

Call & Response

www.scaaheritagefound.org

Volume XIV, Number 11

Fall 2019

SC African American Heritage Foundation Awarded \$50,000 Grant

An elated Jannie Harriot, Chairperson of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission (SCAAHC) and executive director of the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation (SCAAHF) recently announced to members that the organization is the recipient of a \$50,000 grant from the National Trust's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund. The funds will support Sustaining African American Historic Preservation in South Carolina.



The Trust received an exceptional response from 462 applicants from across the country, requesting nearly \$40 million. The National Trust closely reviewed each letter of intent and selected 52 organizations to submit full grant applications, which were then reviewed by staff from both the National Trust and several noted African American history organizations. Harriot said, "the National Trust noted in their letter, that SCAAHF's work is extraordinary and that is why we were only one of 52 who made it to the final round of the National Grant Program." Across the country, \$1.6 million in grants has been awarded to 22 sites and organizations. In South Carolina: the Emanuel AME Church awarded \$150,000; Hutchinson House on Edisto Island awarded \$85,000; and the SCAAHF awarded \$50,000.



National Trust for
Historic Preservation®

The National Trust and its partners are working to raise \$25 million to create and invest in the African

American Cultural Heritage Action Fund—the largest preservation campaign ever undertaken on behalf of African American history. The mission: to draw attention to the remarkable stories that evoke centuries of African American activism and achievement, and to tell our nation's full history. For more information visit:

<https://savingplaces.org/african-american-cultural-heritage#.XUGf00xFweg>



MISSION STATEMENT

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.



Preserving Our Places in History

“The South Carolina African American Heritage Commission (SCAAHC) proudly supported two National Register nominations for African American historic sites in our state: Historic Mosquito Beach on James Island and Holly Springs Colored School in Greenville. Both were unanimously approved by the State Review Board for consideration at the national level!

Mosquito Beach, located off of Sol Legare Road, was one of six Lowcountry area beaches that served as safe havens for African American residents and travelers who were denied access to nearby Folly Beach and other sites along the Atlantic Coast. Local Black families collaborated to provide “good dancing, good eating, and good food” for those seeking summertime leisure but were unable to make the nearly three-hour drive to Atlantic Beach, a segregated beach near Myrtle Beach.



Holly Springs Colored School, winners of a SCAAHC 2019 Project Award, is a Reconstruction-era school for Black children located in a rural section of Belton, SC, known as “Possum Kingdom.” Housed in what is likely an extant slave dwelling, Holly Springs was sold to a board of trustees comprised of local community leaders after the Civil War. The school remained open throughout the first half of the twentieth century. It was eventually incorporated into the Greenville County school system and finally closed due to desegregation. The building sat vacant for several decades until a dedicated team of community residents, preservationists, and historians rescued the building for future use in 2018.

Both projects are fine examples of what can happen when communities unite to preserve sacred spaces and tell fuller histories of the places they call home. We invite each of you to think about what spaces can be preserved in your own neighborhoods and step out on faith to make it happen! The SCAAHC stands ready to support you however we can.”

For more information about the SC Historical Marker and National Register programs, please contact:

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Penn Center Welcomes National Guests!

The Honorable Nina Hudson Turner, former Senator from Ohio (*the dynamic woman in red pictured below*), and mega-star Danny Glover visited the beautiful St. Helena Island. Local artist Lisa Gillyard-



Rivers was honored to create and present two paintings to the former Senator and Glover depicting the history and beauty of St. Helena Island and its people.

Turner and Glover were led on a guided tour of the 50 acre Penn School National Historic Landmark District by Victoria A. Smalls, Penn Center's Director of History and Culture. Both were struck by the amazing history and strength of the Gullah Geechee people of St. Helena Island and the history of Penn Center.

149th Anniversary of Historic Jamestown

Congratulations to SCAAHC Commissioner Terry James and the entire James family who celebrated the 149th anniversary of Historic Jamestown, an independent Black settlement established in 1870 by Ervin James, a freedman from Florence County. The weekend schedule of events included a "Living History" day featuring storytellers, artists, and traditional craftsmen at the original Jamestown site in the Mars Bluff community. "This event is very important because we need to always remember the history, especially for African Americans, and how important it is for this historic district called Jamestown to exist and continue to educate people on blacksmithing, on indigo dye, on woodworking, on storytelling, just all the stuff that we have going on," James explained to reporters.



For more information about the Historic Jamestown Foundation, contact Mr. James at jamest955@att.net or 843-661-5679. Donations are welcome.

More information about this event here: https://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_6321ca0e-b0c5-11e9-807d-3ff69c5257c2.html?



