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SC African American Heritage Commission

October Newsletter

Welcome to the new 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!



Save the Date!

**Join the South Carolina
African American Heritage
Commission for their
2024 Annual Conference!**

Date:
Thursday Feb. 22, 2024

Location:
SC Archives &
History Center

Link for registration and more information coming soon!

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, PLEASE EMAIL AGOINES@SCDAH.SC.GOV

Report from the Commission Chair

July 18, 2023: SCAAHC Congratulations Letter for Harrisburg Street Grade School Marker Unveiling in Abbeville, South Carolina

On July 18, 2023, Charmaine Clowney sent a SCAAHC Congratulations Letter regarding the above referenced marker unveiling. Our letter was included in the August 26, 2023 marker unveiling program, and was very well received. This letter served as wonderful marketing for the SCAAHC.

August 11, 2023: Networking with Southern Campaign 1780

The SCAAHC Chair attended an event sponsored by Southern Campaign 1780 at Camden SC's Broad and Vine Restaurant. Southern Campaign 1780 is a South Carolina organization that provides year-round Colonial and Revolutionary War History and Education through events and programs. During the second week of November 2023, they are sponsoring Liberty Education Day. During this free event, students, parents, and teachers will engage in various educational activities relevant to colonial and military life. This will include events and speakers relevant to African Americans. The SCAAHC Chair informed Sheri Davis, Southern Campaign 1780 Education Director, about the Haney sisters, African American Revolutionary War teacher training. Ms. Davis plans to contact the Haney Sisters about participating.

August 18, 2023: Haney Sisters Grant Progress Report to South Carolina 250th American Revolution Commission

Last year, Laura and Mary Jade Haney received a SCAAHC grant through the SCAAHC to train South Carolina teachers regarding how to teach students about South Carolina Revolutionary War participation. This grant was awarded to the SCAAHC through The South Carolina American Revolution 250th Commission. The 250th Commission's Executive Director, Molly Fortune and Heather Hawkins, the Commission's Grant Manager, met with the Haney sisters on the above referenced date at The Department of Archives and History. Ayanna Goines, Kenya Lane, Judge Thompson and the SCAAHC Chair also attended this meeting. The Haney Sisters indicated that their teacher training power point and teaching was well received by teachers. The Haney sisters indicated the need for additional grant funding to provide more in-depth teacher training. Elizabeth Johnson, Charmaine Clowney and Judge Thompson recommended that the SCAAHC could provide additional grant funding to continue this training. 250th Commission members appeared to be very impressed with progress achieved thus far by the Haney sisters in implementing this grant.

September 12, 2023: Cecil Williams SC ETV Documentary at the Nickelodeon Theatre

Theatre entitled: “The World of Cecil Williams”. Cecil Williams is an iconic, legendary Orangeburg, South Carolina civil rights photographer who documented South Carolina’s Civil Rights movement through photographs. His photographs were pivotal in gaining greater insights and awareness about the national Civil Rights Movement through the lens of South Carolina’s Civil Rights Movement. Kudos to Dr. Burton for attending this momentarily epic and historic event.

September 16, 2023: Jubilee Festival of Black History and Culture

The SCAAHC Chair represented our Commission during this free outdoor festival. This festival brought musicians, students, educational institutions, storytellers and others together to celebrate South Carolina’s Black history and culture. The event was held on the grounds of the Mann-Simons historical site and was sponsored by Historic Columbia, the Columbia, S.C. Chapter of the Links Incorporated and the Columbia, S.C. NAACP. Many organizations had booths, including USC’s Center of Civil Rights History and Research. The SCAAHC Chair was able to network with many organizations and individuals in promoting the SCAAHC’s February 22, 2024 Conference.

September 22, 2023: Penn Center “The State of Black Preservation in South Carolina”

Ayanna Goines and Elizabeth Johnson represented the SCAAHC and South Carolina Department of Archives and History at a Penn Center Panel discussion entitled: “The State of Black Preservation in South Carolina”. Founded in 1862, the Penn School was established by northern missionaries and abolitionists as a school for freed slaves. The Penn School was committed to African American education, community welfare and cultural heritage that has remained strong for over 150 years. The mission of the Penn Center is based on the important cultural and historical significance of this school.

New African American Listings in the National Register of Historic Places

Pleasant Grove School

Located in Clarendon County and built in 1933, Pleasant Grove is a Jim Crow-school that stands as a representation of Black community efforts to provide for the education of local Black children despite a lack of meaningful investment from the government. There are plans to turn the building into a community center that is planned to open in 2026.

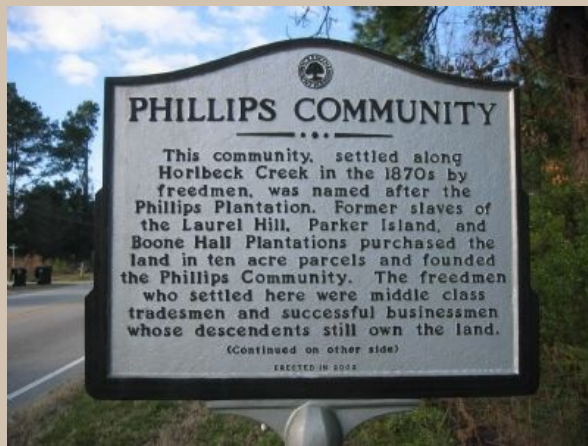


Sims High School

An equalization school built in the mid-1950s, Sims High School was the only public high school for African Americans in Union County until desegregation.

Phillips Community Historic District

This is the first place in South Carolina to be listed as a Traditional Cultural Place and is associated with Gullah Geechee culture. This freedmen's community represents the self-sufficiency and self-reliance of Black rural communities in the wake of the Civil War.



Thank you for reading our newsletter! Please forward to others who may be interested in reading.

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

Contact Us



SC African American Heritage Commission

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