

NEWS FROM THE  
SOUTH  
CAROLINA  
AFRICAN  
AMERICAN  
HERITAGE  
FOUNDATION



### MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission is to identify and promote the preservation of historic sites, structures, buildings, and culture of the African American experience in South Carolina and to assist and enhance the efforts of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.*

# Call & Response

[www.scaaheritagefound.org](http://www.scaaheritagefound.org)

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## Remembering Ward One

New Exhibit Commemorates the History of the Ward One Community in Columbia



**Pictured Above:** USC history professor and Ward One exhibit curator Dr. Bobby J. Donaldson (Right) chats with a former resident of the Columbia neighborhood during the grand opening reception at the Palmetto Compress Warehouse.

**November 21, 2019:** Historic Columbia Foundation, Columbia SC 63, and members of the Ward One community gathered to celebrate the grand opening of a new, permanent exhibit at the renovated Palmetto Compress Warehouse in downtown Columbia. The exhibit, “Remembering Ward One,” documents the story of historic Ward One, a predominantly African American community once located where much of the University of South Carolina now stands. By the 1950s, urban renewal programs designated large parts of Ward One for demolition, effectively destroying the historic landscape and forcing families and businesses to relocate. Although its structures are gone, the community retains strong ties to the “Old Ward One.” The Ward One organization and its partners curated this exhibit in hopes that new generations of residents remember those who came before them. The exhibit is free and open to the public.



# Remembering Ward One



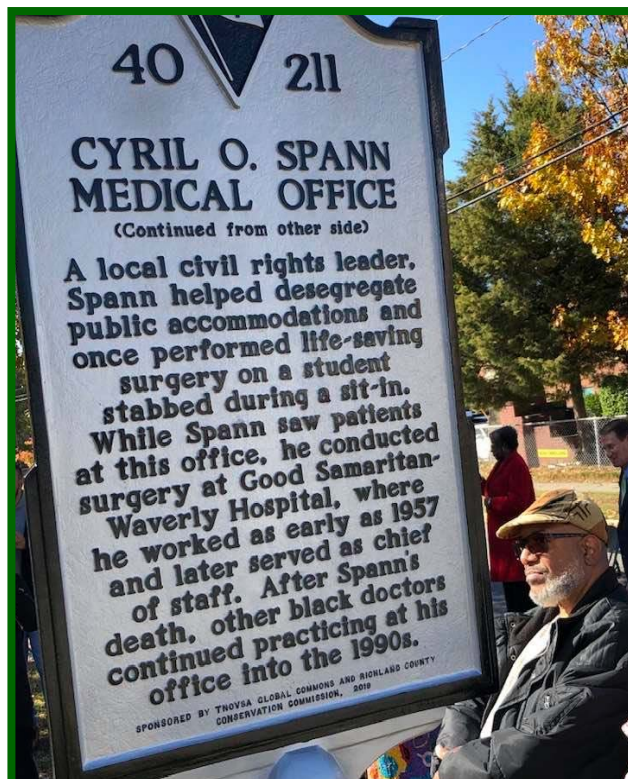
## Pictured Above:

- A. Mattie Johnson-Roberson, a former resident, civil rights activist and star athlete at Booker T. Washington High School, views a panel highlighting the importance of athletics to the social and cultural life of the Ward One community.
- B. Former Ward One residents and other attendees enjoy the new exhibit.
- C. Columbia SC 63 co-historian Jonathan Johnson shares reflections about Ward One during the unveiling ceremony.





# Preserving Our Places in History



The new historical marker honoring the life and legacy of Dr. C.O. Spann, 2228 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC.

## South Carolina Honors an African American Medical Pioneer

On November 21, 2019, SCAAHC chairperson Jannie Harriot joined numerous dignitaries and community residents to celebrate the unveiling of a historical marker honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Cyril O. Spann, his former medical office, and its connection to the history of Black medicine in South Carolina.

Dr. Spann, a native of Chester, SC, and a graduate of Benedict College and Meharry Medical College was one of the first trained Black surgeons in the state. He served as chief of staff at segregated Good Samaritan-Waverly Hospital and traveled the state performing surgeries for patients who otherwise would have been denied access to quality medical care. During the 1960s civil rights movement, Dr. Spann was one of several Columbia businessmen who donated funds to pay bail for student activists arrested during marches, sit-ins and other demonstrations.

Attendees were treated to a light reception and screening of oral histories featuring the physicians who practiced at the former Spann medical office. There was also a dedication of the Tree of Peace and Resistance honoring victims of recent mass shootings in Charleston and other cities nationwide.



