

Meeting of the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission January 17, 2025 Director's Report

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COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS

Reappointments

- Dr. Valerie Ann Johnson (Wake & Granville Counties) for a term expiring September 30, 2027

MAJOR PROJECT UPDATES

"A Tale of Two Ships: Part Deux"

Our IMLS grant funded project, "A Tale of Two Ships: Part Deux" is rapidly coming to a close and due to be completed in June 2025. In collaboration with the *Queen Anne's Revenge* Conservation Lab (QAR), the project team is hosting a convening and workshop on February 5-6, 2025. Presenters at the convening include our research fellow Jillian Schuler; commissioners Dr. Valerie Ann Johnson and Dr. Tamara Holmes Brothers; colleagues from the QAR lab; Dr. Lynn Harris of ECU; and Dr. Hannah Franis of University of Rhode Island, amongst others. The goal of this convening and workshop is to update on the latest research findings regarding the ship. Additionally, the workshop component is designed for DNCR colleagues to detail best practices in interpreting this research. Ms. Schuler is also working to complete a research report on her findings, in addition to an article to be published with the *North Carolina Historical Review*.

Rosenwald Convening

In collaboration with DNCR and the NC State Historic Preservation Office, the African American Heritage Commission assembled a convening of 120 Rosenwald Stakeholders that took place at NC State University on November 21-22, 2024. The gathering worked to support stakeholders across North Carolina who are stewarding these sites to share resources and engage in community. Presentation topics included historic preservation, grant writing, case studies of successful projects, and more. Speakers included Dr. Dudley Flood, a former DPI administrator; Alan Spears of the National Park Conservation Network; Terri White of the Charlotte Museum of History; Dr. Melissa Stuckey of University of South Carolina; and representatives from Fisk University's Rosenwald Digitization Project. AAHC received excellent feedback from attendees on how to best continue supporting their work and interest was expressed for future gatherings.

Freedom Park

NC Freedom Park Manager had been hard at work supporting public programming in the park. In 2024, 12,536 members of the public took a tour of the park or engaged at an offsite program, please see attached addendum for a full breakdown of the attendance numbers. Additionally, Ms. McNair has scheduled special Black History Month tours of the park every weekend in February in addition to a family program, *Rooted: Sowing Seeds of Freedom* on February 15, 2025 at 2:00pm.

The North Carolina

African American

Heritage

Commission

2024 FREEDOM PARK ATTENDANCE

| Group Visitation | | |
|------------------|--------------|------------|
| | Visitors | Programs |
| Adults | 541 | 9 |
| Youth | 0 | 0 |
| School | 11305 | 261 |
| Total | 11846 | 270 |

| Special Event Visitation | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| | Visitors |
| Adults | 50 |
| Youth | 150 |
| Total | 200 |

| Guided Tours | |
|--------------|------------|
| | # of tours |
| Scheduled | 10 |
| Total | 10 |

| Total On-Site Visitation | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Adults | 591 |
| Youth | 150 |
| School | 11305 |
| Total | 12046 |

| Outreach to Groups | | | |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| | Attendees | | Programs |
| | In-Person | Online | |
| Adults | 240 | 75 | 8 |
| Youth | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Schools | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 240 | 75 | 8 |

| Outreach at Events | | |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|
| | Attendees | Programs |
| Public | 175 | 3 |

| Total Off-Site Outreach | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Adults | 315 |
| Youth | 0 |
| Schools | 0 |
| Public | 175 |
| Total | 490 |

| Total Audience Served | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Adults | 906 |
| Youth | 150 |
| Schools | 11305 |
| Public | 175 |
| Total | 12536 |