



SC African American Heritage Commission

October 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!

Heritage Emergency National Task Force Resources

The Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF), a public-private partnership between FEMA and the Smithsonian Institution, is supporting response and recovery efforts of South Carolina's arts & culture sector -- and the public. They have provided the following information related to effects from Hurricane Helene.

**Click here for a PDF
with more in of
HENTF**

SCAAHC Events and Announcements!

!Postponed!

A Brief Discussion of Arts, Artists, Activism, and Aesthetics in South Carolina

Due to the recent impact of Hurricane Helene, the Commission has made the decision to postpone the speaker event on Saturday October 5th. We hope to reschedule as soon as possible. Our hearts go out to everyone affected and we are keeping everyone rebuilding in our thoughts.

3 Weeks Left for Conference Call for Proposals!!

The SCAAHC invites you to submit proposals for the 2025 Annual Conference, taking place on February 22, 2025. See the announcement below or click [this link](#) for information on panel themes and how to submit. Questions? Contact Ayanna Goines, agoines@scdah.sc.gov



Call for Proposals

The South Carolina African American Heritage Commission invites interested individuals/groups to submit proposals for the 2025 SCAAHC Annual Conference, scheduled for **Saturday February 22, 2025 at the SC Archives & History Center in Columbia**. Panels will cover a wide array of topics related to African American history, culture, and heritage across South Carolina. This year's planned thematic panels are:

- **Food and Foodways in South Carolina:** the importance and role of food in South Carolina's African American history, heritage, and culture
- **Reconstruction Era:** topics focusing on the role of reconstruction era politics, legislation, churches, religion, and/or education in South Carolina
- **Gender and Resistance:** research exploring African American women's roles in resistance and social movements throughout South Carolina's history
- **Student Research:** current projects by students researching topics related to African American history, heritage and culture
- **Place Making and Reclaiming Black Spaces:** case studies and reports on projects completed by organizations to preserve the history and legacy of historically African American spaces

Other topics may be considered, but should be directly related to the involvement and impact of African American people in South Carolina. Presentations should be interactive and, if applicable, provide strategies and solutions that attendees can apply in their own communities or organizations. Presenters will have 20 minutes each with 15 minutes total for Q&A. Proposals may be combined with other proposed sessions when appropriate. Up to three (3) speakers per session will have their conference registration fees waived.

Presenters at all phases of their career are encouraged to submit proposals, including undergraduate students, graduate students, independent scholars, organizational leaders, etc.



To submit a proposal: Email the following information to Ayanna Goines, agoines@scdah.sc.gov. Place "SCAAHC Conference Proposal" in the subject line. You will receive an email acknowledging receipt. Proposals due by **October 22, 2024**.

- Name
- Organizational Information
- Address (city, state, zip)
- Telephone
- Email
- Title
- Description of session (2 paragraphs)
- Speaker(s): include contact information for all speakers and brief bios
- Optional: Speaker bios, presentation, digital images, web links, anticipated audio-visual needs, and/or handouts

Fine print: No proposals will be accepted after **October 22, 2024**. You will be notified via email if the proposal is selected or not by **November 18, 2024**. If the proposal is accepted, you must send a finalized presentation no later than **February 14, 2025**. Presentations and speakers may be recorded. If proposal is accepted, a release form will be sent to presenters to consent or refuse to have their persons and information recorded.

Commission Activities

Commissioners have been busy participating in events. See below

for a recap!

September 21, 2024

Commissioner Rhonda Midgette attended the Jubilee Festival hosted by Historic Columbia. This annual event garners hundreds of visitors and is a celebration of Black heritage and culture.



September 21, 2024

Chair Charmaine Clowney, J.D. gave a presentation on the SCAAHC's mission and accomplishments during the Camden African American Cultural Center's Community Day.



Recent African American Preservation News

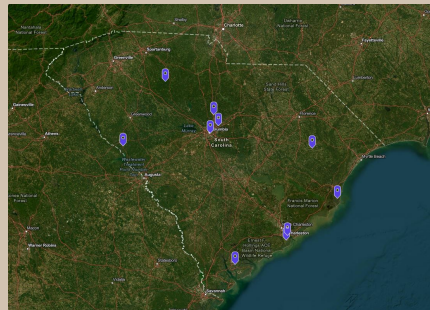
Nathaniel Russell Kitchen Restoration

Archaeological excavations of the Nathaniel Russell Kitchen House are under way and is considered a crucial phase in learning more about the enslaved people who inhabited the house. The excavations have revealed historical materials like large fragments of porcelain plates, Edgefield pottery made by enslaved potters, an African carnelian bead (see right), and more. Additional info can be found [here](#).



