria, Virginia.*

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<b>General</b>	Alexandria Community Remembrance Project; Freedom Riders; Civil Rights Movement
<b>People</b>	Martin Luther King, Jr.; Freedom Riders
<b>Places</b>	Alexandria, Virginia; Brooklyn, New York; Montgomery, Alabama

VICKY SEELEY: 00:05	This is Vicky Seeley. I'm 63 years old. Today is November 8th, 2022, and I'm here at the Lloyd House.
Francesco De Salvatore:	I'm Francesco De Salvatore and it's November 8th, 2022. And I'm with Vicky here at, did we say Lloyd House? We're at Lloyd House. So I want to start with, you know, why did you decide to be a part of ACRP [Alexandria Community Remembrance Project]?
<b>Getting Involved with Alexandria's Community Remembrance Project</b>	
Vicky Seeley: 00:36	Well, I actually found out about the project very late, and I think I found out about it in August, this summer, like this summer that it was actually a thing. I had no idea that this was the project. I was aware of the Equal Justice Initiative, but I didn't know that Alexandria was actually like really into it and had been working on it for years. So when I saw the Connection Alexandria [newspaper] to Equal Justice Initiative, I was like, okay, I'm in. I just want to participate. I want to see what my City is doing. So that's that's how I got involved.
Francesco De Salvatore:	Great. So when was the first time you participated in, like ACRP related?
<b>The Soil Dedication Ceremony</b>	
VICKY SEELEY:	Okay. The first thing I participated in when they had the soil, I guess you call it the soil dedication ceremony. I went to that and that, that was really moving to me. And that's when I knew that this was the real deal as far as what the City was committing to. I know I read about the City being involved for years in getting this off the ground and actually making it happen. But when I saw that soil ceremony and so many people just gathered to acknowledge these two young men, and it was, it was just very touching. And I knew, okay, I definitely have to commit to this, to the full thing.
Francesco De Salvatore:	Yeah. You said it's the real deal. What do you mean by that?
VICKY SEELEY:	Yeah. Well, a lot of times organizations, communities, they'll say we really want to make a difference. We really want to commit to acknowledging history, our history. And from that acknowledgment, to take it even further to where we're actually engaged and doing things for the people of the community based on what we know about our history. So like a lot of times you see the just lip service or some kind of performance. But I felt like when I went to that the soil dedication ceremony, the people were really serious about it, that they wanted something to come out of it. They will—the reverence for what had happened in Alexandria was just so

	strong to me that I knew that they, they were going to continue, it wasn't just a performance. It wasn't just lip service. It was something actual that was going to happen. Yeah.
Francesco De Salvatore:	Yeah. Could you walk us through like what, how did that feel for you?
VICKY SEELEY:	It felt, I felt kind of grateful that it was happening. And I felt, um, I was, I was a little happy. But I guess the word might should be bittersweet in a way, because it was a sad occasion that we had to acknowledge such a terrible event. But at the same time, the fact that we were acknowledging it, that that made me feel good. But again, it was such a horrific event that was going on around our nation during that time, like the same way we just kind of walked to the store young men and women and children were getting lynched. So to acknowledge that and to acknowledge that our City was a part of that. But at the same time, it was sad, but the acknowledgment was really powerful to me. So it was kind of bittersweet, but I was so happy that it was happening at the same time.
Francesco De Salvatore:	Yeah. And so what happened after that event, is that when you decided to go?
<b>Inspiration from the Freedom Riders on How to Participate</b>	
VICKY SEELEY:	Yeah, that's when I decided to commit to going. I had no idea what the pilgrimage would entail at first and but then I saw you could either take the bus or fly. And originally I was like, I'll just fly. It's a long bus ride and I don't even know anyone. But then I thought, I actually thought about the Freedom Riders. And I thought about I should have something similar to that experience. Like how they rode the bus from the north to the south. And I kind of thought about what their experience would have been, what they would have felt, what they would have been thinking about. And I said, I think it would be good for me to take this this journey on this bus instead of just flying down. It would definitely be something, a different experience for me. And with the Freedom Riders in mind, I felt like I couldn't lose.
Francesco De Salvatore:	What, what put you in that place to even think of that?
<b>Attending the University of Alabama</b>	
VICKY SEELEY:	Well, to be honest, I often find myself in a place where I'm thinking about history. Well, I'm thinking about what came before me to get to get to this point in time. So that's, that's not unusual for me at all, because I've—I went to college at the University of Alabama, which was after it had, you know, there was a long struggle for the University of Alabama to become integrated. And actually, my

