



# HISTORY HAPPENS



Official Newsletter of the Alabama Historical Commission

DECEMBER 2023

## A Word from Lisa

Seasons greetings everyone,

As we reflect on 2023, AHC has been busy with professional development conferences, workshops, and events throughout the year continuing to assist communities and municipalities in historic preservation. From Preservation Month in May to the opening of Africatown Heritage House in July and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's award in November, there is much to be celebrated within our agency. I would like to thank the AHC staff for their hard work in the year 2023.

Starting in 2024, AHC will be anticipating the Education Trust Fund grant program that will be awarding a total of \$3.2 million to assist in historic preservation projects across Alabama. We encourage you to keep a lookout on our [grants page](#) for that announcement, but you can read more on the program below.

As the end of the year approaches and we begin to look ahead to 2024, I personally want to thank all of you who support the efforts of the AHC and the work we do to continue preserving historic sites and places for future generations. We are looking forward to what the next year brings and how we will continue to protect, preserve, and interpret the history within Alabama.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and joyous new year!

**Lisa D. Jones**  
*Executive Director*  
*State Historic Preservation Officer*

## SAVE THE DATE!

**December 16**  
Member Appreciation Party  
Fendall Hall

**December 25**  
Offices Closed

**January 1**  
Offices Closed

**January 27**  
Winter Quarters  
Confederate Memorial Park

[Click here for more information!](#)

# Education Trust Fund grant program to bring opportunities for preservation

Next month, the AHC will open its 2024 Grant Program with \$3.2 million in funds appropriated by the Alabama Legislature.

These funds will go towards improvements to historic sites and educational programming in Alabama, and for monuments to commemorate historical events and places.

“Our state’s history is important, and the legislature realizes this,” said Senator Arthur Orr. “All across Alabama we have sites that are important to each of us to remind us of who we are or were as a people. Thanks to our partnership with the Alabama Historical Commission, we are able to preserve and maintain elements of our past.”

Grants will be awarded to public or non-profit entities who own and operate sites in Alabama that reflect an education-based mission and concentrate on educational programming. Preference will be given to properties built before 1840 to 1943 that are listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, historic school structures, and any property built after 1943 that significantly contributed to the civil rights movement. Grant amounts will not exceed \$75,000 for any one entity and must be used within two years of receiving the grant.

“The goal of the 2024 grant program is to assist historic sites throughout Alabama with both improvements and educational programming, which will help preserve them for future generations. Thank you to the Alabama Legislature and Governor Kay Ivey for funding this much needed grant program to help preserve Alabama’s historic sites,” said Executive Director Lisa D. Jones.

For more information and the announcement date of this program, please check this [page](#).



Satsuma School was a previous recipient of the ETF grant program.

# Certified Local Government project grants recap

The Certified Local Government (CLG) grant program was established in 1983 by the National Park Service in response to the 1980 amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These amendments recognize the value of local preservation programs and created a partnership between the National Park Service, state historic preservation offices, and local governments. Recently funded projects by the Alabama Historical Commission include:

- Arab - Attend conferences and workshops for training.
- Decatur - Conduct a Historic Structures Report for Delano Park.
- Foley - Reprint successful educational booklet “Foley by Foot.”
- Foley - Staff to attend National Alliance for Preservation Commissions (NAPC) FORUM conference.
- Huntsville - Continue survey of Terry Heights.
- Huntsville - Conduct workshop showing the economic benefits of preservation presented by PlaceEconomics.
- Opelika - Update existing Design Review Guidelines.
- Mobile - Assess current conditions of Church Street Graveyard.
- Huntsville - Staff to attend National Alliance for Preservation Commissions (NAPC) FORUM conference.
- Decatur - Conduct survey of Austinville.

 **Coming soon!** 

# 2024 Historic Doors Photo Contest Calendars

# Freedom Rides Museum joins Congresswoman Sewell for check presentation

On December 2, Congresswoman Terri Sewell held a press conference for the most recent grants given to the AHC from the National Park Service. Sewell was in Montgomery for the Rosa Parks/Montgomery Bus Boycott commemorative events.

The National Park Service awarded two grants to the AHC: one for the Moore Building and another for the Freedom Rides Museum. These grants were given to significant sites with African American civil rights history events.

One grant will support a virtual reality experience that will take place on the museum's vintage Greyhound Bus. Visitors will get to experience the Freedom Riders' journey through time and history helping them to better understand their courageous acts and what it was like to be a Freedom Rider. The second grant will help fund restoration of the historic Moore Building to provide additional educational and programming space to support the Freedom Rides Museum.



Left to right: Site Director of the Freedom Rides Museum Dorothy Walker and Congresswoman Terri Sewell.

# AHC attends Geographic Information Systems of Alabama annual conference

Last month, AHC's Geographic Information Specialist Joseph Massey attended the Geographic Information Systems of Alabama (GISAA) conference at Gulf Shores State Park. The conference was designed towards the advancements in Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) which is the state software used for GIS (Geographic Information Systems), Microsoft, and additional professional development training.

The mission of the GIS Association of Alabama is to provide and facilitate professional GIS growth in Alabama through educational workshops, networking opportunities and online resources.

Massey recently upgraded the AHC's Historic Preservation Map that has information about thousands of historic properties in Alabama. [Click here](#) to view the newest version of the AHC GIS map.



Protect. Preserve. Interpret.

Happy Holidays

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION