



## SC African American Heritage Commission

### December 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!

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### SCAAHC Events and Announcements!

#### 2025 Conference Registration is Open!

Registration for the 2025 SCAAHC Annual Conference is officially open! Spaces fill quickly so we recommend reserving your spot sooner rather than later. Download the flyer for links to more information about presentations and speakers. The registration link can be found [here](#) or on the [Commission's webpage](#). If you have any questions, reach out to Ayanna Goines, [agoines@scdah.sc.gov](mailto:agoines@scdah.sc.gov). Hope to see you on February 22, 2025!!

[Download Flyer!](#)



SC ARCHIVES AND  
HISTORY CENTER  
8301 Parklane Road  
Columbia, SC 29223

Space is limited. Pre-  
registration is highly  
recommended.

Registration Fee Per  
Person:

- Regular: \$40
- Senior: \$20
- Student: \$15

\*Lunch is included in  
registration fee.  
GF/Vegetarian options  
available.

For additional conference  
information and  
questions contact Ayanna  
Goines at:  
[agoines@scdah.sc.gov](mailto:agoines@scdah.sc.gov) or  
(803)896-8256

## 2025 SC African American Heritage Commission Annual Conference

Saturday, February 22, 2025

Registration Link: <https://form.jotform.com/243305678390966>

### Schedule

8:30AM – 8:55AM Registration

9:00AM – 9:10AM Opening Welcome

9:15AM – 10:25AM 1<sup>st</sup> Session Block

#### Leading the Charge: Women & Social Movements

- \* The presence of Black women in social movements crosses generations. This panel will start with the Rollins sisters' role in 19<sup>th</sup> century politics, presented by historian Gracia Rich. Winthrop professor, Dr. Dixon-McKnight will continue the conversation to discuss the Black female hospital workers that organized the 1969 Charleston Hospital Workers' Campaign.

#### South Carolina's Forgotten Black Union Veterans and Your Community

- \* Learn from University of South Carolina Beaufort's Institute for the Study of the Reconstruction Era about the 1<sup>st</sup> SC Volunteers of African Descent who served in the Union Army and how to determine if your community has connections to Black Union soldiers/veterans.

10:30AM – 11:40AM 2<sup>nd</sup> Session Block

#### Putting in the Work: Methods for Preserving Black History

- \* Come hear from practitioners in the field on ways they have researched and preserved Black History in South Carolina. Institutions include the International African American Museum, USC Center for Civil Rights History and Research, and the University of South Carolina Beaufort.

#### Harvesting Heritage: Preserving Black Foodways, History, and Culture

- \* This panel, with tasting samples, will discuss the history and impact of Black foodways and the ways we can use them to preserve Black history. Speakers include Ramon Jackson and Meeghan Kane from SC State Museum and Chef Amethyst Ganaway.

11:45AM – 12:55PM Lunch

1:00PM – 2:15PM 3<sup>rd</sup> Session Block

#### Student Research

- \* Students from University of South Carolina, Allen University, and College of Charleston will discuss their current research pertaining to African American history. Topics include African-derived spirituality, the block of 1500 Harden Street and the Greyhound Bus Station sit-ins in Columbia, and John Henry McCray's papers.

2:20PM – 3:45PM Keynote Address

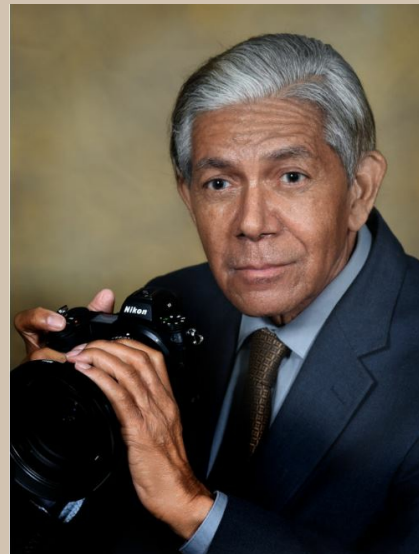
#### The Impact of Student Protests during the Civil Rights Era

- \* Cecil Williams, South Carolina Civil Rights Museum, Civil Rights Photographer

## Conference Speaker Highlight!

Orangeburg, South Carolina, native Cecil Williams, is a Child of Segregation. Racial barriers he endured as a youth—rather than having a negative impact—they propelled him upward and forward with passion.

