

Call & Response

News from the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission

Spring/Summer 2008 Volume III, Number 2



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Message from the Chair

Jannie Harriot, Chairperson

The Commission has had many opportunities to partner with other organizations for projects and programs during this spring and summer. In April, Vice-Chairman Leon Love and I served as judges for SC History Day at the Department of Archives & History. It was such a joy to see so many young people interested in our state's and nation's history. I was especially pleased by the number of African American projects presented. The Commission gives an award to the best African American project each year, and this year, Sarah Hicklin of Rock Hill won for her documentary "Jail, No Bail" about the Friendship Nine. Sarah will present her documentary at our September 26th meeting in Columbia.

We also partnered with the African American Historical Alliance for the presentation of the Robert Smalls documentary in May in Charleston during Harbor Fest. Ms. Adrena Ifill, the writer and producer; Dr. Lewis Burke, USC Law Professor; and Dr. Stephen Wise, director of the Parris Island Museum, answered questions following the presentation at the American Theater.

While this year has been filled with successes and accomplishments, we are saddened by the recent departure of Dr. Marvin Dulaney who was the Executive Director of the Avery Research Center for African American History & Culture at the College of Charleston since 1994. He had been an avid supporter of the Commission and later became a very active board member. His contributions to the Commission, to Avery and to the state have been invaluable. We will surely miss him, but wish him well in his new endeavors in Texas.

We continue to reach out to individuals and organizations interested in the preservation of the African American experience in South Carolina. The SC African American Heritage Foundation has been created to support the programs of the Commission. Membership is \$25/year. Foundation members receive invitations to all Commission meetings; a copy of *African American Historic Places in South Carolina*; a subscription to *Call & Response*, the Commission's quarterly newsletter; a subscription to "News & Notes," the monthly online newsletter from the Historic Preservation Division of the SC Department of Archives & History; notification of special workshops and conferences; and discount registration to workshops and conferences.



SCAAHC Chairperson Jannie Harriot is shown with Sara Hicklin (center) and her father at SC History Day. Sara won the SCAAHC's award for best African American project. Photo provided by SCDAH

The mission of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission is to identify and promote the preservation of historic sites, structures, buildings, and culture of the African American experience in South Carolina and to assist and enhance the efforts of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

In The News

South Carolina Prepares to Observe the Civil War Sesquicentennial

Jannie Harriot & Michael Allen

On May 28th, the SC General Assembly passed into law Senate Bill 104, creating the *South Carolina Civil War Sesquicentennial Advisory Board* to assist the South Carolina Commission of Archives and History with the upcoming observance of the anniversary of the Civil War. Events, programs, projects, etc. will begin in 2010, one-hundred fifty years since SC seceded from the Union in 1860. The board consists of twenty-two members from various organizations, including two appointees each by the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

The SCAAHC was instrumental in the creation of this bill as well as the makeup of the advisory board. The original version of S-104 included only two organizations represented by African Americans and did not include representation from Penn Center on St. Helena Island. SCAAHC members were deeply concerned about this omission and lobbied members of the House of Representatives and Senate to ensure that the historic Penn Center was represented on this body. The Commissioners deemed this to be a TOP priority this year and recognized the value of Penn Center as it relates to the history of African Americans and the role that Penn School played in the development of South Carolina's history.

There is a degree of reservation as the final members of the advisory board are appointed. The Commission is concerned that the advisory board adequately reflects the state's demographics and that the upcoming observance is more inclusive and has more diverse offerings than the 1960 Civil War Centennial commemoration.

The full advisory board has not met yet, but there is great anticipation among various communities as to how it will function, what direction it will give to communities, and what technical advice can and will be gained from this group. The Civil War invokes varied reactions from folks depending on their background and/or heritage. The SCAAHC believes that this time of reflection can serve as both a conduit for healing and restoration as well as an opportunity for a very in-depth look at this turbulent time in American history.

To view the legislation, see: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/104.htm

Preservation Project Profile

"Winnowing Hands" Sculpture Adds a Cultural Touch to New Shopping Village

A. Shinault-Small



Above - "Winnowing Hands" sculpture at Oakland Plantation Market Place in Mount Pleasant depicts female hands holding a fanner basket - a part of West African technology used to separate chaff from the rice grains. Photo by W. Marvin Dulaney

On May 10th, "Winnowing Hands," was unveiled and dedicated to a sizeable crowd gathered at Oakland Plantation Market Place in Mt. Pleasant. Congressman James E. Clyburn (SC-6) delivered the keynote address.

