



# SC African American Heritage Commission

## April Newsletter

Welcome to the SC African American Heritage Commission newsletter. In it you will find updates about their activities and events pertaining to African American History in South Carolina!

## SCAAHC Events & Announcements

### Commissioner Profiles

For the next few newsletters, we will be doing brief profiles on the SC African American Heritage Commissioners, detailing their background, how they became involved with the Commission, and more. [This month's profile is on the Chair of the Commission, Vivian Glover.](#)



Vivian Glover is also on the board of Preservation South Carolina and on the Advisory Board of the South Carolina Civil Rights Museum. Her interest in history included co-producing the film “Shared History,” which documented the experiences of descendants of slaves and slave owners as they explore their centuries-old connection at Woodlands Plantation in Bamberg County. She was a consultant on the documentary “The Marines of Montfort Point: America’s First Black Marines;” both aired on PBS stations with Shared History being shown throughout Europe.

Glover is the author of *Men of Vision: Claflin College and her Presidents*, (1995), which chronicles the history of Claflin University from its founding in 1869 to the institution’s 125 anniversary in 1994 and “A Tapestry of Their Times,” a series chronicling the lives of senior women growing up Southern in the first half of the 20th century.

She is also the author of the novel, *The First Fig Tree*, (Methuen, UK and St. Martin’s Press, NY). Her articles have been published online at [nbcnews.com](http://nbcnews.com) and the news journal, *The Grio*, and *The State*, and *The Times* and Democrat newspapers.

In addition to her work as a journalist and writer, Glover worked for many years as a news producer for NBC News Network covering breaking news stories and producing features for *The Today Show*, *NBC Nightly News*, and *Dateline*. Glover recently retired as Director of Community Arts & Development from the Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center. Prior to that she served, for several years, on its board. She also served on the boards of the Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce and the Regional Medical Center Foundation, now part of MUSC Health.

Uplifting the history and culture of African Americans in South Carolina by supporting and participating in community achievements; these have been inspirational and educational for our 15-member commission.

Convening our annual conference in February, under the auspices of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, was equally uplifting for us, our audiences and the scholars and historians whose presentations enriched our history and celebrated our culture.

Historical research and personal stories are valued equally through our mission. We are increasing our capacity and commitment to bring attention to both by going to see and hear what others have to offer and add to the narrative of our past.

The 25 African American historical markers, we recently enabled, will give us that opportunity. Attending the first two of the dedication ceremonies, we shared with communities the pride and celebration of a permanent place in South Carolina's history. As the dedications and unveilings continue, we commissioners will be witnesses again and again.

We are inviting you to invite us to attend your commemorative events so that, through us, our state and beyond recognizes what, as African Americans, we have achieved. We hope you will offer your contributions as we continue to make known who and what was unknown, appreciate who and what was under appreciated, and uplift those lesser-known men and women whose stories are worthy to be told and entered in history.

## Commission Activities

Commissioners have been busy participating in events. See below for a recap!

### February 15 & 18, 2025

Commission Chair Vivian Glover visited Eutaw Springs Battlefield in Eutawville, SC and Mepkin Abbey in Moncks Corner, SC. The battlefield has ties to the American Revolution as the site of the Battle of Eutaw Springs. They recently added signage to discuss the impact of Black soldiers during the era. For more information on the battle visit this [link](#). Before becoming a monastery, Mepkin was the principal home for Henry Laurens, a Charlestonian merchant, slave trader, and rice planter. He, along with his son John Laurens, were prominent figures in the American Revolution. For more info, [click here](#).



### March 22, 2025

Commissioners Rhonda Midgette and Vivian Glover attended the marker unveiling for Pine Grove AME Church. This marker, funded by the Commission, highlights the church's local significance as a place of worship that started under a brush arbor. After acquiring one acre of land in 1875, their first house of worship was a wood framed building. The church was also the site of the Pine Grove Colored

School, a public school for local Black children. Congratulations to the congregation on this historic achievement!



Thank you to Andrew Haworth, Media Production Specialist with Richland County for the photos

### March 22, 2025

Commissioner Terry James was a speaker for the SC State Museum's Pee Dee region Harvesting Heritage event. James, who is also the Director of the Jamestown Foundation in Florence County in, was joined by Kirk Wardy, founder of Southern Queen Foods, and Dr. Howard Conyers, a NASA aerospace engineer and barbecue historian to discuss the historical and contemporary significance of Black food traditions, agriculture, and the cultural impact of African American communities in the Pee Dee area.