A photographer for over 60 years, with over one million captures, Williams owns the largest image collection documenting racial change in America. His prescient photographer-vision for historical relevance always stretched beyond his images, his hundreds of books, 100 one-man exhibits, 15 motion picture films. Their relevance was in reinforcing his passion and ambition to capture and preserve a seminal period in American history. Williams farsighted concept was definitively achieved when he created the Cecil Williams South Carolina Civil Rights Museum — the state's first and only museum of its kind.



Growing up—wanting to draw and take pictures—the library, the obvious resource, barred the 9-year-old Williams. Before discouragement could dampen his aspiration, family encouraged and inspired him. His brother gave him a \$2.25 hand-me-down Kodak Brownie.

One click! One flash!

One photo opportunity in Charleston transformed his entire life: It was a capture of the lawyer and later Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall, arriving to engage in legislation that led to “Brown v. Board of Education” —In Williams’ strong opinion having hijacked the true namesake of “Briggs v. Elliott.”

At 14, wanting to play tennis but barred from Orangeburg’s “White Only” courts, rather than discouragement, he practiced and practiced—leading to semi-finals against Arthur Ashe in ATA national competition at Bethune Cookman College, winning three games but losing to the future men’s champion. Senior year at Wilkinson High School, he wanted to study architecture at Clemson University, but Jim Crow laws prevailed. Rather than a negative impact, from his drafting table emerged house designs; one which generated solar electricity featured as, “Space Age Home,” in “EBONY” magazine, another he designed in 1986 is the current Cecil Williams South Carolina Civil Rights Museum in Orangeburg.

Well underway as a paid photographer and now with years of experience capturing, when Black citizens in the Palmetto State began protesting segregated education, Williams was there photographing them challenging the system. “JET” Magazine capturing our struggles which would ignite the American Civil Rights Movement.

“JET” magazine dispatched him to Clemson where he photographed Harvey Gantt achieving, “Integration with dignity.” The Orangeburg Massacre, Edwards v. South Carolina, Charleston Hospital Workers’ Strike, and hundreds more events, captured by this photographer and journalist, who was twice arrested while marching and demonstrating.

While visiting relatives in New York in 1960, camera dangling from his neck, he walked into Roosevelt Hotel where Senator John F. Kennedy was to appear. Looking around—only person of color in a room full of journalist—hotel security escorted him out; but JFK intervened and befriended the young journalist and made him a favorite cameraperson.

Over decades, incident after incident, Cecil Williams used injustices as inspiration to overcome and achieve freedom, justice and equality.

Recently, in addition to over two hundred awards and citations, he earned the Governor’s Award for the Humanities, the Order of the Palmetto, and The Times and Democrat’s 2018 Person of the Year. “Any success I have can be attributed to so many people whose shoulders I stand on, then and now,” Williams said.

He is the husband of Barbara J. Williams, retired educator and president of the Orangeburg Chapter of the NAACP.

Mr. Williams will be the Keynote Speaker at the 2025 SCAAHC Annual Conference. Register now to hear more about his empowering work and first-hand experience with student protests in South Carolina.

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## Submissions for Green Book Publication Open!

The Commission is still accepting proposals for their Green Book publication. Submissions can cover the topics listed on the flyer or must be closely associated with South Carolina and Green Book sites. **The deadline is January 15, 2025.** Questions? Contact Ayanna Goines, [agoines@scdah.sc.gov](mailto:agoines@scdah.sc.gov).



