

**Meeting of the North Carolina African American Heritage
Commission
July 26, 2022
Trail Coordinator's Report**

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

NC Civil Rights Trail

Previous Awardees and Dedications

Shelby Sit-Ins

- Attended by Commissioner Wallace, Commissioner McKesson, and Deputy Secretary Wilson in February
 - Highlighted during their annual Black History Month Celebration
- They got some amazing images while at the ceremony

Ocean City Beach

- Attended by myself, Angela Thorpe and Deputy Secretary Wilson
- OCB had the dedication ceremony followed by a two-day Jazz Festival, which Angela and I got the chance to attend as well
- Unfortunately weather kept us from passing out AAHC swag items however, both the dedication ceremony and Jazz festival were both a huge success

Monroe

- Our next dedication ceremony will take place in Monroe, NC on July 28th at the Country Club where the Wade-Ins took place
- Author Timothy Tyson as well as two participants in the Wade-Ins will be present
- Myself, Adrienne and Ansley Wegner will be in attendance

Elizabeth City

- Our next known marker dedication will take place in Elizabeth City, NC for the 1960s sit-ins

-Their ceremony will take place during their Homecoming weekend on the weekend of October 15th

Webinar and Application Workshop Overview

-This year our Round III of the NCCRT Markers kicked off on February 1st; deadline is August 19th

-This round included our Informational Webinars and Application Workshops

-Both were successful although we did not have the attendance numbers that we saw within the first round

-Informational webinars were designed to give an overview of what the NC Civil Rights Trail is and how to apply, while the Application Workshops were put into place during Round II to help our applicants through the process and discuss the difference between primary and secondary sources. This also gives applicants the chance to work one-on-one with me on their application and ask more in-depth questions.

-This round we had previous awardees as guest speakers for both the webinar and the application workshop to give applicants a chance to talk with someone who has already been through the process. Those guests were Dr. Rita Joyner (1951 Walk Out, Kinston, NC) and Mr. Rodney Pierce (Halifax Voters Movement, Johnson v. Branch)

Upcoming Outreach

-We are currently in the process of booking venues for in-person outreach. We are focusing on Charlotte, Goldsboro, Durham and Fayetteville

-This allows for us to focus on some of the larger cities in North Carolina who have not yet gotten an application in. We have had great responses to in-person outreach in the past and are revisiting that for fall outreach

Current Applications

-We currently have 9 applications in hand with at least 6 more that are in the process of wrapping up their applications

-Those we have received already include 2 from Fayetteville, Montreat, Black Mountain, Tarboro, Warren County and two that were deferred from our last round: James H. Jones in Northampton County and Hubert Arthur Eaton in Wilmington.

Looking Ahead

-Upon receiving all applications, we will be meeting with the advisory committee to determine who will be awarded markers within this round. Applicants will be informed by late September of the committee's decision

Freedom Roads

Partnerships

- In partnership with Carolina K12 our Freedom Roads Program launched the US Colored Troops lesson plans on June 10th, just before Juneteenth celebrations
 - Based on the 35th NC Colored Volunteer Regiment in New Bern, NC all lesson plans are available and accessible to educators both in the classroom and at home through our website under the Freedom Roads Tab
 - Each lesson plan has an Overview, related content and interactive tools and activities to aid educators who may not be as familiar with this material to effectively teach this content in a meaningful and impactful way.

Waysides

- We are currently in the process of putting the finishing touches on wayside markers in partnership with State Historic Sites, State Parks and Elizabeth City State University
 - State Historic sites have 4 wayside markers that will be fabricated (Stagville, Brunswicktown/Fort Anderson, and Somerset Place)
 - State Parks (Great Dismal Swamp)
 - ECSU (Hugh Cale)

- GDS is a revamp of what they currently have on their site while SHS and ECSU were original works based on Freedom seekers at each of their respective sites.