The sculpture was the culmination of a 2 1/2 year collaboration between Tex Small (no relation to author), AVTEX Commercial Properties president and developer of the new shopping area, and the Sweetgrass Cultural Arts Festival Association. Small presented the idea of highlighting the ancient style of artisanship at Oakland Plantation with a commissioned sculpture. The SCAFA board agreed and began working with him to see the idea come to fruition.

Nakia Wigfall, Executive Director of the SCAFA, submitted the sculpture design and name to the organization's board. The actual fanner basket that was used as a model was provided by M. Jeannette Lee, president of the Original Sweetgrass Market Place Coalition. SCAFA then solicited the input of former SCAAHC board member Marvin Dulaney to help them find a sculptor. They selected Shirley McWhorter-Moss of California from a pool of applicants in 2007, and she began creating the massive public art piece based on the design and ideas that the board gave her. Photos that she took of sweetgrass basketmakers along Hwy. 17 further helped her to inject finite detail to the piece.

Preservation Project Profile

James E. Clyburn Intermodal Transportation Center

Joseph McGill, Jr.

Commission member Joseph McGill, Jr. attended the grand opening celebration of the James E. Clyburn Intermodal Transportation Center in Sumter on Saturday, July 26th.

Ten years in the making, the new Center will provide a more vital regional venue that will increase the visibility and accessibility of public transportation for the residents of Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Lower Richland, and Sumter counties. It houses the Santee/Waterree Regional Transportation Authority (SWRTA), administrative and operational offices, and a Southeastern Stages (Greyhound) intercity bus ticket and information office. Four additional areas - ranging in size from 1,500 to 2,200 square feet - are offered for lease within the facility, and an 1,800 square-foot pavilion with a patio area is also available.

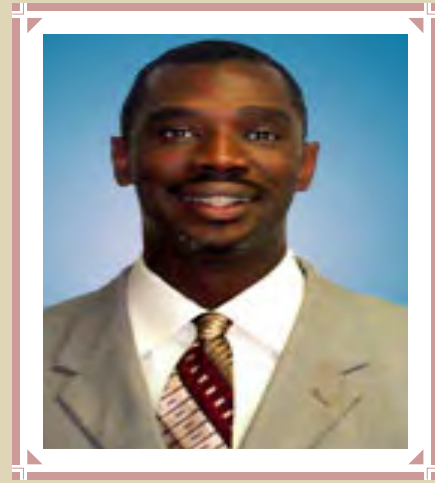
The Honorable James E. Clyburn of SC, Majority Whip, 110th Congress, US House of Representatives, was the keynote speaker. Federal, state, and local dignitaries were on hand for the event, as well as Sumter High School living history students dressed in 1900s period attire. Members of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, Co. I, re-enactment unit based in Charleston also participated in the ceremony.



Above - Main entrance to the James E. Clyburn Intermodal Transportation Center in Sumter, before (top photo) and after (bottom) renovation. *Photos by Ann August*

Spotlight on...

**Michael A. Allen
Mount Pleasant**



Michael A. Allen grew up in Kingstree, SC, and is a 1982 graduate of SC State College with a degree in History Education. He began his public career as a Cooperative Education Student with the National Park Service in 1980. Michael has served as a Park Ranger and is now the Education Specialist for Fort Sumter National Monument and Charles Pinckney National Historic Site.

Michael played a major role in the National Park Service's Gullah/Geechee Special Resource Study (SRS). The Gullah people, also known as Geechee in some areas, are the descendants of enslaved Africans brought from West Africa to work on plantations in the fertile coastal crescent from the St. Johns River in Florida to the Cape Fear River in North Carolina. The language, food and religion of their native Africa was integrated with the circumstances forced on them in America, thus forming a distinct culture rich in language, art and culture.

The final report that stemmed from the SRS was presented to Congress in May 2005. In October 2006, the US Congress, through the leadership of Congressman James E. Clyburn, passed the Gullah/Geechee Heritage Act which established the first African American Heritage Area in the country. Then in October 2007, Michael was instrumental in the establishment of the Gullah/Geechee Heritage Commission.