## SCAAHC Green Book Call for Proposals/Writers

The South Carolina African American Heritage Commission (SCAAHC) is calling for proposals from interested authors for their publication on the Green Book, edited by Dr. Vernon Burton and Harris Bailey Jr. There are studies of the Green Book, but the SCAAHC's proposed scholarly analysis represents the first state study of the influence of the Green book. This study focuses on South Carolina.

The SCAAHC proposes a series of essays that explore how *The Negro Travelers' Green Book* influenced South Carolina and its citizens. Essays will consider the historical, political, social, cultural, and economic contexts as well as the shifting demographics in South Carolina. Writers are not limited to the following topics, but the publication hopes to cover these areas:

- A biographical sketch of Victor Hugo Green, the founder of the Green Book and his wife, Alma Duke Green, who served as publisher of the Green Book in the 1960s
- How travel for African Americans was impacted by various modes of transportation, like trains, buses, and commercial airlines
- Distinguishing between de jure and de facto segregation and examples of both in South Carolina, maybe a comparison across regions
- A discussion on the articles included in the Green Book and how they change over time
- A comparison of legal jurisdictions by region in South Carolina and how Black travelers navigated the various interpretations. Compare regional differences with sites in the travel guide and how they change over time
- The creation of a Black Middle class. Compare and contrast across regions of the state. Expand beyond businesses listed in Green Book by looking at Black newspaper ads and city directories
- Observing the Black communities and their physical location to Green Book sites, if there were any. Determine why sites are more prevalent in certain cities than others
- A case study on Esso and Amoco, national oil companies, who crossed the color line in the South and extended franchise agreements to Black businesspeople
- Looking at women as business owners, operators, and entrepreneurs. Can be a statistical breakdown of how many women were involved in running a business
- The relationship between the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Black travel. Can also look at the Voting Rights Act of 1965

Writers interested in contributing to the publication will send a 1-2 page proposal, detailing a topic pertaining to the Green Book and South Carolina. Must include the relevancy and importance of the proposed essay to the discussion of the travel guide and suggested methods for research. Accepted essays will vary in length, depending on topics and evidence from somewhere between 5 to 30 pages, with citations. Essays will be reviewed by outside peer reviewers.

Proposals should be sent to Ayanna Goines, [agoines@scdah.sc.gov](mailto:agoines@scdah.sc.gov) with "Green Book Publication Proposal" in the subject line. The deadline for proposals is **January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.

## Commission Activities

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

### October, 2024

Commissioner Rhonda Midgette was named Chairperson for the SC Chamber Diversity Committee and a new member of their Executive Committee. As such, she attended their Annual Summit on the Isle of Palms and Board Director's meeting from Oct. 29-30th. Congratulations!



### December 5, 2024

Thad Daise, Terry James, and Vivian Glover attended the opening of the Archives' newest exhibit "Know Your State and Make It Known: The South Carolina



Historical Marker Program." The exhibit highlights the marker program and includes examples of historical markers from across the state. If you are interested in seeing the exhibit, stop by the Archives Mon-Sat. from 9am-4:30pm.



## South Carolina African American Sites Going to NPS

The SC State Board of Review met on Nov. 15 to review 8 National Register Nominations and half of those sites were related to African American history:

- Finley High School
- Ruffin High and Elementary School
- Green's Funeral Home and Ambulance Service
- Atlantic Beach Historic District
- Edgewood School

All 8 sites were approved and will be sent to the National Park Service to be considered for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. See below for descriptions of sites and **click here** for more info on the National Register process

### Finley High School

This school originally was established as Chester Colored School in 1923. Moving to its current location in 1956 as part of the equalization program in the state, the school was one of the first public high schools for Black students in the area.



### Ruffin High and Elementary School

This school, built in 1954, originated as a state-funded equalization school. Schools under this program were intended to forestall integration of public school in South Carolina. The school is also significant as the only standing example of Modernist architecture in Ruffin SC.



### Green's Funeral Home and Ambulance Service

This 1938 building was the first Black funeral home in Lake City during the Jim Crow era of segregation. Black funeral homes offered important functions to the Black community and this building was an example of economic independence and success for Black business owners.



