

South Carolina African American Commission Accomplishments

- 2022: SCAAHC Member, Dr. Vernon Burton was awarded the John Hope Franklin Lifetime Achievement Award by the Southern Historical Association for his outstanding contributions to the field of Southern History.
- 2022: SCAAHC Member, Dr. Rhondda R. Thomas received the SC Humanities' Fresh Voices Governor's Award.
- 2022: SCAAHC Member, Dr. Vernon Burton was inducted into the Martin Luther King Jr. Collegium of Scholars at Morehouse College.
- 2020: Published the fourth edition of [*A Teacher's Guide to African American Historic Places in South Carolina*](#).
- 2020: Dr. Barbara Jenkins, a charter member of the SCAAHC, received the Governor's Award in the Humanities for her exemplary career as a librarian, former Dean at South Carolina State University, and champion of African American historic preservation statewide.
- 2020: Launched "[Drumbeat](#)," a live-streamed bi-weekly program that explores important people, places, ideas, and trends in African American history and culture in South Carolina.
- 2020: Successfully launched [Black Carolinians Speak: Portraits of a Pandemic](#), an oral history initiative that seeks to capture the African American experience in South Carolina during the COVID-19 public health crisis.
- 2020: The SCAAHC and SCDAH co-hosted the South Carolina premiere of [Willie](#), a critically acclaimed documentary on the life and athletic career of Willie O'Ree, a descendant of escaped South Carolina slaves, who became the first Black player to skate in a National Hockey League game.
- 2019: Published the 4th edition of Integrating the Arts into Classroom Instruction.
- 2019: On April 4-5th, the SCAAHC hosted its annual "Preserving Our Places in History" Awards Luncheon and its [25th Anniversary Gala](#) at the SCDAH. Seven charter members of the Commission--Dr. Ricky Hill, Alada Shinault Small, Bhakti Larry Hough, Elaine Nichols, Dr. Cornelius St. Mark, Joseph McGill and Dr. Karry Guillory--were presented with honorary resolutions from the South Carolina General Assembly. Three of our longest serving members--Michael Allen, Dr. Barbara Jenkins, and Jannie Harriot--received the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor awarded by the Governor.
- 2019: The SCAAHC hosted a [pre-conference workshop](#) prior to the 104th ASALH annual meeting and conference in Charleston, SC.
- 2019: Presented professional development seminar for SC educators themed, "Black Reconstruction in South Carolina."
- 2019: The SCAAHC hosted a Teacher's Institute themed, "Integrating Arts in the Curriculum of Grades K-12 through the Lens of Gullah Culture"
- 2018: Former SCAAHC chairperson Jannie Harriot received the 2018 Presidential Citation as an African American Heritage Advocate in recognition of her "untiring efforts to preserve and maintain the history and culture of African Americans" in South Carolina
- 2018: Former SCAAHC ex-officio member Dr. Bobby J. Donaldson received the 2018 Historic Preservation Governor's Award from Preservation South Carolina, SCDAH, and the Office of the Governor
- 2018: The SCAAHC hosted a Teacher's Institute themed, "Desegregation in South Carolina."
- 2018: Published [The Business of Rural Heritage, Culture and Art: An Introductory Resource Guide for Entrepreneurs](#), and revised the [Supplement to the Teacher's Guide, Integrating the Arts into Classroom Instruction](#)

- 2017: Launched the [Green Book of South Carolina](#), an online travel guide to South Carolina's African American historic and cultural sites.
- 2016: Created the Supplement to the Teacher's Guide "Integrating Art into Classroom Instruction".
- 2016: Completed project identifying African American Schools "How Did We Get to Now?": [Volume 1](#) (2016) [Volume 2](#) (2019).
- 2015: Updated [A Teacher's Guide to African American Historic Places in South Carolina](#).
- 2013: Premiered POV's documentary [Homecomings](#) at SCDAH.
- 2012: Featured award winning artist, Natalie Daise in "[Becoming Harriet Tubman](#)".
- 2010: Presented Opera Noire at the Township Auditorium in Columbia and Hartsville.
- 2009: Sponsored a state-wide Diversity Conference in Charleston.
- 2007: Launched *Call & Response*, an online newsletter highlighting news about African American historic preservation in the state.
- 1999-2011: Reduced the number of counties having no recognized African American historic resources from fourteen counties to none.
- 2007: Hosted two regional workshops in Florence and Hartsville, and partnered with SCDAH to host a statewide conference titled "In Our Trust: Preserving the African American Church in South Carolina".
- 2007: First annual meeting of SCAAHC.
- 2006-Present: Presented Preserving Our Places in History Awards. The awards are intended to recognize efforts to preserve the legacy of African Americans in South Carolina and encourage others to do the same.
- 2005: Successfully lobbied the South Carolina General Assembly for \$25,000 in funding to support the work of the Commission.
- 1994: Preservation award to the South Carolina African American Heritage Council (now Commission) from the National Park Service Southeast Regional Office for efforts to preserve the state's African American buildings and sites.