



# SC African American Heritage Commission

## September 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!

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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On **October 5th, 2024**, join the Commission and Dr. Frank Martin as he presents images of art work and discusses the historical context for the aesthetic choices represented by artists like William H. Johnson, Elise Forrest Harleston, and Marlene O'Bryant-Seabrook. The artists included in the presentation contributed, in varying ways, to local, regional, national, or international conversations pertaining to art, politics, social transformation, and cultural aesthetics.

Click the flyer below to register for the event. Questions? Email Ayanna Goines, [agoines@scdah.sc.gov](mailto:agoines@scdah.sc.gov)

# A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF ARTS, ARTISTS, ACTIVISM, AND AESTHETICS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

PRESENTED BY FRANK C. MARTIN, PH.D



Dr. Frank Martin holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy, with a specialization in Axiology and the history of Aesthetics from UofSC. He has published several bodies of work and currently serves as Visiting Professor of Art History & Art Theory at SC State University.

Free Event

October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 1:30pm  
SC Dept. of Archives & History  
8301 Parklane Rd. Columbia, SC  
29223

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT THE  
[COMMISSION'S WEBPAGE](#) TO  
REGISTER

Questions? Contact Ayanna Goines,  
[agoines@scdah.sc.gov](mailto:agoines@scdah.sc.gov)



## Commission Activities

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

Dr. Vernon Burton will be a speaker in two upcoming events. One, scheduled for September 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm will discuss the legacy of Bloody Thursday in Honea Path, SC. Click the flyer to the left for the link to the Zoom registration.

The second event, a discussion about the Reconstruction era, will take place on September 13<sup>th</sup> in North Augusta as part of the Annual SC Humanities Festival. Click the flyer below for more information.

It's been 90 years since

## Bloody Thursday


when 7 striking workers were killed on Sept. 6, 1934  
at Chiquola Mill in Honea Path, SC

The town buried the story along with the dead

Let's talk about it

## Sept. 6

7pm on Zoom

 **PANEL** ▶ Dr. Robert Greene II, *Clafflin University and Modjeska Simkins School*  
Dr. Vernon Burton, *noted author and historian, Clemson University*  
Cecil Cahoon, *SC Progressive Network Education Fund*

## The 2024 South Carolina Humanities Festival LECTURE SERIES

### THE HAMPTON TERRACE HOTEL

Lecture and  
slide presentation  
by George Forbes  
11:00 a.m.



### FRANCIS MARION THE SWAMP FOX

Lecture by  
Chip Hardin  
12:30 p.m.

### RECONSTRUCTION

Lecture by  
Dr. Vernon Burton  
2:00 p.m.



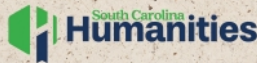
### EDGEFIELD POTTERY

Lecture and  
Demonstration by  
Tony Riley  
4:00 p.m.

**FRIDAY  
SEPTEMBER 13**

**ALL LECTURES WILL  
BE HELD IN THE CITY  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

North Augusta Municipal Building  
100 Georgia Avenue  
Third Floor



## Recent African American Preservation News

### UofSC Receives NEH Grant

The SC Digital Newspaper Program, part of USC's digital library collection have received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for \$320,863. This grant will assist in the digitization of 100,000 pages of historic South Carolina newspapers with a focus on environmental history and the African American experience in the state. Find out more about the newspaper program [here](#).



## Grants!

- FY24-25 Historic Preservation State Grant Fund**

The Historic Preservation State Grant Fund application is now available with a due date of September 19, 2024. The purpose of the State Grant Fund is to support historic preservation projects that benefit local communities through the physical repair and rehabilitation of South Carolina's historic buildings. This year applicants may apply for either a **Planning Grant** to develop "bid-



ready” plans and specifications OR a **Stabilization Grant** to assist with historic building stabilization and weatherization projects. The instructions and application, and Frequently Asked Questions are available at [this link](#). Questions? Please email Amanda Lee at [alee2@scdah.sc.gov](mailto:alee2@scdah.sc.gov).