		class was about the third or fourth class of minority students at the school. So I always have that kind of history in the back of my mind. And, and just a little bit about myself and my family history. The reason why I looked at the University of Alabama was because my parents were part of that great migration from the south to the north. They ended up in Brooklyn, New York when I was about two. I was a toddler, 2 or 3 years old. They, they made that journey. And so I always kind of had an eye on going back to Alabama.
Francesco Salvatore:	De	Yeah.
VICKY SEELEY:		But only for college. Like I thought about Tuskegee, a historically Black university. I thought I might go there. But then the more I learned about the history of the University of Alabama, I said, wait a minute. I got I got to show up at this school. You know, I got to do what I can. If, if they're finally allowing Black students to attend, I think I should be one of the Black students to attend. So I did that. But again, I've always found myself mindful of history, of what came before me, who came before me, my family's history and where I want to be, the mark I want to make.
Francesco Salvatore:	De	Wow, so yeah. Really quick, what year did you go to university?
VICKY SEELEY:		My freshman year was 1977. Yeah. 1977.
Francesco Salvatore:	De	Third class?
VICKY SEELEY:		Yeah. Third or fourth class. Yeah, that would be. It was, you know, it was a struggle in the [19] sixties and then they finally started letting folks in on the regular in the seventies. Yeah. And it was still a very odd experience to be on campus and to be a minority student.
Francesco Salvatore:	De	So yeah. So you said that you were always interested in history. What do you what do you think that comes from?
VICKY SEELEY:		Oh, I'm not really sure. Although getting back to the University of Alabama, I took a history course and I remember for the first time, I started hearing about history that I never learned about. And of course, it was on the college level. But then I was thinking, well, why don't we just know these things anyway, you know? Why do we have to wait until you're on the college level to know what happened in Jamestown or, you know, how the enslaved people played a role, or how the Indians felt? Native Americans have played a role in the founding of the country and even onward. So that kind of I think that kind of tickled my interest. But I again, I've always had, I enjoyed the documentaries as a child. So reading the newspapers, you know, growing up in New York, there was always something going on. And we, my parents would always get the morning newspaper and the evening newspaper, and we'd just read it like that. The news, we'd watch the news all the time. So during the sixties and the seventies, there was so much going on

	and I just found it fascinating. I found the history of our country, what was going on just so fascinating and especially during it, race relations were a topic.
Francesco De Salvatore:	Were there any stories that your parents talked about growing up, about--?
<b>Her parent's decision to move from Alabama in the 1960s</b>	
VICKY SEELEY:	My mother likes to talk about how when she was housed, my grandfather told her that she couldn't participate in the civil rights movement because it was too dangerous. She was the oldest of 9 siblings and my grandfather told her that there was no way that he let her participate in the civil rights movement because again, because it was just too dangerous. That was the time when the dogs were being, you know, the sheriff was setting dogs on children. But my mother had a very rebellious, rebellious streak in her and even more so than my father. And so I think she knew that she had to leave Birmingham if my grandfather told her not to participate. My father was kind of reluctant to get involved. You know, they met as teenagers, so they kind of came up together. But it was my mother who probably would have put herself the most, put herself in the most danger if she had stayed in Birmingham. So my grandfather kind of encouraged them, the young couple to take the child and leave. So she likes to talk about that.
Francesco De Salvatore:	Hmm. And so your grandfather stayed?
VICKY SEELEY:	Yeah, he stayed. He stayed because, you know, he growing up in the segregated south was just something he knew how to navigate. And he still had, you know, young children that he was taking, you know, him and my grandmother were taking care of. So they, you know, they were set to stay there, even though there was there was, there was several incidents during the course of both my grandparents lives that you would think that they would have left the south. But they endured it. They raised, they stayed. They raised their family.
<b>Visiting Alabama Growing Up</b>	
Francesco De Salvatore:	Mm hmm. So would you go back to visit your grandfather?
VICKY SEELEY:	Yeah, I was, I'm very close, well was, they've passed now. But I was very close to my family in the south. My aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, very close. We were the only ones who lived in, who moved to New York. And so we would, when we got old enough, my mother would let us go spend the summers in Birmingham. So yeah, so we were, we were very close and we got to spend a few holidays with them. We were very connected. My grandmother would come up when my mother was pregnant and would have my 2 younger brothers. She'd come up and stay with us for a minute. So yeah.
Francesco De Salvatore:	What are some of your memories of going back?

VICKY SEELEY:	Going back? I tell you the, my biggest memory, I guess, from a child was just how hot it was there. There were two things that stood out to me: that it was so hot and that every everyone seemed to be either Black or White. There wasn't, there weren't much of a mix of cultures or anything. It was either everyone was either Black or either White. And, and those were the 2 things that stood out to me. And, and looking at Alabama, they didn't have much of a fashion sense. But other than that.
Francesco De Salvatore:	So it was different in Brooklyn.
VICKY SEELEY:	Oh, my gosh. Yes. [laughs] Yes. I actually cried for days when my mom, when my parents announced that we were going to move back to Alabama. That was like my senior year in high school.
Francesco De Salvatore:	Oh wow.
VICKY SEELEY:	Yeah. Yeah. So my mother had had enough of New York.
Francesco De Salvatore:	Why was different?
<b>Growing Up in New York</b>	
VICKY SEELEY:	Why was New York different than Alabama? For me, it was just the well, first of all, it was like the freedom that young people can have in New York. You can just hop on the subway and the busses. The transportation system would take you all over the city. And I remember traveling with my friends at [age] 12. We, you know, catch the subway down to Manhattan. We lived in Brooklyn. We'd go to Manhattan for the movies and different things. So really, it was just the freedom and also the ability to interact with people who didn't look like you. I mean, I was very familiar with the Jewish, I always pronounce it, Hasidic, yes, I was very familiar with their community. Yeah. Just the freedom and just the opportunity to meet so many different people in different cultures. The food, you know, Chinese food, slices of pizza, street food, just, it was just a different vibe. Just a totally different vibe. Everything in Alabama was very, well they didn't have much freedom because you always had to depend on your parents to drive you somewhere or, you know, it was just, just so different. Just real different.
Francesco De Salvatore:	Yeah. So I mean, you fast forward to, you know, a month ago.
VICKY SEELEY:	Yeah.
Francesco De Salvatore:	Yeah. Going back to Alabama.

VICKY SEELEY:		Yeah.
Francesco Salvatore:	De	How do you feel like, I mean, obviously it was different. It's a different year. But how is it different going back this time?
VICKY SEELEY:		For the pilgrimage it was different because I felt like I was an extension of the history from the Freedom Riders. I was in, I was doing something a little bit more after the fact, after what happened with them. I was able to take this bus trip, but more as a way to honor the people who were involved in the civil rights movement. And the people who died for no good reasons, basically were the people who suffered and died. But now I'm going for something more, to honor their time, their experience. So it was more of an extension.
Francesco Salvatore:	De	That's cool. Are there any memories from the bus ride?
<b>The Bus Ride During the ACRP [Alexandria Community Remembrance Project] Pilgrimage</b>		
VICKY SEELEY:		Oh, yeah. I will tell you, I my husband and I would often drive down Alabama, back and forth. But the bus was quite different than from being like just in your own vehicle. I kind of got to see and look out and see the scenery more, experienced it more. Because when I wasn't driving, I'd be napping usually. But because I was on the bus, I was awake more and I would just look and see. And it kind of struck me that the South is really so underdeveloped. And so I got a new appreciation for the road travel, the [interstate] 85, 95, 85. And because I just noticed more on the on the bus trip and the fact that we stopped in places that I probably wouldn't ever stop, at the truck stop. [laughs] And yeah, so it was that kind of experience that we actually got to see more of the people of South Carolina and, you know, the other parts of Virginia. Because I realized, too, that once you leave Northern Virginia, it's a whole 'nother, it's different, things are different.
Francesco Salvatore:	De	And what's different?
VICKY SEELEY:		It just seems like things are less developed and there's less inclusion of other people. It's like, again—but now I know the South is changing because I see more, I see different races and religions coming up in the South, but it's still like it's just 2022, but it just still feels like it's just the beginning of change. [unclear] A change that's been occurring for well, 70 years or so, you know, but it still feels like it's just the beginnings.
Francesco Salvatore:	De	Yeah. Mm hmm. Are there moments from that when you actually got there, that was surprising to you? I mean it sounds like the trip down there, you were surprised by how underdeveloped.



VICKY SEELEY:	Yeah. Yeah. Along the way.
Francesco De Salvatore:	Once you arrive in Montgomery.
<b>Impressions of Montgomery, Alabama</b>	
VICKY SEELEY:	Once I arrived in Montgomery, I was impressed with the fact that they're using the history of Montgomery to try to bring, as a tourist attraction. So and I kind of thought about that and I felt like, well, I guess it's the way you do it, because it's really tragedy. But at the same, what happened in Montgomery, when you look at the boycott, the Freedom Riders, just the whole fight. The struggle during the civil rights movement, you have to do it right, you have to honor it. And I felt that Montgomery was making that effort. So I was kind of surprised about that, that they were making the effort. And I felt it was kind of succeeding, especially with the Equal Justice Initiative, with the museum being there. And then I didn't know there were so many other smaller museums like the Rosa Parks Museum, the Freedom Riders' Museums. So I went to those and I said, yeah, this is this is nice, they're honoring it. They're not just saying, come take a look, you know, like a freak show or something, you know, this is like some crazy thing that happened in American history. No, there was a certain reverence to it all, so I was pleased with that.
Francesco De Salvatore:	Yeah. What are the things that you learned that you didn't know?
VICKY SEELEY:	What did I learn that I didn't know? Oh, I went to The Mothers of Gynecology [Monument], I went to that site. There were different sites we could go to, and I went to that site. And actually, the reason why I was interested in it, because I know from my family history that we have a history of midwives in my family. And yeah, midwives, and my grandfather was like an orderly. And then my mother became a nurse and my aunts became nurses. So we, we were involved in kind of women's health issues and so I wanted to go to that site. And I learned about how those young women, enslaved women were used, kind of experimented on, to come up with what we know now about the female body, I guess. So that's something that I learned. That was something that I didn't really know.
Francesco De Salvatore:	Yeah. Was there anything else?
VICKY SEELEY:	That I didn't know? I think though like I knew about things, like I knew about the going across the bridge in Selma. But what was nice was actually meeting the people who actually experienced it and taking us to the churches and the projects where the kids grew up at and then decided to stand up for freedom. So I will say there were things I knew about it, the history, but it was really, really nice to see the people and have them talk about it. And because I met this older gentleman, he's really old, at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. He's from there. He was one of the children who went across the bridge that day. And he was dressed up in his nice

		Sunday suit and he's real elderly, and I said, "Sir, what are you doing out here?" you know? And he was like, I come here, he said, I come here every day and I pray for forgiveness of those people who attacked us on the bridge. And that just blew me away. He said, yeah, I come here every day. And yeah, he said he prays that God will forgive those people who attacked them on the bridge that day. I said, you come here every day? He said, yeah, I come every day. Yeah. Okay.
Francesco Salvatore:	De	Yeah. What do you think about that?
<b>The Need for Forgiveness</b>		
VICKY SEELEY:		Well, I have to say, he's a better man than I would have been as a woman. I think I would have prayed for forgiveness is some point given just given my Catholic background. That's just something that we're taught to do. But I think that I would have found it hard to keep them, their suffering, the people who attacked the, the people on the bridge, to keep their suffering in the forefront of my thoughts. I would have just naturally gravitated towards the people who were on the bridge, who were attacked, by the people who attacked them. But this man did something different. He was like, they need forgiveness, too. Well, they need forgiveness, period. So he embraced that, and I don't think I would've; I would have asked that God forgive them for that sin, but I probably would not have stayed, you know, continued to do that. I would have probably did it a few times and then focused on the people who were attacked.
Francesco Salvatore:	De	Yeah. Yeah. Were there things in the trip that were, like, difficult for you? Challenging to experience or learn about?
<b>Attending the ACRP [Alexandria's Community Remembrance Project] with Others</b>		
VICKY SEELEY:		I tell you, it was the first time that I remember going through this experience with people who weren't of my same race, like, to go through this experience with people who were White, White males, White females. And to wonder, so sometimes I find myself wondering, are they really getting what happened? And, on just a human level, you know, not necessarily the exact data points, but just as a human, on a human level, that this is something that was really tragic that happened to people, and we're trying to acknowledge it and, you know, have a memorial towards it. But at the same time, I wondered, do they feel, do they feel guilty coming from the White race or do they just kind of that was them, those people. And I never asked anyone. I probably should have. That would have been a good time to ask that. But I did wonder about that, how were they, how are they feeling about the experience? But I know, I never asked, and it wasn't that I didn't want to know, I just didn't know, how to ask that kind of question, like, are you do you feel guilty or no, or how are you? How is this experience for you? That was the only thing I think I wished I would have asked some people.
Francesco Salvatore:	De	Why was that challenging or difficult?

VICKY SEELEY:	Well, first of all, I didn't know them that well. I didn't know any of them. So I didn't want to ask, well, you know, one thing my grandmother always said is don't ask a question that you're not ready to have all kinds of responses to, you know, all kinds of answers to. So you have to be ready to have all kinds of responses, like maybe not just the one you want from someone. So I guess in a way, I didn't know what kind of response I would get by asking that question, because I didn't know the group that well. Like, say, people I know a little better, I would know, you know, I'd feel more comfortable asking them that kind of question.
Francesco De Salvatore:	Yeah, no, I'm glad you brought that up. I feel like my next question is sort of what, and it relates to it, like what, what would you change about the trip?
<b>What Would She Changes about the ACRP [Alexandria Community Remembrance Project] Pilgrimage</b>	
VICKY SEELEY:	I think it was a lot to, there was, it was a lot. It was a lot of emotional things as far as, any person hates, I would think, they hate to see people suffering so, and it was a lot of suffering, you know, during the trip for those three days, you got to see a lot of suffering and uh, even the historic figures, like when you look at Dr. King and we went to his house, but his house had been firebombed. So basically him and his young family were terrorized. And I think that often during the trip, you'd probably at least, well, I found myself putting myself in the shoes of the people that we were, you know, just like they said of Freedom Riders, Dr. King, the people from the diaspora, when you went through the museum, they had a particular artwork that just kind of put you on that ship, that slave ship [at The Legacy Museum.] So those kind of things, I think it's really heavy, it's really emotional just to see that much suffering over 3 days. So I think that that was the only thing. And even though there was allowed time to talk to each other at the end, I think you're just so emotionally exhausted that, you know, it's just hard to. So I think I probably would have had a little less education, so to speak, and a little more, let's just get together and talk about what we've seen so far. Maybe out of the three days, like one day where we didn't have as much exposure to the suffering.
Francesco De Salvatore:	Yeah.
VICKY SEELEY:	Although exposure to suffering, I think, is important, because I think that when people are uncomfortable, that's really when change can occur. You know, if things are kind of, oh, that wasn't so bad, then you're like, you know, you don't want to, I would think, don't necessarily want to devote the time and energy to changing something that seemed like it wasn't that big a deal. But when you look at it and you think about the generations of people, then you're like, you know, we got to do better going forward. This was really horrific and it was not good for us as a nation.
Francesco De Salvatore:	Yeah. And like, how should we do better? Yeah. From your, from your perspective.

VICKY SEELEY:	I have to be honest, I just think that some way somehow we have to get to the point where we just respect each other. I think that's the biggest word. I know that coming from Christian backgrounds, people like to say, well, love is kind of the answer and loving thy neighbor and loving each other. But I think in looking at history, that love is kind of easy to dismiss because it kind of requires you to be almost on a certain intimate level with people, I think. And so if you can't get to that level you like, you can you can easily throw love out, to me. But respect? If we would just get to a level, get to the point where we respect each other as human beings, as American citizens, like we're all together. Just respect, and I'm not, like you don't have to do anything, but just don't harm me. Don't try to stop me from living my life the way I want to live it or love who I want to love. Because I think that's respect. I respect who you are. I respect what you're doing. I'm not going to bother you. I think that's where we have to get as a nation, and in a way that may be harder than love, I don't know. But I think that when we ask people to love, when we take the Christian value of loving thy neighbor, love, love, love, I don't think we can get there. I think that some ways respect is hard to get to. But if we come, if we just start with that, that I'm going to respect every person that I encounter, no matter how they look or what they're doing or whatever. I think that'll go a long way.
Francesco De Salvatore:	Why do you think loves not possible?
VICKY SEELEY:	Again, because I think with love, it takes a certain level of intimacy or connection. And it's too easy to dismiss people who don't look like you or don't act like you. How do you, where's the connection going to come? Where's the level of intimacy going to come? Yeah, how do you create it? You know, but I say with respect, well, I'm just going to respect you because you're a human being. You know, if we can just start there. You're human. I'm human. You know, I'm just going to start there. I'm going to respect you. I'm going to respect, you know, that's it.
Francesco De Salvatore:	How do you think more respect can be created in Alexandria?
<b>Creating Respect in Alexandria</b>	
VICKY SEELEY:	I think we should have occasions where we come together because Alexandria, I find, is very diverse for lack of another word. So when we come together, we show respect towards each other. And we put that in everything, when we're making policy, when we're creating whatever we create in Alexandria, we should do it from a perspective of, I respect all Alexandrians. [laughs] You know, I respect everyone, every single person in Alexandria, every man, woman, and child. When we come together, we act respectful, and when we're not together, we act respectful. And by that I mean when we when we make policy decisions, when we decide, whatever we're going to do in Alexandria, we want to keep in mind all Alexandrians.
Francesco De Salvatore:	How long have you lived here?