SCAAHC 2019 Teacher's Institute

In June, the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission hosted its 2019 Teacher's Institute at historic Penn Center on scenic St. Helena Island. This year's theme was "Integrating Arts into the Curriculum of Grades K-12 through the Lens of Gullah Culture." Twenty-five teachers from SC, GA, NC and NY gathered for an intensive, week-long series of lectures, workshops and field excursions led by prominent scholars, storytellers, artists, and local residents.

Among the highlights of the Institute was an excellent Artists' symposium led by Penn Center's Director of History and Culture Victoria Smalls featuring local artists who shared examples of the rich Gullah artistic traditions, such as sweetgrass basketry, painting, and wood crafting. Our teachers also enjoyed powerful storytelling and vocal performances by Anita Singleton-Prather, better known as "Aunt Pearlie Sue," and the incomparable Natalie Daise! The week concluded with a journey to beautiful Sandy Island—formerly Mount Arena plantation--where attendees enjoyed fantastic Gullah cuisine and a guided tour of the remote preserve.



Later in the summer, our teachers reunited at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History in Columbia for a follow-up workshop to further develop their lesson plans. State Historic Preservation Office staff shared information about the SC Historical Marker and National Register programs. Archivist Steve Tuttle provided an excellent tour of the facility and suggested a variety of collections and rare documents that they could use to develop lectures and assignments. Participants also viewed the outstanding exhibit "South Carolina's Reconstruction: Restoration, Revolution, Reaction." (On display until December!) SCAAHC commissioner Dontavious Williams, founder of The Chronicles of Adam, treated our guests to an excellent performance before we adjourned.



Lesson plans will be included in the 2019 Integrating Arts Supplement and posted on the SC Department of Education, SC Arts Commission, and the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission's website. Teachers are encouraged to stay tuned for opportunities for continued professional development session "Integrating Arts into the Curriculum of Grades K-12".



USofC's "Justice for All" Exhibit Closing Reception

The University of South Carolina's "Justice for All" exhibit held its closing reception with guest of honor and keynote speaker Congressman James E. Clyburn. Since the exhibit's opening in early 2019, thousands of visitors have come through the doors of the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library.

"Justice for All: South Carolina and the American Civil Rights Movement", features hundreds of items from multiple libraries and archives at the University of South Carolina including the South Caroliniana Library, SC Political Collections, and personal papers donated by families of former activists and community leaders. The exhibit tells the story of South Carolina's fundamental role in the national Civil Rights Movement.

The collection spans from Reconstruction through the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Notable materials include; correspondence from Coretta Scott King and Jackie Robinson, publications from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, telegrams sent from the Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan to Governor Robert McNair. The exhibit uses oral history recordings, film clips, photographs, postcards, diaries and manuscripts to highlight largely overlooked chapters in the history of the movement.



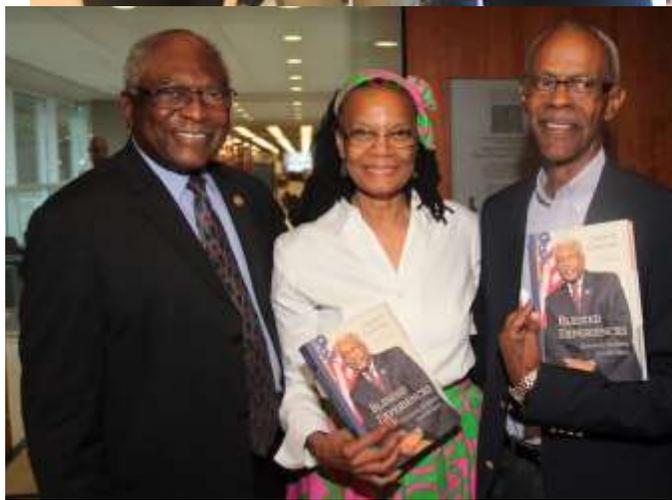
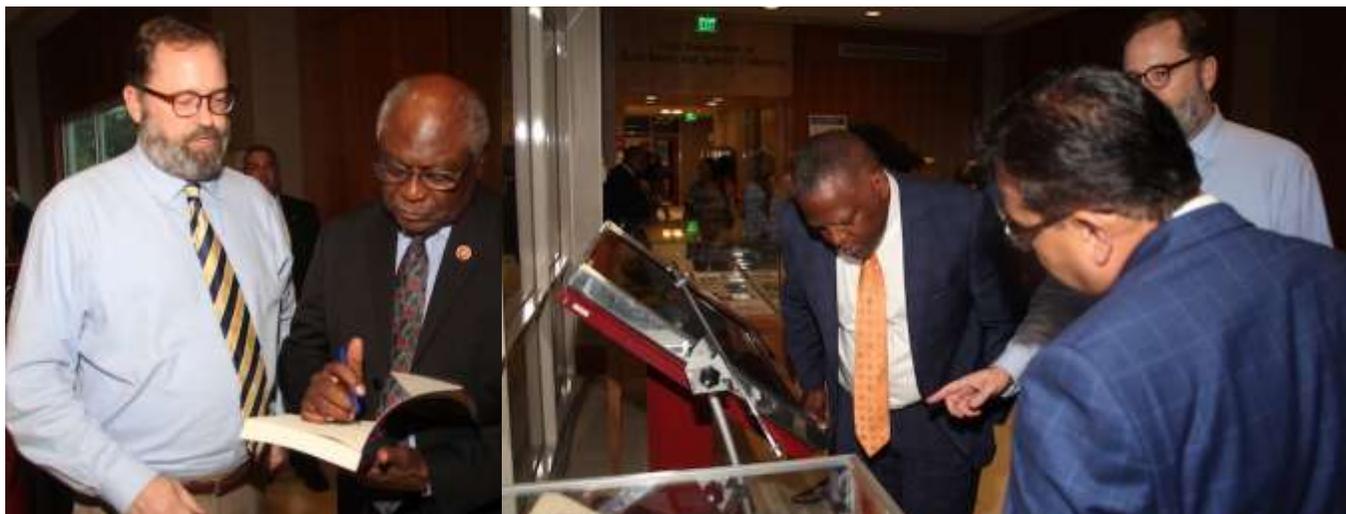
Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin and Congressman Jim Clyburn
Photo credit: Effson Bryant