### **Atlantic Beach Historic District**

In an era of intense segregation of public facilities, Atlantic Beach was founded as a vacation destination for Black Americans. The town was governed and owned by Blacks throughout its time, beginning in 1934 when African American businessman George W. Tyson acquired land. Atlantic Beach became a popular destination for entertainment, especially music, with many Black performers staying in Atlantic Beach when booked at Myrtle Beach.



### **Edgewood School**

This school is the only school in Ninety Six clearly connected to the school equalization program. From 1956, when the school was constructed to 1970, it was the only public school in the rural area for Black students. All students, grades 1-12 attended the school, until 1970 when it integrated.



## **Recent African American Preservation News**

### **The Center for Heirs' Property Grand Opening**

The Center for Heirs' Property Preservation opened a new location in Columbia, SC. Originally located in North Charleston, this non-profit offers legal education and direct legal services to help families reach agreements, clear title to family land and probate estates. For more on their mission, [click here](#).

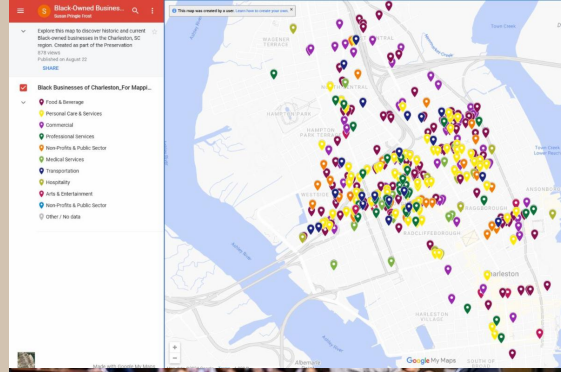


### **Black Businesses of Charleston Oral History**

Preservation Society of Charleston released a website that highlights the



historic, Black-owned businesses in Charleston. Through a series of oral history interviews, the website elevates the stories of the families that owned these businesses and maps the over 500 historic and current businesses. Visit [this link](#) to view the website.



## Criminal records of 1960s Columbia activists cleared

On October 25, 2024, 64 years after their arrest for peacefully protesting the discriminatory practices of a Columbia lunch counter, 7 men had their records expunged. In 1960, their cases went all the way to the Supreme Court where their convictions were overturned, but their records were not cleared. Their actions left a legacy on future generations and history in South Carolina. Read more about their story [here](#).



## UofSC Center for Civil Rights History and Research Postdoctoral Program

This inaugural program intends to raise the profile of civil rights research nationally and play a pioneering role in advancing Civil Rights Studies as an interdisciplinary field of scholarly inquiry rooted in African American Civil Rights history. **The priority deadline is December 15, 2024 and the final deadline is January 15, 2025.** Learn more about the program [here](#).



## Official Biography on Dr. Matilda Evans Coming April 8, 2025

Dr. Walter Curry, relative of the 1st licensed Black woman licensed to practice medicine Dr. Matilda Evans, is publishing a book detailing her life. Dr. Evans created 2 hospitals, a nursing school, volunteered during WWI, and found a water company to promote kidney health. This publication comes simultaneously with a preservation project to preserve her legacy in the Columbia Waverly community; turning her house into a museum and a studio space for artists. Click the image to pre-order Dr. Curry's book and [click here](#) for more on Dr. Evans.

# SOUTH CAROLINA MATILDA EVANS:

A MEDICAL PIONEER

BY WALTER B. CURRY, JR., ED. D. ANUSHA GHOSH,  
AND BEVERLY AIKEN MUHAMMAD,  
FOREWORD BY BOBBY DONALDSON, PH. D



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\$24.99**

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<https://a.co/d/1vaweI>  
 TO PRE-ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!  
**RELEASE DATE APRIL 8TH, 2025!**




## Grants!

- **Civil Rights Microgrants Program:** The Center for Civil Rights History and Research is offering \$500 research and travel grants to faculty, staff members, and graduate students engage in civil rights-

related research, teaching, or programming. The application deadline is **January 15, 2025**. Visit [here](#) for more information.

