



# Raleigh Register

*Official Newsletter of the Historic Resources and Museum Program*



**Raleigh  
Parks**

*Volume 37*  
**FALL 2023**

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[Raleighnc.gov/museums](http://Raleighnc.gov/museums)



# Administrator's Letter

Welcome to the latest edition of the Raleigh Historic Resources and Museum Program (HRM) newsletter, *The Raleigh Register!* Our team is excited to share with you the wonderful ways in which we've been fostering connections within our community through a broad array of different programs, events, and exhibits. Of course, at the heart of our program's mission, lies a genuine dedication to preserving the past as a common experience to connect people. Our team has been hard at work curating experiences that not only educate and entertain, but also inspire a sense of shared heritage among our residents. From enlightening lectures, immersive attractions, and engaging exhibits, our public programs are designed to spark meaningful conversations and encourage participants to delve deeper into Raleigh's history. Whether you are a bona fide history nerd or just enjoy good programming, our spaces welcome everyone to come together and learn. By highlighting the stories of different communities in this issue of the *Raleigh Register*, we strive to honor the mosaic of people, places, and events that shaped our city.

As we look ahead, the Raleigh HRM Program remains committed to creating community connections that stand the test of time. Through our public programs, events, and exhibits, we invite you to a journey of discovery, reflection, and celebration as we bridge past to present.



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**Cover Photo:**  
**Nick Neptune (Director of Outreach, Dix Park Conservancy) and Marsha Presnell-Jennette (Parks, Recreation, and Greenway Advisory Board)**

# Chair's Letter

My name is Audrey Morgan and as Chairperson of the Historic Resources and Museum Advisory Board, I am happy to bring you autumn greetings! *"The most important things in life are the connections you make with others."* – Tom Ford. The City of Raleigh has numerous boards and commissions which provide recommendations to the Raleigh City Council on a wide array of topics. While each agency strives to promote and coordinate information for the City Council pertaining to its own initiatives, sometimes the need arises to connect boards, commissions, organizations, and groups that share similar interests and ideas pertaining to history and historic preservation.

In our board's quest to provide an opportunity for those who treasure and maintain Raleigh's rich history and historic treasures to meet and interact with one another, the City of Raleigh Historic Resources and Museum Advisory Board, in partnership with the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department, hosted its first history and historic preservation communities networking event on June 28, 2023, at the Borden Building at Fletcher Park.

The event was a huge success! Members attending the affair included the City of Raleigh Appearance Commission, the City of Oaks Foundation, the City of Raleigh Arts Commission, Friends of the COR Museum, the Dix Park Conservancy, Friends of Oberlin Village, and a host of representatives from other boards and community advocacy groups dedicated to the historic preservation of Raleigh. There were a lot of introductions and connections made, and we all enjoyed a tremendous evening. The networking event was so successful that plans are already in the works for 2024!



**Audrey Morgan**  
Chair  
HRM Advisory Board



**Jenny Harper (HRM Advisory Board) and Clarissa Goodlett (HRM Advisory Board)**



**Audrey Morgan (HRM Advisory Board, Chair), and Wanda Cox-Bailey (HRM Advisory Board)**



**Casey McKimpson (HRM Staff), Esther Hall (HRM Advisory Board, Past Chair), and Mason Mullins (HRM Staff)**



**Lyman Collins (Friends of COR Museum Board), Stephen Bentley (Director of PRCR), Troy Burton (HRM Staff), and Crash Gregg (Friends of COR Museum Board)**



**Attendees enjoyed great weather, company, and food at the HRMAB's networking social.**



## HRM Program Staff Works with Community to Bring History to Life

*Ernest Dollar, Museums Director*

HRM Program staff have been working with community members of the South Park-East Raleigh Neighborhood Association over the past year on a new exhibit showcasing the history and culture of their historic neighborhood. The exhibit, *Centuries in the Making: A Cultural Legacy of South Park and East Raleigh Neighborhoods* explores the people and places that made these unique African American neighborhoods for over 100 years. Working with local design firm, Point Concepts, staff and community members strived to expand the historic information originally identified in a series of "knowledge maps" created in 2009 by NCSU landscape architecture students and community members. The exhibit opened September 2, 2023, featuring an expanded interpretation of these neighborhoods through historic photographs, profiles of influential community members, rare video segments, and artifacts. The exhibit represents an exciting first step of reinvestment in the John P. "Top" Greene Community Center. Administration of the center moved to the PRCR Resource Division in April 2023 and is now managed within the HRM Program Museum Section. The center, named for local community activist, John Greene, is located at 401 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. The park and building were part of the 2020 PRCR Bond program and will be undergoing major renovations in the next few years.