Dr. Bobby Donaldson, professor of history and the Director of the Center for Civil Rights History and Research pictured along with his graduate assistants. Photo credit: Effson Bryant



Photographs from the "Justice For All" exhibit closing reception.



Green Book Spotlight

Ramon M. Jackson
SC African American Heritage Coordinator

First published in 1936 by New York postal worker and entrepreneur Victor Hugo Green, the original Negro Travelers' Green Book was created to provide African American travelers with vital information to avoid the embarrassments, difficulties, and dangers caused by southern Jim Crow custom and de facto segregation in other sections of the country. Aided by a cadre of informants—many of whom were Black postal workers—Green and his small, dedicated staff began to list segregated businesses nationwide beginning in 1938. Roughly 200 Black owned businesses and other institutions in South Carolina were listed prior to the final edition published in 1967.

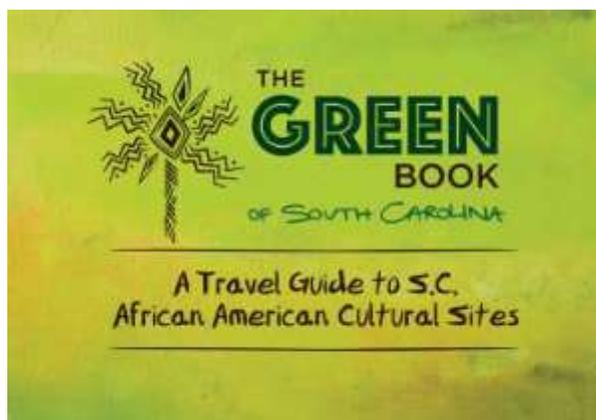


Mrs. Perry (L), known to Waverly residents as “Mama P.,” often encouraged local youth to study history, set goals, and persevere. She and one of her employees, Teresa Taylor, are pictured here speaking to Allen University students documenting the history of the Waverly community.



Listed in the Negro Travelers' Green Book from 1939 to 1941, Ruth's was one of six Columbia area beauty parlors listed in the Jim Crow era travel guide during its history. Opened in the late 1930s by Mrs. Ruth Collins (Perry), daughter of two successful Black entrepreneurs, the salon remained in operation intermittently until the 1990s.

As part of our effort to update the Commission's new website, The Green Book of South Carolina, I decided to conduct a statewide survey of extant Green Book sites to determine how many of these buildings can be preserved and to document the history of former proprietors and their families. At present, we have learned that there is at least one extant site remaining in 8 of 20 South Carolina cities listed in the original guide. Multiple buildings remain standing in four cities—Columbia, Charleston, Greenville and Cheraw. Some of these sites continue to serve as private residences or businesses. Others, however, are hidden in plain sight and, without proper documentation, may be lost due to urban renewal, demolition, or decay. Over the coming year, we plan to share more information about these historic sites on our Commission social media accounts. We invite you to follow along and help us preserve these historic spaces.



Visit our website!