- **NEW! 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.
  - **Richland County Conservation Commission Historic Preservation Grant:** The RCCC is offering a grant to help non-profit organizations, governmental agencies, institutions, and commercial entities persevere and protect historic buildings in Richland County. **The application will open December 1, 2024 and close February 1, 2025**. For more information and eligibility criteria, [visit this webpage](#).
  - **The Unity Cemetery Preservation Fund:** The Unity Cemetery Preservation fund provides support for the preservation of historic (dating from ~1800 to ~1900) African American cemeteries. Funds can be used for a variety of projects including: mapping, site assessment, and other data collection; conservation treatments for grave markers and other funerary features; landscape stabilization; and public outreach. **The deadline is February 28, 2025** and more information can be found on [their webpage](#).
  - **National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions:** The NEH is offering a grant to help small and mid-sized organizations preserve and manage humanities collections, ensuring their significance for a variety of users. The deadline to submit applications is **January 9, 2025** and more information can be found [here](#).
  - **NEH Chair's Grants, 160th Anniversary of Juneteenth:** In celebration of the 160th anniversary of Juneteenth, the NEH Chair invites proposals with request up to \$30,000 to support free Juneteenth Open House events exploring African American history and culture. Funding must explore the theme of freedom and can be used for docent-led tours, lecture series, literary discussion, community archiving, living history, etc. **The application will open November 15, 2024 and will close January 15, 2025**. For more information, [click here](#).
  - **Save America's Treasures Grants:** The National Park Service is accepting application for the Save America's Treasures grant program. Grants are available to fund two types of Projects: Collections and Preservation. projects must support collections of national significance or preservation work on nationally significant properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places. **The deadlines is December 12, 2024**. For more information, [click here](#).
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## Statewide Historic Preservation Call for Proposals

Proposals for the 2025 Statewide Preservation Conference are being accepted from now until **December 16, 2024**. Please see the flyer below or [click this link](#) for more information on topics and how to propose a session. To keep up to date on events and news from the SHPO, [subscribe to the "News and Notes" newsletter here](#).





## SC Historic Preservation Conference 2025



### CALL FOR PROPOSALS

We are accepting proposals for Speaker Sessions for the 2025 historic preservation conference, scheduled for **Friday, April 25, 2025** at the **SC Archives & History Center** in Columbia. Speaker Sessions can cover a variety of historic preservation topics, and range in difficulty from "Historic Preservation 101" to discussions of emerging issues. Top interests include:

- Case studies of successful historic preservation projects
- Historic preservation technology / how-tos
- Preservation funding: grants, tax credits, easements
- Historic preservation advocacy
- Local government / local design review topics
- Preservation of African American historic places
- Sustainability, adaptation and climate resiliency for historic places
- Cemeteries: protection, care, or documentation
- How to research historic properties
- Economic and community revitalization programs
- Programs to preserve historic places and sites
- South Carolina architectural history and archaeology

Other topics may be considered, but should directly relate to the preservation of historic buildings, sites, places, and structures. A session should be interactive and include strategies or solutions that attendees can apply in their own communities or organizations. Plan on **40 - 45 minutes for your presentation and 5 - 10 minutes for questions and answers**. Session proposals may be combined with other proposed sessions when appropriate. Up to three (3) speakers per session will have their conference registration fees waived.

**To propose a session:** Email the following information to Elizabeth Johnson at [ejohnson@scdah.sc.gov](mailto:ejohnson@scdah.sc.gov) and Alethea Harrison at [aharrison@scdah.sc.gov](mailto:aharrison@scdah.sc.gov). You will receive an email acknowledging receipt. **Proposals are due by December 18, 2024.**

*Name*  
*Organizational affiliation*  
*Address (city, state, zip)*  
*Telephone*  
*Email*