**The South Park Community Center was renamed for community activist, John P. "Top" Greene, in 2000.**



**Members of the community enjoy opening night of the new exhibit *Centuries in the Making: A Cultural Legacy of the South Park and East Raleigh Neighborhoods*.**



**South Park and East Raleigh Neighborhood Association member, Lonnette Williams, speaks at the exhibit opening.**

## Collections Corner: Connections through Objects

*Ainsley Powell, Curator of Collections*



**Nurses' lapel pin from Mary Elizabeth Hospital was once owned by Loraine Upchurch Daniels, ca. 1930s**



**Necklace once owned by the Pope family strings together beads and closes with a clasp, ca. 1930**



**Tinkertoy set where the pieces interlock to build whatever a child can dream up, ca. 1965**



**This portable desk would be used to keep in touch with friends and family while traveling, 1800-1850**

## Dark Raleigh

*Ernest Dollar, Museums Director*

If you're into podcasts, documentaries, movies, or books then you know that true crime is a popular genre. In fact, throughout history people have been intrigued by sensational crimes and grisly murders.

Retelling these stories is not often part of traditional exhibits or programs for most museums. But the City of Raleigh Museum is different, believing these dark chapters are a part of the city's history that should be shared.

Starting in 2017, the museum developed a true crime walking tour called Dark Raleigh. Every year, museum staff scours historic newspapers, diaries, letters, and published accounts of times when death came in unfortunate ways. This research is compiled and transformed into dramatic monologues which are performed by local actors. The Dark Raleigh tour visits these troubled souls and the hidden spots where many of the events took place.

For example, the Dark Raleigh tour told one story in the basement of the popular restaurant Death and Taxes, previously J.W. Brown's Coffin House. It was here that many of the city's deceased were taken, including one unfortunate visitor, Dr. E.W. Smith. Smith arrived in Raleigh in 1907 and wasted little time before heading to the Red-Light district centered around the 500 block of East Davie Street. Smith's evening went horribly awry: he was found dead the next morning at the bottom of the rock quarry and was taken to Brown's establishment.



**The Friends of the City of Raleigh Museum presents their 5th annual Dark Raleigh tour in October 2023. The tour brings to life true crime stories from Raleigh's past.**



# Upcoming Events

## First Friday Market & Movie

**Friday, October 6**  
**5 p.m. – 9 p.m.**  
(movie begins at 7:30 p.m.)  
**Moore Square**

Join us at the Square for a market with over 30 vendors and a free outdoor movie screening. October's featured film is *The Mummy* (1999).

## Scarecrow Festival

**Saturday, October 7**  
(Rain date Sunday, October 8)  
**3 p.m. – 6 p.m.**  
**Pullen Park Amusements**

Bring the family and fill our field with scarecrows! Bring old clothes, props, and something for a face! MOSS Kids will be here and sharing some fall stories and activities. Then, try to catch a duck in the bobbing pond and have some fall fun!

## Harvest Fest

**Saturday, October 14**  
(Rain date Sunday, October 15)  
**Pullen Park Amusements**

Cost: \$30 for a Harvest Fest Family package (includes 4 ride tickets, 4 carnival games, 1 Junior Conductor Adventure, and a pumpkin for the family to decorate) Enjoy live music, gather around a bonfire, decorate a pumpkin, play fall games, and purchase your fall favorites including pumpkins, corn stalks, and more from local vendors. Partnering with Raleigh Fire Department.

## Outdoor Adventures

**Friday, October 20**  
**4 p.m. – 5 p.m.**  
**Borden Building**

Venture outside with Oberlin Regional Library and Raleigh Historic Sites for this special program series! We'll explore a different nature and history topic each month with a story time and hands-on activities. In October, make your own nature journal.

## Dark Raleigh

**Thursday, October 26 and Friday, October 27**  
**Tours begin at 6 p.m.**  
**City of Raleigh Museum**

True crime walking tours featuring stories from Raleigh's past told by actors portraying these poor unfortunate souls.

## Haunted Trolley

**Friday, October 27 and Saturday, October 28**  
**6:45 p.m., 7:45 p.m., 8:45 p.m.**  
**Mordecai Historic Park**

Discover history, mystery, and lore with your ghost host on the Haunted Trolley for a special late-night tour of downtown Raleigh's most haunted places. Jump aboard and keep your eyes open for ghostly visitors of years past... they've just been dying to have you.

## Spellbound at Mordecai

**Saturday, October 28**  
**10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**  
**Mordecai Historic Park**

Magic abounds at Spellbound at Mordecai! Create spooky crafts, enter our costume contest, and shop for enchanting handmade items from our vendors while experiencing Mordecai Historic Park under the spell of Halloween.