- **SC American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission**  
Accepting applications for FY24 Patriot Grants (up to \$15,000). Information about specific grant programs and requirements can be found [here](#) or email [info@southcarolina250.com](mailto:info@southcarolina250.com)

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## Upcoming Events & Conferences

- **Thursday September 5, 2024:** Attend the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Normal School of South Carolina. There will be a lecture by Dr. Alexandria Russell and Poet Laureate Jennifer Bartell Boykin will deliver a poem. See the flyer below for more information or [click this link](#).
- **Sunday September 8, 2024:** Join Dr. Walter Curry at the Orangeburg County Historical Society for his presentation "Martha Kitchings Seawright Ellison: A Woman's Journey Across Four Towns and Three Eras." More info and registration can be found [here](#).
- **Sunday September 8, 2024:** Join local artist John W. Jones, author Margaret Seidler, and SC Senator Mia McLeod for a panel discussion, led by Dr. Bobby Donaldson, on the themes of the art exhibit "Payne-ful" Business. Click [here for more info](#).
- **Friday September 13, 2024:** Join Preservation SC for an update on their initiatives and projects at the historic Curtiss-Wright Hangar in Columbia, now home to the Hunter Gatherer Brewery. Visit their website [here](#) for more info.
- **Saturday September 21, 2024:** Join Historic Columbia for Jubilee: Festival of Black History & Culture. For more information on this all-day event, [click here](#).
- **Saturday September 28th, 2024:** The Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site will host "The Power of Black Female Flight in the Neo-Slave Narrative." presented by Dr. Len Lawson. Learn more about this free event at [this link](#).
- **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.
- **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:** The 6th Annual American Revolution Symposium will be held at SCDAH. More information and registration can be found [here](#)
- **Saturday February 22, 2025:** The SCAAHC will be hosting its 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 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.

**LECTURE**

Join us for the 2024 Witten Lecture

**A SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION  
OF THE S.C. NORMAL SCHOOL**

featuring **ALEXANDRIA RUSSELL, PH.D.** and a  
poetry reading by **JENNIFER BARTELL BOYKIN**

**SEPTEMBER 5, 2024**  
4 p.m. reception, Museum of Education  
5 p.m. lecture, Rutledge College

The State Normal School of South Carolina opened on September 1, 1874. This year's Witten Lecture will feature Alexandria Russell, Ph.D. She is currently the Interim Helaine B. Allen Vice President of Education and External Engagement at Boston Symphony Orchestra and the W.E.B. Du Bois Research Institute Non-Resident Fellow at Harvard University's Hutchins Center for African & African American Research. In 2018, she earned a Ph.D. in History from the Department of History at the University of South Carolina.

Jennifer Bartell Boykin is the Poet Laureate of the City of Columbia, SC. She received an M.F.A. and M.L.I.S. from the University of South Carolina. She is a school librarian at Muller Road Middle School and was named the 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year while teaching at Spring Valley High School.



This event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP using the QR code or link.  
[bit.ly/4ffjhZ6](https://bit.ly/4ffjhZ6)



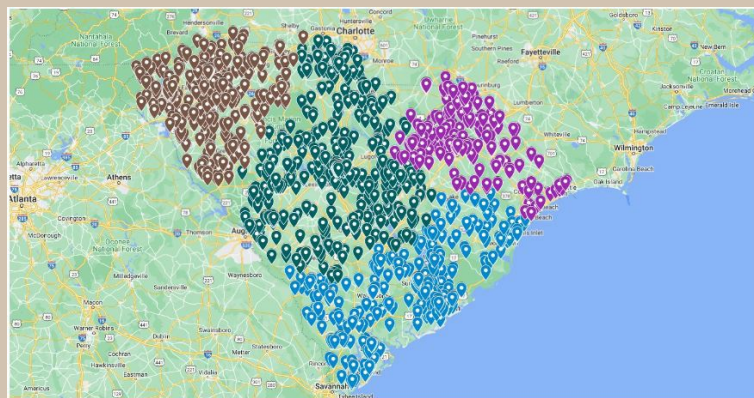
Alexandria Russell



Jennifer Bartell Boykin



## Interactive Map of All Approved South Carolina Historical Markers



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**SC African American  
Heritage Commission**

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

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