Currently, Michael is involved in an innovative project designed to engage new audiences in understanding and appreciating African and American history. He is a board member of the International African American Museum, which is slated to open in 2014 in Charleston. It will offer a glimpse of Africans and African Americans contributions in the making of the modern world.

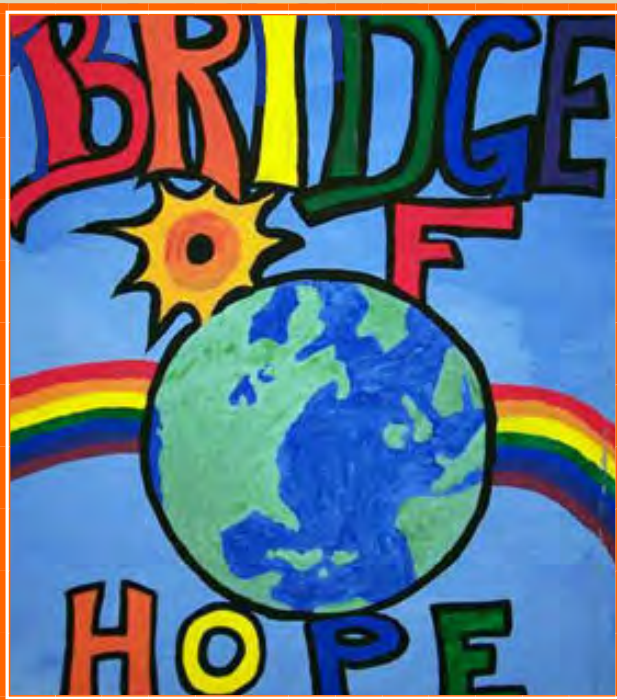
In addition, he was a founding member and former

Spotlight continued

SCAAHC Chairman and Vice-Chairman. He is also the past Treasurer for the SC Council for African American Studies. In addition, Michael serves as a board member for a number of other local and statewide organizations such as The African American Historical Alliance, Habitat for Humanity East Cooper, and the Sweetgrass Preservation Society. He recently was appointed to the National Park Service Culture Resource Advisory Board.

He and his wife Latanya are the co-founders of Bridge of Hope, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization created to serve the needs of the underserved in North Charleston. Michael is also co-pastor of Beyond the Church Walls Ministries. Other family members are son Brandon, 20; daughter Shaelyn, 14; and son Isaiah, 9.

Michael's motto is, "To understand the present and move toward the future, you must first know and accept your past."



Above - Artwork from the Bridge of Hope website. In 2003, Michael Allen and his wife Latanya co-founded the non-profit organization based in North Charleston.

News from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History

*Elizabeth M. Johnson
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer*

The SHPO Website Has A New Address And A New Look! Go to <http://shpo.sc.gov/> for a reorganized and more user-friendly website. You will find information about the National Register of Historic Places, grants, tax incentives and more. All the features of our old website are there with more to come in the months ahead.

Staff Transitions/SHPO Job Opening

Richard Sidebottom, our Supervisor of Compliance, Tax Incentives and Outreach is leaving at the end of September to move to Charleston. While we are sad to see him go, we are glad that he will still be in South Carolina and look forward to working with him in the future. We are pleased to announce that Rebekah Dobrasko, our Review and Compliance Coordinator, will be promoted to Supervisor of Compliance, Tax Incentives and Survey at the beginning of October. This creates a job opening in the SHPO for the Review and Compliance Coordinator position. The position is posted on the state jobs website http://agency.governmentjobs.com/sc/job_bulletin.cfm?JobID=125687. Applications will be accepted until September 11, 2008. For more information contact Rebekah Dobrasko at : dobrasko@scdah.state.sc.us or 803-896-6169.

Disaster Preparedness Reminder

A fire on August 4th badly damaged the Lancaster County Courthouse, a National Historic Landmark, (<http://www.heraldonline.com/109/story/726260.html>) and reminds us of the importance of having a disaster plan. Some simple steps to prepare are to:

- Document the building. Take lots of pictures. Record building measurements. Find someone to draw plans and elevations and then store the documentation OFF SITE.
- Invite the local fire department on a tour to familiarize them with the building and its contents and to get suggestions about how to improve fire safety.
- Develop a list (with contact information) of folks who can assist if an emergency strikes, such as a preservation architect, engineer, conservator,

News from the SCDAH continued

lected officials, etc. For more information on disaster preparedness, visit the Disaster Planning and Recovery for South Carolina State and Local Government Records section of the SCDAH website: <http://arm.scdah.sc.gov/disaster/> as well as the Resources for Building Owners section of the SHPO website: <http://shpo.sc.gov/programs/resources/>.

Other resources include:

- The National Institute for Conservation's *Guide to Navigating Federal Emergency Management Agency and Small Business Administration Disaster Aid for Cultural Institutions* is available at www.heritagepreservation.org. A limited number of print copies are available by calling 888-979-2233.
- The American Institute for Conservation (AIC) offers free emergency response assistance to cultural organizations when a disaster - hurricane, flooding, earthquake, fire - has damaged collections. Call AIC's 24-hour assistance number at 202-661-8068 for advice by phone or to arrange for a team to come to the site to complete damage assessments and help with salvage organization.

Gray Court And Pacolet Designated Preserve America Communities

The newest Preserve America communities have recently been announced. Joining their ever-growing ranks from South Carolina are Gray Court and Pacolet! More information about how your town can become a Preserve America Community and the benefits of doing so is available at www.preserveamerica.gov.

City Of Seneca Achieves Certified Local Government Status

Congratulations to the City of Seneca on becoming a Certified Local Government (CLG). On July 9, 2008, the National Park Service approved the City's application and Seneca became South Carolina's 26th CLG. To learn more about the CLG program in South Carolina and how it can benefit your community visit <http://shpo.sc.gov/programs/localgovt/certified.htm> or contact Jennifer Satterthwaite at jsatt@scdah.state.sc.us or 803-896-6171.

State Tax Credit Workshop, September 24th

A workshop on the state income tax credit for historic homes will be held in Beaufort on September 24th in conjunction with Historic Beaufort Foundation. Details about the time and location are being finalized. If you are interested in the workshop, please contact Kim Robinson, state tax credit coordinator at: krobinson@scdah.state.sc.us or 803-896-6199.

Recent Listing In The National Register Of Historic Places

The National Register is a list of places important in our local, state, and national history that are worthy of

recognition and preservation. For more information about the National Register, go to <http://shpo.sc.gov/properties/register/>. Good Samaritan/Waverly Hospital in Columbia, which operated from 1952 to 1973, served as an alternative institution for black residents in Columbia and was the culmination of a string of local hospitals and clinics built for the African American community. The hospital represents a historical tradition among Columbia's black community and philanthropic efforts to establish modern, independent health care facilities. The hospital was the only training facility for black nurses in Columbia, and was built as a state-of-the-art medical facility. In 1972, the county constructed the integrated Richland Co. Memorial Hospital, and neither Good Samaritan/Waverly Hospital nor Columbia General Hospital could compete. In August 1973, Good Samaritan/Waverly Hospital closed its doors. More information will soon be posted at <http://www.nationalregister.sc.gov/richland/nrrichland.htm>.

SC Historical Marker Program Has A Record-Setting Year

The South Carolina Historical Marker Program approved a record 81 historical markers in 25 counties during the fiscal year just ended (July 1, '07-June 30, '08). Below is a list of the markers associated with African American history approved in FY2008. The program has approved 1221 markers to date since its inception in 1936. For further information on the South Carolina Historical Marker Program, visit <http://shpo.sc.gov/properties/markers/>. For the texts of any of these markers, please contact J. Tracy Power, coordinator of the Historical Marker Program, at power@scdah.state.sc.us.

Beaufort County: The Great Sea Island Storm (St. Helena)

Berkeley County: Bowen's Corner (Hanahan)

Calhoun County: Good Hope Picnic (Lone Star)

Charleston County: Jenkins Orphanage (North Charleston); Lincolnville School/Lincolnville Elementary School (Lincolnville)

Cherokee County: Granard Graded & High School/Granard High School (Gaffney); Mulberry Chapel Methodist Church (Pacolet vicinity)

Greenville County: Sterling High School (Greenville vicinity)

Richland County: (All are in Columbia) Wesley Methodist Church; Carver Theatre; Matthew J. Perry House; James M. Hinton House; Heidt-Russell House/Edwin R. Russell; *The Lighthouse & Informer*/John H. McCray; Waverly Five and Dime/George Elmore and *Elmore v. Rice*; Benedict College; Blossom Street School/Celia Dial Saxon School; Bethel A.M.E. Church; Modjeska Simkins House

Sumter County: Mt. Zion Methodist Church (Sumter); Henry Johnson Maxwell Farm (Sumter vicinity)

York County: Stooping Pines School (Hickory Grove vicinity)

Contact Elizabeth Johnson via email:

emjohnson@scdah.state.sc.us to subscribe to "Historic Preservation News and Notes," the State Historic Preservation Office's monthly online newsletter.

Guest Corner

Freedom Schooner Amistad Gives a Firsthand Look at History...

...to visitors from Spartanburg Brenda Lee Pryce

On May 24th at 7 am, 52 passengers young and old, boarded a chartered bus for Charleston. The City of Spartanburg and Denny's Corporation co-sponsored the excursion for the group to tour the Freedom Schooner *Amistad*. The ship was visiting the city as a part of Amistad America's 2007-08 Atlantic Freedom Tour, and it was a perfect addition to the annual Charleston Harbor Fest. Once our pillows and snacks were in place and our cell phones off, our trip began.

Excitement filled the bus from those old enough to remember the stories told to them by their ancestors and those young and eager enough to want to learn more about American slavery. We looked forward to going on board the replica of the vessel that was smuggling 53 enslaved West Africans from one point to another in Cuba in 1839. The captives revolted and eventually were able to return home. We knew that this history would have more meaning for us while walking on a deck like they walked on and seeing a ship like the one they saw.

As we journeyed down to the Lowcountry, copies of *South of Main*, the book I wrote about Spartanburg's African American history post urban renewal, were given to the adults who shared their experiences and memories of growing up in the area during the 1940s and 1950s with the younger ones. As they turned the pages in awe, the youth made comments like, "What happened to all those big houses with wrap-around porches?" and "What happened to the black high school?" The older adults took great pride in sharing their memories of the South Side, and I knew that the children had "gotten it."

The trip to Charleston took 3 ½ hours. Some were visiting for the first time. The weather was pleasant, and our group was longing to visit the vessel. We were greeted by Captain Pinkney who made everyone feel welcome. While waiting for the tour to begin, we ran into Alexander Smalls, a Spartanburg native and author of the book *Grace The Table*. He was in town with SC and NY friends for the *Amistad* tour. Just think, a family reunion and a tour all in one day!

Once on board the *Amistad*, there was complete silence, and you could feel the somberness of our group. All eyes were on our captain, and he had our undivided attention. He explained to our group about the history and journey of the vessel. Hands began to rise and many questions were asked like, "How many slaves were on

the ship?" and "How long did the journey take?" The older people walked and listened in silence; one lady started humming old spirituals to herself.

After our unforgettable tour we had lunch, took pictures, stopped by the Market then boarded the bus for home. While we rode, the young people made up a game to play remembering what they had learned and experienced aboard the *Amistad*. Many said that they would use this experience to write about when they returned to school. Our thanks go out to Jannie Harriot, the SCAAHC, and especially to Alada Shinault-Small. Also, a big thank you to our co-sponsors - Denny's Corporation and the City of Spartanburg.

...and to visitors from Hartsville and Columbia

Leon A. Love

On Monday, May 26th, my family, including our grandchildren, joined about 40 Hartsville youth and their chaperons in Charleston to witness an event to be long remembered. The group was led by the Chairperson of the African American Heritage Commission, Ms. Jannie Harriot. Sunoco and New Vision CDC of Hartsville graciously sponsored their adventure. We traveled to Charleston to board the replica of the *Amistad* which had just returned from a trip to Africa and back. This ship of sails journeyed from Africa to America, retracing the route of slave ships of the 1800s.

To walk aboard the beautiful replica and see firsthand the limited space and shackling equipment similar to what was used to transport our ancestors to this country was awesome. What was more impressive and educational was a 30-minute lecture provided by Captain Pinkney - the only African American to sail solo around the world.