Thank you South Carolina State Museum media for the photos.

### April 4, 2025

Current Chair Vivian Glover and Former Chair Charmaine Clowney attended a meeting of the Greater Columbia Community Relations Council. Vivian made a brief presentation about the Commission's mission, goals, and current projects. The Commission looks forward to accepting invitations to future events to connect with organizations across the state.



## Recent African American Preservation News

### South Carolina Chapter of Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society

South Carolina has received its first chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society. Receiving their charter on September 22, 2024, the chapter's mission is to assist anyone interested in pursuing family history research for and about peoples of African Ancestry in the Low Country and Gullah Geechee region of South Carolina. For more on the chapter, visit [this webpage](#).



### New Name for the African American

## Burial Grounds

The African American Burial ground, Andrew P. Calhoun Family Plot, and Woodland Cemetery Historic Preservation Project came together in 2020 to acknowledge and honor the history of those buried on the grounds and their communities. To cover all three cemeteries, a name was needed and upon conversations with community members and in research it was discovered the site was referred to as "Cemetery Hill" for more than a hundred years. This name will now be used when referring to all three sites together. For more on the project and its progress, click [here](#).

---



## Grants!

- **SCDAH Federal Historic Preservation Grants:** The Archives is administering federal funds for [Survey and Planning Projects](#) or [Stabilization Projects](#). Any local government, non-profit, or institution in SC may apply but the SHPO's first priority will be to fund projects in SC's CLGs. **The deadline for FY2025 applications is May 1, 2025.** Click [this link](#) for more information.
- 

## Upcoming Events & Conferences

- **Tuesday April 15, 2025:** Join the African American Committee of the Cayce Historical Museum as they host the Cayce Legends Reception. From 6:00pm-7:30pm at the Lexington Two Innovation Center 9509 Bulldog Blvd, Cayce, SC. For more information, contact [athoma@caycesc.gov](mailto:athoma@caycesc.gov).
- **Thursday April 17, 2025:** Learn more about Titus and Lucretia Pinckney, individuals enslaved on UofSC's campus from their descendent Dr. Albert Thompson, a renowned chemist. The event is free and open to the public. See the flyer at the end of the newsletter for more information and [click here](#) to register.
- **Friday April 18, 2025:** Join the Liberty Hill Historical and Genealogical Society and the International African American Museum for a second showing of *The Liberty Hill Community: An Unpolished Jewel*. The screening will showcase a Historic Black Neighborhood in North Charleston, South Carolina. For more information and tickets, visit [this link](#).
- **Friday April 25th, 2025:** SCDAH will host the Statewide Historic Preservation Conference. Register now as space is limited. More information can be found [here](#).
- **April 25-26, 2025:** Join the Institute for the Study of the Reconstruction Era for their Spring Symposium. Women, in various roles, are key figures in the history of the 1st South Carolina Volunteers of African Descent (33rd US Colored Troops), the first regiment of Black Soldiers deployed in a combat role during the Civil War. The 2025 symposium will celebrate the many women associated with the 1st South Carolina VAD as well as the impact made by women throughout South Carolina during the Reconstruction Era. Find current info [here](#) or click on the flyer below. Registration info coming Feb. 2025.
- **April 26, 2025:** Join the Town of Latta and the Latimer Historic School Committee with their last installment of the "Listen, Learn, Preserve and Celebrate" Latimer School History Project. This is a significant effort to gather and safeguard historical information and artifacts that portray the vibrant Black history in the Latta community. Visit [this link](#) for more information.