"Preserving African American Spaces" StoryMap

October 2024 is state-wide archaeology month in the hopes of encouraging South Carolinians to work together to help ensure the preservation of rich cultural heritage. A website has been created that highlights African American archaeological spaces. [Click here](#) for the link!



Finley High School State Marker

Finley High School, located in Chester, SC has been approved for a state historical marker. The dedication and unveiling of the marker is scheduled for October 18. This is the 2,000th marker that has come from SC Historical Marker Program since its creation in 1936. Congratulations to the S.L. Finley Restoration Association!



Grants!

- **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](#).

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.



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 and Alethea Harrison at aharrison@scdah.sc.gov. You will receive an email acknowledging receipt. **Proposals are due by December 16, 2024.**

Name	Title
Organizational affiliation	Description of session (2 paragraphs)
Address (city, state, zip)	Speaker(s) include contact information for all speakers
Telephone	Optional: Speaker bios, presentation, digital images, web links, anticipated audio-visual needs, and/or handouts (limit to 35 MB or less)
Email	

Questions?
Elizabeth Johnson at 803-896-6168, ejohnson@scdah.sc.gov or
Donna Foster at 803-896-0339, 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

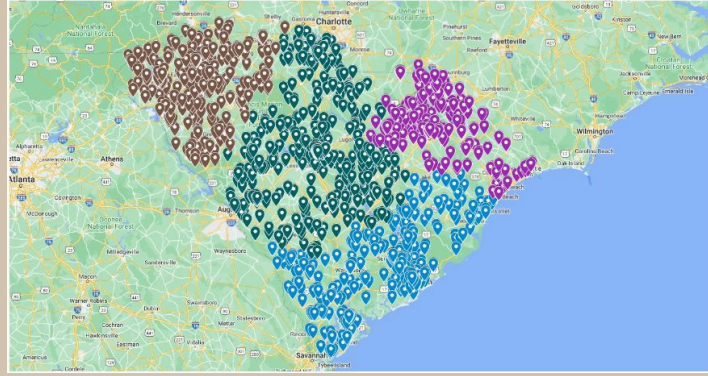
- **Saturday October 5th, 2024:** Join the Commission for a free, afternoon discussion with Dr. Frank Martin as he discusses the importance of art and activism in his presentation *A Brief Discussion of Arts, Artists, Activism, and Aesthetics in South Carolina*. Visit the [Commission's webpage](#) for more information and registration.
- **Saturday October 5th, 2024:** Join Dr. Walter Curry at the Charleston County Public Library for his presentation "The Thompson Family: Untold Stories of the Past (1830-1960)." More info and registration can be [found here](#).

- **Wednesday October 9, 2024:** Join the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions for a webinar titled "Protecting Historic Cemeteries through Recordation, Regulation, and Community Outreach." In this webinar you will learn basic laws and regulations concerning cemeteries, suggestions for how to record and document the resources, and discuss steps you can take for the proactive preservation of your local cemeteries. Visit [this link](#) for registration and more info.
- **Wednesday October 16, 2024:** The Cecil Williams Museum will host a roundtable discussion to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decisions and particularly the significance of the Briggs v. Elliot case. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Thursday-Saturday October 17-19, 2024:** In partnership with the National Park Service, the Center for Civil Rights History and Research at UofSC is hosting an inaugural conference, "Where Do We Go From Here?": Interpreting and Preserving the African American Civil Rights Movement. Click [this link](#) for more info.
- **Saturday November 16, 2024:** Join the South Carolina State Museum and experience a showcase of Black foodways , music, and cultural traditions of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Learn about canning and preserving farmed ingredients grown in the Blue Ridge mountains and more. More information can be found [here](#).
- **Saturday November 16, 2024:** The 6th Annual American Revolution Symposium will beheld at SCDAH. More information and registration can be found [here](#)
- **Saturday February 22, 2025:** The SCAAHC will be hosting it's second Annual Conference. Call for proposals is available now. Registration will open later this year. Check the [Commission's webpage](#) for updates!
- **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. More information coming soon and can be found [here](#)

Ongoing Events

- The 40th Anniversary MOJA Arts Festival will be hosting events from now until October 6 in Charleston. This is an annual celebration of Black arts and culture and out artistic contributions to the world, especially through African American and Caribbean legacies. [Click here](#) for more information.
- 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.

Interactive Map of All Approved South Carolina Historical Markers



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**SC African American
Heritage Commission**

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