### Pictured Above:

**A.** Rep. Kambrell Houston Garvin presents historian Catherine Fleming-Bruce with a concurrent resolution honoring the addition of the Dr. Cyril O. Spann Medical Office to the National Register of Historic Places.

**B.** SCAAHC chairperson Jannie Harriot offers remarks about Dr. Spann's civil rights legacy during the marker unveiling ceremony near his office on Hampton Street in downtown Columbia.



## The Life and Legacy of Dr. Cyril O. Spann

Born in Chester, Dr. Spann received degrees from Benedict College and Meharry Medical College. He also was an educator and served in the U.S. Army during World War II. In 1953, he began a residency in surgery with award-winning practitioners at Meharry and eventually returned to South Carolina after completing three years of training. After completing construction of his medical office on Hampton Street in 1963, Dr. Spann briefly closed it to earn his surgery board certification. He reopened two years later and served patients in Columbia while providing surgical services in underserved Black communities across the state.



Dr. Spann was also a fierce advocate for social justice. He was a life member of the NAACP and joined adult leaders in providing bail money for student protesters arrested during marches, sit-ins, and other civil rights demonstrations. In March 1961, he saved the life of Benedict College student activist Lennie Glover after he was stabbed by an unknown white assailant while picketing on Main Street.



Dr. Spann (Front, second from right) joins national and state NAACP leaders and student activists to celebrate the Supreme Court's ruling in *Edwards v. SC* (1963) that forbade states to criminalize the peaceful expression of unpopular views. The Columbia physician represented the bondsmen who bailed the demonstrators out of jail following the March 2, 1961 protest at the State House that inspired the lawsuit.

**Photo Courtesy of Cecil Williams**



Historic photos courtesy of Catherine Fleming-Bruce

After Dr. Spann's death in 1979, his medical office continued to be operated exclusively by African American physicians for nearly two decades. The building was recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places and will be repurposed as an education center to share the history of Black medicine in South Carolina.





## **Preserving Our Places in History**

### **SC Historical Markers Dedicated at Two Former Sites of Wilkinson High School**

A committee of former students of Orangeburg's Wilkinson High School commemorated the history and legacy of their beloved alma mater with the placement of historical markers at two former sites where the school once stood.

Built in 1937, Wilkinson High School was the first African American public high school in Orangeburg. The first facility was located on Goff Avenue. A second building was built on Belleville Road in 1953 with funds from the South Carolina school equalization program. The school was named in honor of Dr. Robert Shaw Wilkinson, beloved former president of what is now known as South Carolina State University. Dr. Wilkinson was regarded as the father of organized agricultural and vocational training for African Americans in the state.

Upon the federally mandated desegregation of South Carolina's public schools, Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School was built in 1971, combining Wilkinson High with what was then the all-white Orangeburg High School.

**Congratulations to SCAAHC Commissioner Dr. Barbara Jenkins and all who contributed to this outstanding project!**



**Pictured Above:** SCAAHC Commissioner Dr. Barbara Jenkins stands near one of the new SC historical markers commemorating the history of Wilkinson High School.

**Pictured below:** Wilkinson High School Alumni reunite to celebrate the history of their beloved alma mater.

**Photos courtesy of Terry James**







### 104TH ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 2-6, 2019 | N. CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA  
THE 2019 BLACK HISTORY THEME: BLACK MIGRATIONS

## SCAAHC Shines at ASALH!

On October 2, 2019, SCAAHC representatives proudly participated in a pre-conference workshop prior to the 104th annual meeting and conference of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) held in historic Charleston, South Carolina.

SCAAHC chairperson Jannie Harriot, 2019 Commissioner of the Year Dr. Larry Watson, and SCDAAH African American Heritage Coordinator Dr. Ramon M. Jackson highlighted the history, achievements, and importance of the organization as a model for preserving the African American experience. SCPRT Corporate Communications Director Dawn Dawson-House offered an exciting, interactive demonstration of our outstanding mobile app, *The Green Book of South Carolina*.

Later in the day, Ms. Harriot joined several scholars, museum specialists, and historians for a session, "Bridging Black Education Narratives." She and her fellow panelists shared histories of public school desegregation and noted examples of ongoing campaigns to survey, document, and preserve extant buildings that once housed segregated Black public, private, and Rosenwald schools.

**The SCAAHC expresses its sincere appreciation to ASALH for hosting such an incredible event!**





# Congratulations!!!



*The South Carolina African American Heritage Commission offers its sincere congratulations to the International African American Museum, which celebrated its groundbreaking ceremony on October 25, 2019. We excitedly await your grand opening and look forward to working by your side to preserve and promote the rich heritage of African Americans in South Carolina and the Atlantic World.*



**Expected Opening Late 2021**



# Green Book Spotlight

**Ramon M. Jackson, PhD**  
**SC African American Heritage Coordinator**

First published in 1936 by New York postal worker and entrepreneur Victor Hugo Green, the original *Negro Travelers' Green Book* was created to provide African American travelers with vital information to avoid the embarrassments, difficulties, and dangers caused by southern Jim Crow custom and de facto segregation in other sections of the country. Aided by a cadre of informants—most of whom were Black postal workers—Green and his small, dedicated staff began to list segregated businesses nationwide beginning in 1938. Roughly 200 Black owned businesses and other institutions in South Carolina were listed prior to its final edition in 1967.



Listed in the *Negro Travelers' Green Book* from 1947 to 1954, the W.H. Smith Tourist Home was one of three tourist homes promoted as safe places to for African American travelers to stay while visiting Greenville. Owned by local promoter Isaac White and his wife, Lurleen, this two-story clapboard structure on 212 Asbury Street housed Black travelers from all walks of life including famous musicians and entertainers who performed for segregated audiences at nearby Textile Hall.

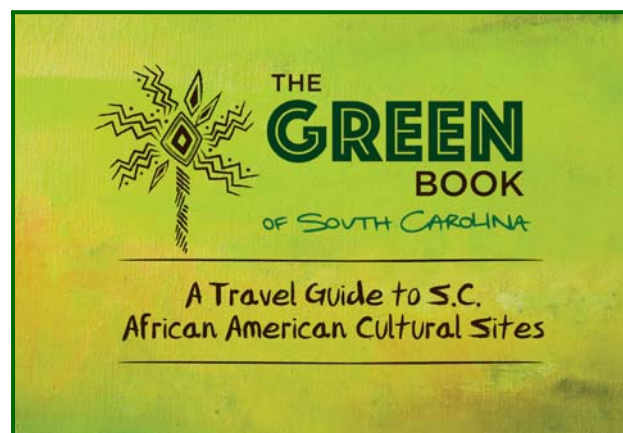
★ ISAAC WHITE PRESENTS ★  
**Concert and Dance**  
 TUES., FEB. 26—TEXTILE HALL—9 P. M.  
**SEATS FOR WHITE SPECTATORS**

**THE GREAT MR. "B"**  
**BILLY ECKSTINE**  
 IN PERSON

"America's Incomparable Rhythmic Stylist"  
**COUNT BASIE**  
**AND HIS ORCHESTRA**

**ONLY APPEARANCE HERE THIS YEAR**  
 Advance Tickets \$1.75, now on sale Gibb's Pharmacy, Green Avenue Soda Shop and The Huddle. Admission night of Dance and Concert, \$2.00. **WHITE SPECTATORS, \$1.50.**

In recent months, the SCAAHC has experienced great success in documenting the history of extant *Green Book* sites in Columbia, Florence, Greenville and other cities across South Carolina. Through collaboration with USC professor Bob Weyeneth and Public History students in his "Capital City Field School," we anticipate that at least three—and perhaps as many as seven—new sites will be listed on the National Register for Historic Places within the next year. Our efforts also inspired local advocates in Greenville to organize a campaign to preserve the historic site featured above! We are excited about the potential to share a fuller story of these forgotten safe havens for Black residents and travelers during Jim Crow. Visit our social media accounts to learn more about the ongoing effort to preserve these spaces.



## Visit Our Website!

The Green Book of South Carolina  
[www.greenbookofsc.com](http://www.greenbookofsc.com)

Join the conversation on social media:

**@SCAAHC1993**







# South Carolina

Center for Civil Rights History & Research

This fall, the USC Center for Civil Rights History and Research hosted an outstanding series of public lectures on “Women in the Civil Rights Movement” featuring three talented scholars and artists who shed new light on the historical and cultural legacies of the Black freedom struggle.

## Speakers and topics included:

- Dr. Jeanne Theoharis, “Revisiting Rosa Parks in the Age of Black Lives Matter”
- Patricia Montgomery, MFA, “An Artistic Tribute to Women in the Civil Rights Movement: Quilted Swing Coats”
- Dr. Cherrisse Jones-Branch, “Crossing the Line: Women’s Interracial Activism in South Carolina”



## Missed Out? Don't Fret!

### Further Reading:

Jeanne Theoharis, *The Rebellious Life of Rosa Parks* (2014)  
*A More Beautiful and Terrible History: The Uses and Misuses of Civil Rights History* (2018)

Cherrisse Jones-Branch, *Crossing the Line: Women's Interracial Activism in South Carolina during and after World War II* (2015)

Visit the USC Center for Civil Rights History and Research on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uofscrcr/>





# Congratulations!

The SCAAHC congratulates Ramon Jackson, SC African American Heritage Coordinator at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, for earning his PhD in History from the University of South Carolina on December 16, 2019.

Dr. Jackson successfully completed and defended his dissertation, "Leaders in the Making: Higher Education, Student Activism and the Black Freedom Struggle in South Carolina," a series of case studies on the role and impact of Black college students in campus and community struggles for racial and educational equality in the Palmetto state.



Pictured above: The newly minted Dr. Jackson, his lovely wife, USC nursing professor Dr. Joynelle Rivers Jackson, and their daughter Leiana.

Left: Dr. Jackson receives his doctoral hood from USC History professor Dr. Bobby J. Donaldson, who chaired his dissertation committee.

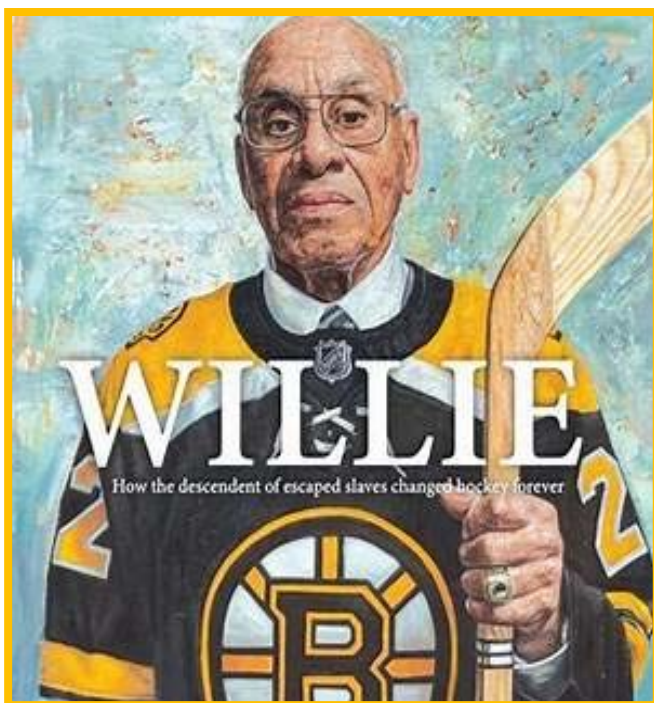
Dr. Jackson can be reached at: [rjackson@scdah.sc.gov](mailto:rjackson@scdah.sc.gov)





## Coming Attractions

*Make plans to attend these exciting upcoming events hosted by the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission and its partners! Follow us on social media for more details.*



**February 15, 2020**

**Join us as we honor an unsung African American sports legend!**

The SCAAHC and SCDAH will co-host the South Carolina premiere of *Willie*, a critically acclaimed documentary that examines the incredible journey of Willie O'Ree, a descendant of escaped South Carolina slaves who became the first Black player to skate in a National Hockey League game.

Blind in one eye—an extraordinary secret that only his sister know—O'Ree played 45 games in the NHL and spent 22 years in the minor leagues. In 1994, he became the NHL's diversity ambassador. Now, 60 years after breaking hockey's color line, a grassroots campaign has begun to get him into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Info: <https://scarchivesandhistoryfoundation.org/2019/12/15/film-premiere-willie/>

**April 17, 2020**

**Experience the exciting world of historic preservation!**

The South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH) invites you to attend its annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference this spring!

**The SCAAHC will host two informative sessions!**

Our first session will provide invaluable strategies for beginning your family history. We will also host a powerhouse panel of community leaders who will share success stories from their efforts to preserve African American history across the state using SHPO programs.

More info: <https://scdah.sc.gov/historic-preservation/resources/statewide-historic-preservation-conference>



# CALLING ALL TEACHERS!!!

*Modjeska Montieith Simkins, 1920s  
Photo courtesy of the SC State  
Museum*



## **2020 SCAAHF Teacher's Workshop "Black Reconstruction in South Carolina"**

**February 11, 2020  
9am-3pm**

**SC Department of Archives and History  
8301 Parklane Road, Columbia SC**

Join us for an exciting professional development workshop where you will learn strategies for integrating arts in the curriculum of grades K-12 using the 2017 South Carolina College-and-Career-Ready Standards for Visual and Performing Arts Proficiency to provide experiences for all children to learn in a culturally relevant environment.