- **April 26, 2025:** Celebrate the publishing of "South Carolina's Matilda Evans: A Medical Pioneer" a biography on Dr. Matilda Evans, the first African American woman licensed to practice medicine in the state of South Carolina. See the flyer below for more information, call 803-502-4858, or email caahac@cityofaiken.sc.gov.
- **Tuesday April 29, 2025:** Molly Silliman and Virginia Ellison, archivists with the South Carolina Historical Society, will present at Oconee History Museum, on how to get started with preserving historic family and organizational archives, with tips on supplies and storage needs, as well as information on how church archives can be organized and made accessible. Find more information [here](#).
- **Saturday May 3, 2025:** The South Carolina Civil Rights Museum is sponsoring a professional development infusing Social Studies with the Arts for SC Middle and High School Educators. There will be a tour of the museum, a guided Social Studies and Visual Arts activity, and a memorable musical presentation. educators can receive a stipend and course credits. Registration is open until April 21, 2025. For the registration link and more information, click [here](#) or see the flyer at the end of the newsletter.
- **Saturday May 3, 2025:** Join the South Carolina Historical Society for a free program with authors Walter Curry, Jr., Ed.D. and Margaret Seidler exploring the intertwined histories of slavery, both from the perspective of descendants of the enslaved and the descendant of enslavers and traders in South Carolina. To register for the event, visit [this link](#).
- **May 17, 2025:** The SC Department of Archives and History is hosting an African American Genealogy Workshop at the Archives & History Center. This workshop will focus on pre and post emancipation government sources in the collections including census records, vital records, military records, state records, county records, and online sources. This event is free but pre-registration is required. [Register online here](#) or email [dfoster@scdah.sc.gov](mailto:dfoster@scdah.sc.gov) or call Donna Foster at 803-896-0339.
- **May 23-25, 2025:** Experience the vibrant spirit of the South at the Original Gullah Festival of South Carolina. Held annually in Beaufort, the festival celebrates the unique language, heritage, and contributions of the Gullah community, offering a deep dive into their vibrant culture. To learn more about the event, go to [this link](#).
- **June 6, 2025:** The Lincoln Preservation Alumni Association and the City of Sumter Opera House are collaborating on a concert titled *Remember Me*. This musical tribute to Lincoln High School and Sumter's African American community will have performances by classically trained artists and an fundraiser where all proceeds will support the newly launched construction of the Lincoln Museum and Cultural Heritage Complex. For more information, [click here](#).
- **July 23-25, 2025:** The Association of African American Museums will have their annual conference in Charleston, SC. For more info on the call for proposals, exhibitors, and more, click this [link](#).
- **September 10-12, 2025:** The South Carolina Federation of Museums will host their Annual Conference in Belton, SC from September 10-12. For more information on the event and the call for proposals, click this [link](#).
- **October 9-11, 2025:** Join the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society for their conference "Tracing African American Ancestry: Building, Witnessing, and Shaping the Americas" in Charleston, SC. The organization is currently accepting calls for papers. For more information, visit [this website](#).

## Ongoing Events

- The SC Dept. of Archives & History has opened a new exhibit called *"Know Your State and Make It Known: The South Carolina Historical Marker Program."* Visit the Archives Monday through Friday from 9am to 4:30pm, except State Holidays.



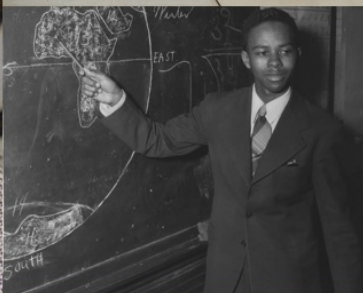
- The Center for Civil Rights and History's exhibit "[Where Do We Go From Here?](#)" explores Dr. Martin Luther King's questions about the future and illustrates how the passage of major civil rights legislation affected education, housing, health care, employment, and more. This exhibit, housed at the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library at the Thomas Cooper Library can be viewed during the Library's normal hours of operation. Click here for [more info](#).
- Free Admission to the Columbia Museum of Art where visitors can see the "[Our Story Matters](#)" Gallery that discusses Columbia's vibrant Washington Street Black Business District.
- SC State Museum "[Shared Sacrifice: South Carolina in World War II](#)" exhibit that details the stories of SC men and women who contributed to the war effort, as well as Black South Carolinians' pursuit of "Double Victory" over fascism abroad and segregation at home.
- Tours of the exhibits [The Language of Clay: Catawba Indian Pottery & Oral Traditions](#) and [Sandy Islanders: A People of the Land](#) at the Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage. These guided tours discuss the history and culture of the Catawba nation and Gullah people of Sandy Island. Find more info at this link.
- Historic Columbia's latest exhibit [Heat & Hardship: The Hidden Labor of Enslaved Cooks](#) is on display at the Robert Mills House & Gardens. This innovative exhibit reimagines the site's warming kitchen, offering visitors a deeper understanding of the lives of enslaved cooks in the 1820s. For more information on the exhibit and to purchase tour tickets visit [this website](#).

THURSDAY  
APRIL  
**17**  
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

**FULL CIRCLE MOMENT:  
EXPLORING LEGACIES OF  
SLAVERY, FREEDOM, AND  
FAMILY IN USC'S HISTORY**


Lumpkin Auditorium,  
Close-Hipp Building, 8th floor  
1705 College Street

Join us for a fireside chat with renowned chemist  
Dr. Albert Thompson, a descendant of Titus and  
Lucretia Pinckney, who were enslaved on USC's campus.

