



# HISTORY HAPPENS

Official Newsletter of the Alabama Historical Commission

JULY 2023

## A Word from Lisa

Hello everyone!

We have been busy collecting the PASS grant applications and actively reviewing all of the submissions. We are looking forward to awarding the \$6 million to historical places across Alabama before the end of fiscal year 2023.

AHC staff and commission members attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Clotilda: The Expedition at the Africatown Heritage House opening in Mobile on July 7. AHC is honored to have partnered with the History Museum of Mobile by loaning artifacts for the Heritage House as well as continuing the preservation efforts for the Clotilda site. If you have not had a chance to visit the Heritage House Museum in Africatown, I encourage you to make the trip and experience the eye-opening journey that the 110 passengers had to endure 163 years ago. You can purchase tickets [here](#).

In closing, AHC announced the [photo contest winners](#) from our 2nd annual photo contest during Preservation Month. The theme this year was historic doors and what a joy it was seeing the creative ways in which people took their photographs - from storm shelters to interior doors. Thank you to everyone who used their talents and took the time to photograph Alabama's beauty through historic doors.

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

## Save the DATE!

July 17

Speaker Series-David Breland  
Pond Spring

July 29

Live Concert -  
Handy Fest Jazz Allstars  
Belle Mont

August 5

True Crime Wagon Tour  
Old Cahawba

August 21

Speaker Series-Carolyn Crawford  
Pond Spring

September 9

General Wheeler Birthday Event  
Pond Spring

# Belle Mont Receives Recognition for Race Amity

Belle Mont Mansion was honored on June 11th in a special program presented by the Race Amity Committee of the Shoals, recognizing efforts to promote racial unity, friendship and understanding. A framed award letter was presented to Belle Mont Site Director Ninon Parker and a similar letter given to St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church for their joint efforts, "Bringing it Together."

Belle Mont Mansion partnered with St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Tuscumbia to hold a program in March on African American History tied to the Belle Mont plantation. The church, which is located a short distance from Belle Mont, was founded by individuals who were formerly enslaved at Belle Mont and by their descendants. Belle Mont's program honored Ms. Charlotte Perrett, elder member of St. Paul Church, who spoke that day of her great-grandfather, who was enslaved at Belle Mont and of her grandmother who was a midwife.

The Amity Day program was held at the Florence Public Library and also included virtual presentations of Race Amity efforts across the state in Montgomery, Huntsville, and Russellville.



Left to right: Charlotte Perrett, Belle Mont Site Director Ninon Parker, and Mattie McCoo-Johnson

# AHC Attends Grand Opening of Africatown's Heritage House for Clotilda

On July 7, AHC staff attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the Africatown Heritage House in Mobile. The ceremony featured speakers from the community including Clotilda Descendants Association Vice President Altevese Rosario and Mobile County Commissioner Merceria Ludgood as well as Alabama Historical Commission Member Pat Edington who spoke on behalf of the agency. The ceremony concluded with a performance by the Egungun dancers from the African Cultural Alliance of Egbe Oya.

Before the ceremony, AHC staff along with other community partners and government officials had the privilege of viewing the museum and experiencing the Clotilda story.

AHC donated funds towards the museum as well as loaned various artifacts and assisted with the historical text panels within the museum.



AHC staff at Africatown Heritage House



# Pond Spring Hosts Headstone Cleaning Class

Pond Spring: The General Joe Wheeler Home hosted a cemetery headstone cleaning workshop in mid-June. The workshop was taught by the Friends Group President Robert Jewellson. He showcased the proper and delicate cleaning techniques for various types of headstones.

Participants in the workshop came from different organizations or individually and were given the opportunity to carefully care for headstones.

If you have questions regarding cemetery care or additional information, please email [Cemetery Program Coordinator Leanne Waller-Trupp](mailto:leanne.trupp@ahc.alabama.gov) at [leanne.trupp@ahc.alabama.gov](mailto:leanne.trupp@ahc.alabama.gov) or call 334-230-2653.



*Pond Spring headstone cleaning class*

# AHC Visits Talladega National Forest for Future Hiking Trail

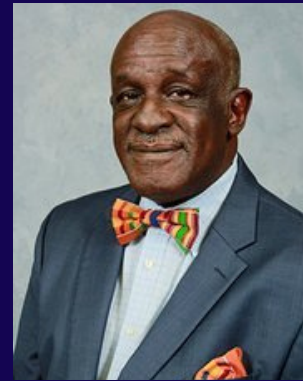
In June, AHC staff Amanda McBride and William Lowe attended an onsite meeting with members of the Talladega Forest Service, the Office of Archaeological Research from the University of Alabama and the Alabama Trails Foundation to discuss hiking trails and outdoor classroom development within a recorded archaeological site in the Talladega National Forest. The goal for the project is to provide education and nature-based recreation for the public while also protecting and interpreting cultural resources. This project is still in the planning stages.



*AHC staff along with other partners discuss program in archaeological site*

# Black Heritage Council Attends Stakeholder Meeting for Black Heritage in Mobile

Black Heritage Council Member Robert E. Battles, Sr. attended the first stakeholder meeting for Mobile County Commissioner Merceria Ludgood in June. The meeting was part of Commissioner Ludgood's mission to create a thriving tourist attraction and vital civil rights and cultural heritage district. These efforts are to contribute to community revitalization, redevelopment and economic opportunity on the historic Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue.



*Robert E. Battles, Sr.*