**Open to ALL SC K-12 teachers! Arts teachers are encouraged to apply!**

**Attendees will receive CEU credits and a \$75 stipend**

**Space is limited. Register today!**

**Registration deadline is January 24, 2020 at Midnight.**

**Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-scaahc-teachers-workshop-tickets-87452461667>**

**This project is funded in part by the South Carolina Arts Commission  
with support from the National Endowment for the Arts**





# SAVE THE DATE!!!



**Pictured Above:** SCDH Executive Director Dr. Eric Emerson, USC History professor Dr. Bobby Donaldson, and SCAAHC chairperson Jannie Harriot greet renowned educator Dr. Vivian Ayers Allen, winner of the 2019 Trailblazer Award, and her daughter, legendary actress, singer, and director Phylcia Rashad.

## **2020 SCAAHC Annual Conference & “Preserving Our Places in History” Awards Presentation**

**March 27, 2020**

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2020 Preserving Our Places in History Awards!

The SCAAHC seeks nominations for its annual “Preserving Our Places in History” Awards in recognition of outstanding efforts to preserve and promote African American heritage in the Palmetto State.

*(Continued on next page)*



## 2020 Preserving Our Places in History Awards

The South Carolina African American Heritage Commission (SCAAHC) seeks nominations for its annual “Preserving Our Places in History Awards” program, a celebration of outstanding efforts to identify, preserve, and promote African American heritage and culture in the Palmetto State.

Individuals, groups and organizations can nominate themselves for an award or be nominated by others who are aware of their ongoing contributions and achievements in the field. The SCAAHC requires a nomination form and documentation that describes each project and offers supporting evidence.

**Nomination packets should include a one-page statement justifying the nomination along with at least three letters of support. Packets should also include images, sample text, and other materials of support for our judges to review.**

**Nomination packets must be received by Friday, February 21, 2020. They can be scanned and emailed to [scaaheritagefound@gmail.com](mailto:scaaheritagefound@gmail.com) or mailed to:**

**South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation  
c/o Jannie Harriot or Ramon Jackson  
8301 Parklane Road, Columbia SC 29223**

### **The SCAAHC is accepting nominations for the following categories**

**Individual Award**— This award recognizes a person who has made an outstanding achievement in preserving and interpreting African American history and culture in South Carolina during 2019.

**Group or Organization Award** — This award recognizes a group or organization that has demonstrated deep commitment or made an outstanding accomplishment in preserving and interpreting African American history and culture in South Carolina during 2019.

**Project Award** — This award recognizes the most outstanding local or statewide history project related to African American history and culture in South Carolina during 2019.

**Student Award** — This award recognizes a current college student who has demonstrated great interest in and completed noteworthy work on a project related to the preservation of African American history and culture in South Carolina during 2019.

**Legislator of the Year Award** — This award recognizes a South Carolina legislator who has demonstrated a deep, unwavering commitment to preserving and promoting African American heritage in our state by offering public support for SCAAHC initiatives and/or soliciting funds from the General Assembly to support causes, groups or organizations with similar goals and aims.



***(Continued on next page)***





## 2020 Preserving Our Places in History Awards



### 2020 Preserving Our Places in History Awards Nomination Form

#### Award category (Please select one):

- ☐ Individual Award ☐ Project Award  
☐ Group or Organization Award ☐ Student Award  
☐ Legislator of the Year Award

**Name of Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please include street address, city, state, and zip code)

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominated by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please include street address, city, state, and zip code)

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please also complete the following:

1. On a separate sheet, state in 350-500 words why this nominee should receive this award.
2. Attach appropriate documentation (5 sources maximum) that explains and provides evidence to support the nomination. Please do not include resumes or curriculum vitae. If using online sources (such as newspaper or magazine articles), provide location (website url) AND a copy of the text. No website addresses or links only, please.

**Nomination packets must be received by Friday, February 21, 2019**

**Scan and email to [scaaheritagefound@gmail.com](mailto:scaaheritagefound@gmail.com)**

**Or**

**Mail to: SC African American Heritage Foundation**

**c/o Jannie Harriot or Ramon Jackson**

**8301 Parklane Road, Columbia SC 29223**

**Winners will be notified by Friday, March 13, 2020**



NEWS FROM THE  
SOUTH  
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## Become A Member Today!!!

Complete and return to:

South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation

P.O. Box 1053  
Hartsville, S.C. 29551

Or

**Contact: Jannie Harriot, Executive Director**  
(843) 332-3589

Email: scaaheritagefound@gmail.com

### Membership Options

- ☐ Individual Membership \$25.00
- ☐ Family Membership \$75.00
- ☐ Church/Non-Profit \$100.00
- ☐ Business/Corporation \$150.00

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank You for Your Support!