VICKY SEELEY:	Like I said, I've lived here over 10 years. Maybe close to 15. I lose count, yeah, but I never, like I said, I've never gotten involved with the community because of, you know, I just always, actually I travel a lot. But what happened with the pandemic, I couldn't travel. So I had to stay and deal with where I live. I'm always looking for my next adventure somewhere else.
Francesco De Salvatore:	So when you were forced to stay and you said deal with your home.
VICKY SEELEY:	Yeah. Right.
Francesco De Salvatore:	What was that like?
<b>The Positives of Alexandria</b>	
VICKY SEELEY:	I actually enjoyed the fact that I got to, that I'm committed to spending some time just kind of looking around, seeing who all are the people in Alexandria, and I realized, man, this reminds me of Brooklyn. You know, there's just so many different faiths. There's so many different cultures. There's so many different socioeconomic groups here. And that's what I really like too, because whenever my husband and I, during my travels, we decide where we're going to live, because of, you know, the military. I always like to live somewhere, I mean, we could probably live in places where a higher socioeconomic population lives. But we always kind of choose to live kind of in the middle. And that's what we enjoy because we want to see as many diverse cultures and experiences as we can. We're not, like, trying to be isolated. And that's what I like about Alexandria that people do kind of come together. I mean, you can stay in your community, but your community probably butts up against a community that's so different than your community. That's what I noticed about Alexandria.
Francesco De Salvatore:	Hmm. What do you think are the biggest issues in Alexandria?
<b>The Biggest Issues Facing Alexandria</b>	
VICKY SEELEY:	Probably the biggest issue, I think, is going to be affordable housing. Yeah, because Alexandria has become so attractive to corporations and just is always making some top 10 lists of places to live. So it's going to attract a lot of people. But with that, you know how the market is going to get whatever it can. So I see even now that it's going to be harder to keep affordable housing and then when people have to move. One thing I like about Alexandria, like I say, is that people with a lot of money butt up against people who don't have a lot of money, but we're all kind of in this together. But I think what will happen is that our service community will end up living further out because they can't afford to live closer in Alexandria and I think that'll be a great loss for us because I think in schools, the high schools, the middle schools, the elementary schools, it needs to be just a mix of people, a mix of different socioeconomic backgrounds and things. So I think housing is key to that.

Francesco Salvatore:	De	Mmm, exactly. Yeah, that's great. Is there anything I haven't asked you that you want to?
VICKY SEELEY:		I think my biggest thing is that I want people to be able to respect each other. That's what I've gained from my little light study of history and the events that have happened in the course of our history. It's just total lack of respect for each other. And so that point, I wanted to get out. And just the fact that Alexandria is trying, the people who are in positions of authority are trying and the people who aren't in positions of authority, they get on board too because they see they matter. Everyone matters in Alexandria, and I think that's, that's pretty cool. At least that's the vibe, that's the message that I seem to get.
Francesco Salvatore:	De	Yeah. You know, a big part of going, you kept saying it was to honor the Freedom Riders.
VICKY SEELEY:		Yes, yes.
Francesco Salvatore:	De	Do you feel like they were honored?
VICKY SEELEY:		Oh, I do. I really, really do. Because a big part of the trip was educational, you know, getting people to see and hear history that they probably weren't familiar with if they knew of anything at all. So I think just that, just the fact that, you know, it's like Sandra Bland or one of the people who were killed by the police in recent years, George Floyd. It's always a thing of, say their name. Well, on this trip, maybe we didn't say everyone's name, just the two young men from Alexandria. But I think it was a say their name experience because we were there where all of these things happened and a lot of these things happened in our nation. They were part of a movement. I mean, we were there and maybe, like I said, maybe we didn't say everyone's name, but we did honor them because we were there. We learned about them. They're not forgotten. And I think that's so important with our history that we don't forget things.
Francesco Salvatore:	De	That's great. Well, before we close out, is there anything else you want to say before we—.
VICKY SEELEY:		Oh, end it? Oh, no, just thank you for the experience. I really enjoyed talking. I'm not a great talker, to be honest. But I did enjoy sharing my thoughts with you. Thoughts and feelings. And you made it very easy, very comfortable, and I do appreciate that.
Francesco Salvatore:	De	Right.