**Co-Sponsors**  
Center for Civil Rights History and Research  
Department of Anthropology  
Public History Program  
Public Heritage Lab  
USC Libraries

Please [click here](#) or scan the QR code to RSVP.



# ISRE 2025 Spring Symposium

## SAVE THE DATE

BREATHING DEMOCRACY INTO SPACES: 1ST SC VOLUNTEERS OF AFRICAN DESCENT

Friday, April 25, 2025 (evening)

Saturday, April 26, 2025 (all day)

AT THE USC BEAUFORT CENTER FOR THE ARTS IN BEAUFORT SC

## SOUTH CAROLINA MATILDA EVANS A MEDICAL PIONEER

We invite you to commemorate the launch of the official biography of Dr. Matilda Evans, the first African American woman in South Carolina to be licensed to practice medicine. The event will feature a book celebration program and a panel discussion with esteemed authors, including Dr. Walter B. Curry, founder of Renaissance Publications, LLC; Beverly Aiken Muhammad, the eldest granddaughter of Dr. Evans and the founder, executive director, and CEO of the Dr. Matilda A. Evans Educational Foundation LLC; and Anusha Ghosh, a medical student at the University of South Carolina-Columbia.

**DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH, 2025 TIME: 2 PM TO 4 PM**

**LOCATION:**

**THE CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY, ART, AND CULTURE  
120 YORK STREET NE  
AIKEN, SC, 29801**



The program will be moderated by Mrs. Donna Wesby, Co-Founder and CEO of Umoja Village. Attendees can enjoy refreshments, and books along with giveaways, and a raffle will be available.

For further details, please contact  
the Center for African American History, Art, and Culture at  
(803) 502-4858

or via email at [CAAHAC@cityofalkensc.gov](mailto:CAAHAC@cityofalkensc.gov),  
or reach out to Dr. Curry at (803) 404-2117 or  
[renaissancepublicatlionsllc@gmail.com](mailto:renaissancepublicatlionsllc@gmail.com)

# They Sang It Loud: Music of the Civil Rights Era

**A Professional Development infusing Social Studies  
with the Arts for SC Middle & High School Educators**

**Saturday, May 3, 2025 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

*Sponsored by - South Carolina Civil Rights Museum  
1865 Lake Drive, Orangeburg, SC 29115*

**Join us for a tour of the museum - showcasing SC history  
that helped to shape America - a guided Social Studies +  
Visual Arts activity & a memorable musical presentation**

**Participants will receive:**

**\*\$150 stipend \*3 CEUs \*Resources \*Lunch**

**Interested? Register using this link:**

<https://forms.gle/7S18xEdiBzzVLsnR9>

**Questions? [shinault05@gmail.com](mailto:shinault05@gmail.com)**

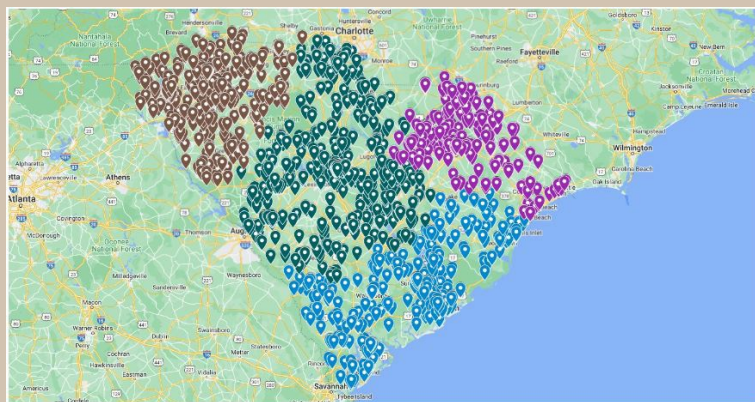
**Limited spaces - registration is open until  
April 21<sup>st</sup>, 15 seats are available**

**SOUTH CAROLINA  
CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM**  
VANGUARD OF HISTORY THAT SHAPED AMERICA

**SOUTH\*  
CAROLINA  
ARTS COMMISSION**

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

## Interactive Map of All Approved South Carolina Historical Markers



Help us grow our subscribers and reach even more people by forwarding this  
newsletter to anyone who may be interested!

**Subscribe to the  
Newsletter**

For any assistance, support, or general questions  
please contact us.

**Contact Us**





# SC African American Heritage Commission

SC Archives and History | 8301 Parklane Rd | Columbia, SC 29223 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!