

Report for Meeting of the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission, Winter 2023

Prepared by Ashley Adams, Trail Coordinator, NC African American Heritage Commission

NC Civil Rights Trail

To date, twenty-five markers have been awarded:

1. New Ahoskie Baptist Church (Ahoskie)—Installed August 2021
2. 1951 Adkin High School Walkouts (Kinston)—Installed November 2021
3. Shelby Sit-Ins—Installed February 2022
4. Cameron Village Sit-Ins (Raleigh)
5. Joseph Holt, Sr. and Elwyna Holt—Holt Family (Raleigh)—Installed September 2022
6. Ocean City Beach (Topsail Island)—Installed July 2022
7. Elizabeth City Sit-Ins—Installed October 2022
8. Kinston Sit-Ins—will be installed February 2023
9. Blair Park Municipal Golf Course (High Point)—Installed November 2022
10. Monroe, NC Wade-Ins—Installed July 2022
11. 1963 Brevard High School Football Team—Installed October 2022
12. Greensboro 6—Gillespie Golf Course—Installed August 2022
13. Johnson v. Branch (Enfield)
14. Halifax County Voters Movement (Enfield)
15. Griggs v. Duke (Reidsville)
16. James H. Jones (Jackson)
17. MLK Jr. (Montreat)
18. Hargraves Community Center (Chapel Hill)
19. Huber Arthur Eaton (Wilmington)
20. Watts Grill (Chapel Hill)
21. Slade's Chapel (Morganton)
22. Warren Co. Community Center (Warrenton)
23. East Tarboro (Tarboro)
24. Fayetteville Protests (Fayetteville)

25. Magnolia House (Greensboro)

Dedication Ceremonies

A dedication ceremony for the Kinston Sit-Ins will be held on February 4, 2023 at 1pm in downtown Kinston

There are several ways in which you can get involved in the trail such as connecting constituents via email or phone or just giving information about our trail. We have several counties throughout the state that have yet to be covered including Forsyth and Durham. You can also share or attend informational sessions and our pre-recorded webinars along with attending dedication ceremonies as your schedule permits helps us at the Commission to continue to grow our trail.

Thank you to our Commissioners who have been active in the NC Civil Rights Trail, including those of you who have attended our virtual informational sessions along with those of you who have represented us at the Commission for dedication ceremonies. Your time and your dedication is much appreciated.

Upcoming Sessions

In-Person Informational Sessions

Goldsboro—February 2nd at 11:00am, Wayne County Library

Durham—February 15th at 6pm, Durham County Library

Application Workshop In-person Sessions

Raleigh—February 28th at 2:00pm, Richard B. Harrison Community Library

Charlotte—March 8th at 11:30am, Allegra Westbrooks Regional Library

Virtual Sessions

February 7th at 6:00pm

February 20th at 1:00pm

Traveling Exhibits

We currently have 2 traveling exhibits that are out on the road; our Green Book Traveling exhibit and our African American Music Traveling exhibit

Our Green Book Exhibit highlights the “The Negro Motorist Green Book” published from 1933-1966 that was used as a travel guide for African Americans moving throughout the South. This guide provided safe spaces for African American travelers to eat, lodge and find entertainment. The exhibit highlights over 300 Green Book sites right here in North Carolina that hosted a number of people throughout the Jim Crow Era.

Developed by the NC Arts Council in 2019, the African American Musicians traveling exhibit highlights the contributions that Eastern North Carolina has made to the musical genres of jazz, blues, funk, soul, gospel and hip-hop throughout North Carolina. This exhibit comes with an interactive touch-screen kiosk.

Lastly, we at the Commission have the Africa to Carolina traveling exhibit that documents the disembarkation of enslaved Africans that arrived at North Carolina’s ports of Bath, Beaufort, Brunswick, Edenton, New Bern and Wilmington.

I’ve created a system to streamline exhibits including submission of Loan Agreements and reviewing terms prior to booking. I am in the process of creating an online booking system for all exhibits. It will allow for constituents to request which exhibit they’d like, the date they’d each exhibit is considered first-come, first-served. This system along with keeping a spreadsheet of exhibit site hosts aids in making sure that we are not overlapping and that each site that would like the exhibit will have it at least once within the calendar year.

Traveling Exhibit Schedule for 2023

Green Book

Warren County Library, now-January 31, 2023

Catawba County Library, now-March 3, 2023

ECU Libraries, February 8-March 27th

Granville County Library, April 3-May 26th

African American Music

Wayne County Library, now-March 31, 2023

Round House Museum (Wilson, NC), April 10-July 30, 2023

The Africa to Carolina traveling exhibit is in the current stages of being coordinated to go to the Department of Health and Human Services Central Office for Black History Month.

I highly encourage you all to visit these spaces to see the exhibits at your leisure if they are located at a site near you