## First Friday Market & Movie

**Friday, November 3**  
**5 p.m. – 9 p.m.**  
(movie begins at 7:30 p.m.)  
**Moore Square**

Join us at the Square for a market with over 30 vendors and a free outdoor movie screening. November's featured film is *Coco* (2017).

## 7th Annual Dia de los Muertos

**Friday, November 3**  
**6 p.m. – 9 p.m.**  
**City of Raleigh Museum**

There will be music, dancing, the Day of The Dead Altar, Day of the Dead Bread, Hot Chocolate, face painting, crafts and much more. This family friendly event forms part of the 9th Annual El Quixote Festival.

## Our State Dog: North Carolina's Plott Hound

**Thursday, November 9**  
**6 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

Plott Hounds have been raised in the United States for over 250 years and are the only recognized dog breed from North Carolina. This exhibit tells the story of their journey from Germany to western North Carolina, as well as their exploits as legendary hunting dogs, and modern recognition as show dogs.

# Upcoming Events

## Holiday Express 2023 – Tickets on sale on October 4

**Wednesday, November 29 – Friday, December 15**  
(Rain dates December 16 – 19)  
**5 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Pullen Park Amusements**

Follow @RaleighParks on social media and visit [raleighnc.gov/parks/services/holiday-express](http://raleighnc.gov/parks/services/holiday-express) for updates.

## First Friday Market & Movie

**Friday, December 1**  
**5 p.m. – 9 p.m.**  
(movie begins at 7:30 p.m.)  
**Moore Square**

Join us at the Square for a market with over 30 vendors and a free outdoor movie screening. December's featured film is *Home Alone* (1990).

## Sip N' Stroll

**Friday, December 1**  
**6 p.m. – 9 p.m.**  
**City of Raleigh Museum**

Join us at the Museum to sip on fancy drinks and shop local vendors for your last-minute holiday gifts. Live music, a raffle and tons of fun and shopping.

## Holidays with the Popes

**Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3**  
**Pope House Museum**

Annual Christmas event where children can enjoy talking and having snapshots done with African American Santa.

## Santa's Trolley

**Friday, December 8, - Sunday, December 10**  
**5 p.m., 6 p.m., 7 p.m.**  
**Mordecai Historic Park**

Santa is lost in Raleigh, and Holly the Elf needs your help to find him in time for Christmas. Do you know where he might be? Jump aboard the Raleigh Trolley and help Holly the Elf track down Santa in time for Christmas.

## Merry and Bright Market

**Saturday, December 9**  
**10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**  
**Mordecai Historic Park**

Join Santa's elves for a merry celebration of the most wonderful time of the year! Visit our vendors to find unique gifts, create festive crafts, enjoy seasonal entertainment, and take a holiday photo at the beautifully decorated Mordecai House during their annual Open House weekend.

## Holiday Open House

**Saturday, December 9 and Sunday, December 10**  
**Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**  
**Sunday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.**  
**Mordecai Historic Park**

Join us at the annual Holiday Open House at Mordecai Historic Park! See how the Mordecai House would have been decorated over the past 238 years and learn about different holiday traditions. Walk through the beautifully decorated house and enjoy music, games, crafts, and more.

## La Chocolatada de Luisito

**Sunday, December 17**  
**1 p.m. – 3 p.m.**  
**City of Raleigh Museum**

Lusito is a character in Rafael A. Osuba's bilingual book, "Luisito Celebrates Three Kings Day," which he will be reading as part of the festivities. This is a free, family storytime event. It includes books, crafts, chocolates, songs, treats, hot chocolate and more.

## First Night

**Sunday, December 31**  
**10 p.m. – 12 a.m.**  
**City of Raleigh Museum**

New Years Eve celebration at the City of Raleigh Museum.

## Follow Us

Check our social media for the newest additions of upcoming events at all of our sites!



## Historic Resources and Museum Program

In July 2012, Raleigh City Council created the Historic Resources and Museum Program, hereinafter the HRM Program, with the express purpose of protecting and programming identified cultural, museum, and historic resources within the City of Raleigh.

The HRM Program manages operations and programs at:

- Borden Building and Stone Circle at Fletcher Park
- City of Raleigh Museum
- Fred Fletcher Amphitheater at Fletcher Park
- John Chavis Memorial Park Carousel – Conservation
- John P. "Top" Greene Community Center
- Latta University Historic Park
- Moore Square
- Mordecai Historic Park
- Pope House Museum
- Pullen Park Historic Attractions
- Raleigh Trolleys
- Tucker House

Additionally, The HRM Program manages an artifact collection consisting of more than 27,000 fine and decorative material culture objects.

Tucker House  
418 N Person Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601

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# Raleigh Register

Raleigh Parks | Historic Resources and Museum Program



Raleigh  
Parks

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