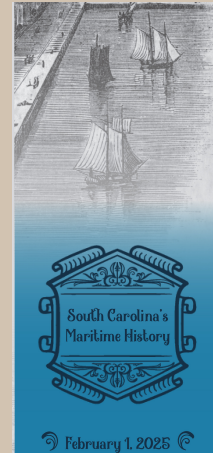
*Title*  
*Description of session (2 paragraphs)*  
*Speaker(s)* include contact information for all speakers  
*Optional:* Speaker bios, presentation, digital images, web links, anticipated audio-visual needs, and/or handouts (limit to 35 MB or less)

**Questions?**  
Elizabeth Johnson at 803-896-6168,  
[ejohnson@scdah.sc.gov](mailto:ejohnson@scdah.sc.gov) or  
Donna Foster at 803-896-0339, [dfoster@scdah.sc.gov](mailto:dfoster@scdah.sc.gov)

**The fine print:**  
No proposals will be accepted after December 16, 2024. You will be notified via email if the proposal is selected or not by mid January 2025. If the proposal is selected, **you must send a finalized presentation no later than April 18, 2025.**

## Upcoming Events & Conferences

- **December 17, 2024:** Join the SC State Library for a conversation about collecting and preserving family recipes and what we can learn about history from recipes. To learn more about the speakers and to register for the event, visit [this link](#).
- **February 1, 2025:** South Carolina's significant maritime history covers wars, commerce, pirates and adventures. Join the Archives to be enlighten and entertained by a group of well-versed speakers discussing SC's maritime history. Find the link to register and the symposium brochure below or at [this link](#).
- **Saturday February 8, 2025:** Join the South Carolina State Museum and Penn Center for a "Harvesting Heritage: Lowcountry Legacy" event. This event will take place at Penn Center on St. Helena Island and will explore a celebration of Gullah Geechee cuisine, art, and storytelling. Click [this link](#) for more information and tickets.
- **Saturday February 22, 2025:** The SCAAHC will be hosting it's second Annual Conference. Registration is now open and descriptions of the featured panels can be found on the [Commission's webpage!](#)
- **March 2, 2025:** The South Carolina Historical Association will have their Annual meeting with the theme "The Struggles for Democracy." Learn more about the event [here](#).
- **March 27-29, 2025:** The Confederation of SC Local Historical Societies' Landmark Conference. Held in Sumter, you can find more info [here](#).



- **Friday April 25th, 2025:** SCDAH will host the Statewide Historic Preservation Conference. Call for proposals is open until December 16. 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.

### 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 Saturday from 9am to 4:30pm, except State Holidays.
- The McKissick Museum has opened a new exhibit called *Layers of Legacy: Exploring Daily Life and Colonialism in Cameroon*. This exhibit investigates the art and culture of the Grassfields of northwestern Cameroon, a country of rich resources exploited by European agents of the transatlantic slave trade and colonizers from the late 1400s until the 1960s. For more information, visit [this website](#).
- 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.



**ISRE 2025 Spring Symposium**

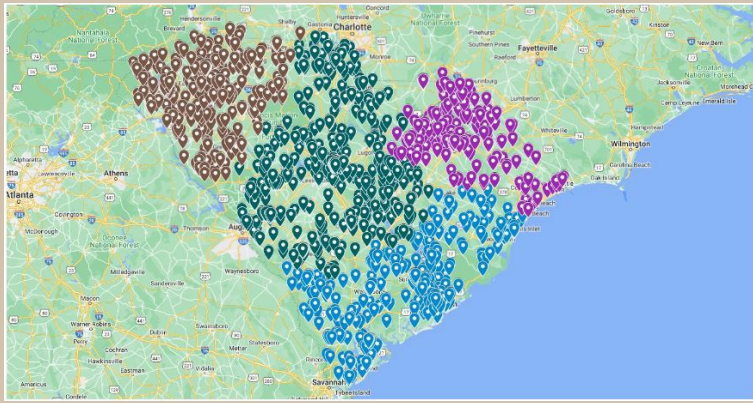
**SAVE THE DATE**

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

# Interactive Map of All Approved South Carolina Historical Markers



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**SC African American  
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