



SC African American Heritage Commission

May 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!

Commission Activities

Commissioners have been busy the past few weeks participating in events. See below for a recap!

April 26, 2024

SCAAHC Chair Charmaine Clowney's attended the Statewide Historic Preservation Conference hosted by SC Department of Archives & History. The conference covered topics from disaster planning and recovery for historic homes to protecting African American cemeteries. The Archives also dedicated the auditorium in memory of long-serving chair of the State Review Board and passionate advocate for historic preservation, William L. Kinney Jr. Thank you Charmaine for your hard work!



May 10, 2024

Gwen Rawls, representing SCAAHC, participated in the Selection Committee for the SC Historic Preservation Awards. This award ceremony will take place on **June 20 @3:30pm** at the South Carolina State House. Thank you Gwen for your hard work!

2024 South Carolina Historic Preservation Awards
Ceremony
DATE June 20, 2024
TIME 3:30pm
LOCATION South Carolina State House

Presented by



Upcoming African American History Events!

Click on the flyer to learn more information

**THE FIGHT HAS JUST BEGUN:
Briggs and Brown
70 Years Later**

Thursday, May 23 | 5:30 - 9 PM
Brookland Banquet & Conference Center
1066 Sunset Blvd, West Columbia, SC

Center for Civil Rights History and Research
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CELEBRATING SOUTH CAROLINA CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM

Humanities

70th Anniversary
MAY 17, 1954

YOU ARE INVITED!

**OUR CAYCE
— LEGENDS —**

Come Celebrate

MAY 29TH 2024 AT 6PM

MEET US AT
Lexington Innovation Center
509 Bulldog Blvd
Cayce, SC 29033

New African American Listings in the National Register of Historic Places



Ocean Grove School

On 5/15/2024, Ocean Grove School, located in the Aiken vicinity was listed to the National Register of Historic Places. This school, built c. 1907, is one of the few largely intact examples of an early 20th century rural school house for Black children. When the school closed, the building was used for agricultural community fairs for the Black community from 1938 to 1941, and again in 1943. Click the photo to

be taken to the [Ocean Grove School website](#) for more on the school's history.

4 South Carolina Projects Funded by NPS African American Civil Rights Grant

Clemson University (\$55,625)- Clemson University African American History Video

Project: The project will produce nine educational videos that examine the journey from the antebellum period when enslaved persons labored on the John C. Calhoun's Fort Hill Plantation upon which Clemson was built to the civil rights movement when Harvey Gantt desegregated Clemson after winning a lawsuit and registering for classes in Tillman Hall on January 28, 1963.

University of South Carolina (\$4,250,000)- Preservation of the Florence C. Benson Elementary School, an equalization school and a resource associated with segregation in Columbia, SC:

This rehabilitation project will transform an underutilized historic structure into a vibrant building on the University of South Carolina campus to house academic and administrative programs and provide space for students and the community to gather. The elementary school, built with the intent to keep South Carolina schools "separate but equal" and to avoid racial integration, is now part of USC's campus.

South Carolina Rural Education Grassroots Group (\$750,000)- Stabilization and Preservation of the former Edgewood School, an Equalization School, Now serving as Edgewood Community Center:

Edgewood School, built in 1956, was part of the equalization program when states built "separate but equal" facilities to resist desegregation in the wake of the brown vs. board of Education decision. This project will stabilize and rehabilitate a second section of the school, not the Edgewood Community Center. The building serves as a multi-generational community center providing a safe space and programs that promote health and wellness.

Center for Creative Partnerships (\$750,000)- Preservation of All Star Bowling Lanes:

All Star Bowling Lanes has a direct significance to African American civil rights having played a critical role in events leading up to the 1968 Orangeburg Massacre. This project underscores the role that South Carolina played in America's search for racial justice and represents the opportunity to elevate the Bowling Lanes to a "National Center for Civil Rights." Built in 1962, the bowling lanes are amazingly intact, but long-term neglect has created urgent needs. The goals of Phase 3 will be the creation of a functional interior in a clean, safe building.

Find out more about the African American Civil Rights Grant program [here](#).

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

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