His lecture brought life to the story of the slave trade. The young people of our party stood silently and at attention as he brought pride to each as they heard the story of their ancestors. Their questions were piecing, and he responded not only as a historian, but also as one who knows the unforgiving sea from personal experience.

My dream is that the *Amistad* returns to SC and that each of you finds time to walk aboard and experience the quarters in the hole like those that our ancestors experienced. I believe it will give you a renewed commitment to high achievements as we live in America with African roots.



Leon Love (rear in green shirt and cap) has a reflective moment while on board the Freedom Schooner *Amistad* with visitors from Hartsville and Columbia.
Photo provided by L. Love

*Freedom Schooner Amistad Gives a Firsthand Look at History
Visual Memories of May 2008*



These are some of SCAHC Chair Jannie Harriot's memories of May 26th when she accompanied a group of youth and adults from the Pee Dee to the Lowcountry to experience the Freedom Schooner Amistad. The trip was sponsored by Sunoco and New Vision CDC of Hartsville.



Events Calendar

September 2008

Birth of a Community: Fairfield County Midwives

September 2008 through December 31, 2008
The Fairfield County Museum, Winnsboro
Contact: (803) 635-9811
<http://www.fairfieldsc.com/secondary.aspx? pageID=125>

From Slave to Sharecropper: African Americans in the Lowcountry after the Civil War

Through February 28, 2009
The Charleston Museum , Charleston
Contact: (843) 722-2996
www.charlestonmuseum.org

Institute for African American Research - Testimony and Transformation: African American Rhetoric Before 1830

September 17, 2008 at 3:30 PM
Conference Room 218, Level 2, Thomas Cooper Library,
USC Campus, Columbia
Contact Francesca J. Fair at 803-777-4472

SC African American Heritage Commission Quarterly Meeting

September 26, 2008, 11:00 AM
Archives and History Center, Colleton Room
8301 Parklane Road, Columbia

October 2008

Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians 26th Annual Meeting

October 1 - 4, 2008, Greensboro, North Carolina

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History

93rd Annual Conference: Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism

October 1 - 5, 2008 , Birmingham, Alabama
<http://www.asalh.org/93rdconvention.html>

Call & Response is the official newsletter of the *South Carolina African American Heritage Commission* and is published three times annually. Views expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH). Information published is at the discretion of the Editorial Board.

The Commission extends its heartfelt gratitude to SCDAH graphic artist, Tim Belshaw, for his ongoing technical and graphics support.

2008 National Organization of Minority Architects Annual Conference

36th International Conference & Exposition: Evolve: Expanding Our Horizons

October 2 - 4, 2008, Washington, DC
<http://www.noma.net/local/Conferenceorder.asp>

Jonathan Green Poster Sale & Wine And Cheese Reception

October 11, 2008, 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Darrah Hall, Penn Center, St. Helena Island
Contact: 843-838-2432

Institute for African American Research - Racial Identity in the African Diaspora: Dominicans, African Americans, and the Cultural Significance of Blackness

October 15, 2008 at 3:30 PM
Conference Room 218, Level 2, Thomas Cooper Library,
USC Campus, Columbia
Contact Francesca J. Fair at 803-777-4472

November 2008

Institute for African American Research Whiting Up: Whiteface Minstrelsy and Stage Europeans in African American Performance

November 12, 2008 at 3:30 PM
Conference Room 218, Level 2, Thomas Cooper Library,
USC Campus, Columbia
Contact Francesca J. Fair at 803-777-4472

National Preservation Institute Identification and Evaluation of Mid-20th Century Buildings

November 18 - 19, 2008, Archives and History Center,
Columbia <http://www.npi.org/sem-20th.html>

SAVE THE DATE !!
SCAAHC ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 22-23, 2009
BROOKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
WEST COLUMBIA

If you would like to have your event listed on the SCDAH website, please send your event name, date, location, and website or contact information at least three (3) weeks prior to the event to Leah Brown, African American Programs Coordinator, SC SHPO at brownl@scdah.state.sc.us. Also, e-mail Leah to subscribe to a bi-monthly e-mail digest containing African American preservation and history-related information.

Call & Response Editorial Board:

Terry James, SCAAHC board member, Florence
Joseph McGill, Jr., SCAAHC board member, Ladson
Alada Shinault-Small, SCAAHC board member, North Charleston