The Green Book of South Carolina
 @ <https://greenbookofsc.com/>

Join the conversation on social media:
 @SCAAHC1993 (Facebook, Twitter,
 and Instagram) and @GreenBookofSC
 (Facebook & Twitter)



Lessons Learned, Lessons Shared: A Q&A with Jannie Harriot

by Lawana Holland-Moore

The work of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission (SCAAHC), which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary, illustrates how grassroots organizations and leaders can have a significant impact on historic preservation efforts in their state. Founded as a council in 1993 and established as a commission in 2001, the SCAAHC was created to identify and promote the preservation of African American historic sites, structures, buildings, and culture in South Carolina.

Comprised of about 30 members, their mission is to assist and enhance the efforts of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, which includes South Carolina's state historic preservation office.

Today the Commission offers technical advice, encourages and supports marker placements and listings in the National Register, promotes African American history in the state's curriculum, and acts as a forum and resource for collaboration with other organizations. In addition to holding a statewide diversity conference, the SCAAHC launched the Green Book of South Carolina travel guide to African American historic sites in South Carolina in 2017 and created the Teacher's Guide to African American Historic Places in South Carolina.

Jannie Harriot, who has been active with the SCAAHC for 26 years and is described by Brent Leggs, the executive director of the National Trust's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, as "the no-nonsense, doggedly persistent heartbeat of their organization." In this Q&A, Harriot shares her insights about lessons learned, African American historic preservation, and sustaining an organization such as the SCAAHC.

What do you feel is the role of statewide African American historic preservation commissions and why are they so important?

Harriot: Statewide commissions can provide leadership in identifying and promoting the preservation of the rich history of African Americans. Statewide commissions can also coordinate the activities of local and regional organizations, provide technical assistance, as well as highlight and recognize the work done in local communities.

What obstacles/challenges have you or your organization faced in your work?

Harriot: Our biggest challenge has been funding. When the Commission was created, it was created with no funding; however, we have been able to secure \$25,000 from the South Carolina General Assembly during the past fifteen years. Financial support comes basically from grant writing and donations from the public and private sectors.

TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE VISIT: <https://forum.savingplaces.org/blogs/lawana-holland-moore/2019/07/29/qa-jannie-harriot-african-american-heritage>

Jannie Harriot is the Chairperson of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission and the Executive Director of the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation.

Lawana Holland-Moore is the Program Assistant for the National Trust's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund. She is also the 2014 National Trust Mildred Colodny Scholar.

For more information about the SCAAHC and the Foundation, please visit their website at:
www.scaaheritagefound.org/





104TH ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 2-6, 2019 | N. CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
THE 2019 BLACK HISTORY THEME: BLACK MIGRATIONS

SAVE the DATE!

We are pleased to announce that members of the SC African American Heritage Commission have been selected to make presentations at the upcoming 2019 ASALH Annual Meeting and Conference. All events will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Charleston Convention Center.

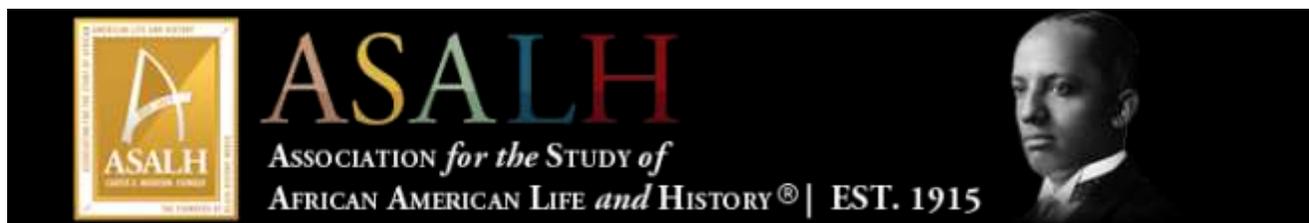
Wed, Oct 2, 2:00 to 3:50 pm, Convention Center, CC - Meeting Room 10 – 2nd floor

Our chairperson Jannie Harriot, SCDAAH African American Heritage Coordinator Ramon Jackson, SCSU Professor and SCAAHC Commissioner of the Year Dr. Larry Watson, and SCPRT Corporate Communications Director and SCAAHC Commissioner Dawn Dawson-House will represent the Commission during a pre-conference workshop highlighting its history, achievements and importance as a model for preserving the African American experience.

Thu, Oct 3, 2:00 to 3:30pm, Convention Center, CC - Meeting Room 09 – 2nd floor - AV Room

Ms. Harriot will join several scholars, museum practitioners, and historians for a session, "Bridging Black Education Narratives-North and South- through Archives, Digital Media, Museums, and Historic Preservation." Panelists will discuss the history of American public school desegregation and highlight ongoing campaigns to survey, document, and preserve extant buildings that once housed segregated Black public, private and Rosenwald schools.

Conference registration and schedule: <https://asalh.org/conference/>



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