



# Experts Guide Confederate Monuments



Ed Ayers

**Ed Ayers**, history professor and president emeritus of UR, is a renowned Civil War historian. He is also a cohost for *BackStory*, a popular [podcast](#) about American history. His [award-winning](#) book, *The Thin Light of Freedom: The Civil War and Emancipation in the Heart of America* tells the story of the destruction of slavery in America after the Civil War and the political reconstruction that followed.



Julian Hayter

**Julian Hayter**, a leadership studies professor and historian, researches modern U.S. history, American political development, African American history and the American civil rights movement. He is the author of *The Dream is Lost: Voting Rights and the Politics of Race in Richmond, Virginia* and has contributed to national and local media outlets, including a recent *60 Minutes* [segment](#) broadcast about Richmond's monuments.



Lauranett Lee

**Lauranett Lee** is a visiting lecturer for the Jepson School of Leadership Studies. She is the founding curator of African American history at the Virginia Historical Society. In 2011, she worked to launch a genealogical tool called *Unknown No Longer: A Database of Virginia Slave Names*. She also consults on a variety of history projects across the commonwealth.



Nicole Maurantonio

**Nicole Maurantonio** is an associate professor of rhetoric and communication studies and American studies. Maurantonio's research explores race and representation and public memory. She is currently working on a book project that explores how the Confederacy is remembered in 21st century Richmond using art, monuments, protests, books and graffiti. She also coordinates the [Race & Racism at the University of Richmond Project](#).

*\*Hayter, Ayers and Lee all serve as Monument Avenue Commission members.*

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