

Raleigh Register

Official Newsletter of the Historic Resources and Museum Program



**Raleigh
Parks**

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Raleighnc.gov/museums

Administrator's Letter

Greetings! We hope you enjoy reading about the wonderful programs, exhibits, and events taking place throughout the Historic Resources and Museum (HRM) Program.

An exciting recent development involves the passage of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (PRCR) 2022 Bond. Adopted with over seventy-three percent voter approval, the PRCR Bond authorizes more than twenty projects throughout our system, including several that directly impact the HRM Program. The Top Greene Cultural Center project, for example, will adaptively reuse the current Top Greene Community Center transforming the space into a cultural mecca with exhibits, archives, and interpretive opportunities. Additionally, the South Park Heritage Walk Park project will realize a long-standing dream to activate the neighborhoods encompassing the old Fourth Ward of Raleigh with a multi-modal interpreted trail. Projects at John Chavis Memorial Park, as well as Dorothea Dix Park, will also include the HRM Program. Look for bond projects to begin as early as July.

The HRM Program also added a new staff member. Casey McKimpson joined us as the new Customer Service Manager at Pullen Historic Attractions. Casey began working with us in October and looks forward to contributing to Pullen as well as the HRM Program.

We are truly excited about these developments. As always, please stay tuned and stay involved!



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Chair's Letter

Storytelling is the new path to fundraising, preservation, and visitor education for the museumgoer. We look forward to celebrating two critical months in the American experience: Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March. Both are enriched through storytelling as we imagine life through different lenses. Visitors to HRM sites have unique opportunities available to explore history with emphases on gender and race. Truthful representation of oppression is part of the story as well. Understanding context in historical settings is a powerful tool in creating a culture that celebrates all aspects of our heritage and informs us as a nation of our shared humanity.

Experience Raleigh's unique cultural resources and expand your understanding during the upcoming winter season.



Esther Hall
Chair
HRM Advisory Board

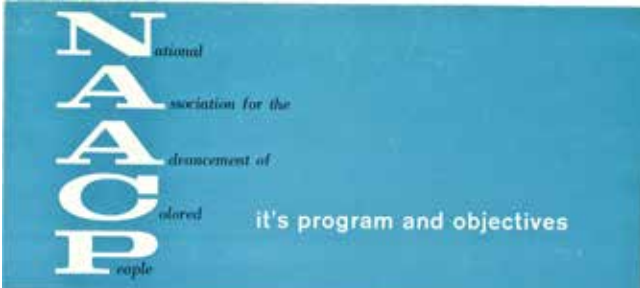
Cover Photo:

Ruth and Evelyn Pope with five unidentified friends, ca. 1940s. Ruth is standing at the far left on the porch, and Evelyn is standing on the steps at the bottom right.

This image is from *A Family Story: Images From the Pope House Museum* exhibit, currently on display at the Pope House Museum. This exhibit can be viewed virtually at bit.ly/3kcZ1MQ

They Were Active, and They Were Persistent

Ainsley Powell, Curator of Collections



NAACP membership and informational pamphlet, October 1957



Perfume bottle engraved with ZΦB [Zeta Phi Beta], a service-based sorority and owned by Evelyn Pope, ca. 1930s



Photograph of downtown's National March for Human and Labor Rights, taken by Carson Boone, September 6, 1976



Scrapbook from the Junior Woman's Club, 1941-1942

Ask A Historian

Ernest Dollar, Museums Director

Q Is it true that a wall was built around Raleigh during the Civil War?

A Yes. Raleigh was not in the center of fighting during the Civil War, but the state and city leaders were alarmed when Union forces attacked Goldsboro in December 1862. They feared another raid could reach the capital and urged Governor Zebulon Vance to take action. He worked with Confederate Engineers to construct a massive earthwork project that would ring the city and offer protection to repel an assault. Over the course of the following year, around 180 enslaved, and some free, African American men labored to build what became an eight-mile wall that encircled Raleigh. It stood seven feet tall and around five feet wide. The structure provided cover for a soldier to fire at an advancing enemy. Additional firepower was provided by platforms that held various pieces of artillery that overlooked the roads and railroads that led into the city. The defenses provided a piece of mind for those in Raleigh, but without Southern soldiers to man the fortifications, they were of little use. The city was surrendered without a shot being fired from the wall on April 13, 1865. Today, efforts are underway to discover any existing remnants of the Civil War earthworks. Visit the COR Museum's *Capital Cartography: Two Hundred Years of Raleigh Maps* exhibit to see a map of the wall drawn by Union soldiers during their occupation of the city.



A close-up of the 1865 map shows the earthwork and battery platform immediately behind the Mordecai House.



Emancipation Day celebrations were held across the South by newly freed African Americans and featured songs, poems, and speeches. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

More Than Just a Month: African American History of Raleigh

Ernest Dollar, Museums Director

In 1926, African American historian Carter G. Woodson sought to change the way America thought about Black history. Woodson promoted the idea that a week be set aside every February to celebrate the story of his people and encourage other historians to consider the topic a "serious area of study." The effort gained momentum in the 1960s, and it was officially recognized in 1976, the country's bicentennial year when President Gerald Ford encouraged Americans to "honor the too often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans."

Today, Woodson's week-long celebration has grown to encompass the entire month of February and has spread across the United States. But does a single month do justice to the long history of Black people in America? Throughout the Historic Resources and Museum Program, the stories of Black Americans have been woven into the programs, exhibits, and tours. These stories are told twelve months a year rather than relegated to just one because they are all a part of American history. It is impossible to unravel the tapestry of history. But Woodson clearly knew the threads of Black achievement and success were appreciated and celebrated.

In 2023, some ninety-seven years after Woodson's call to action, the City of Raleigh's HRM team will begin the year by highlighting African American history and its role in shaping North Carolina's capital city. These historical programs will continue throughout the year. To learn more about African American history in Raleigh, be sure to subscribe to the HRM program's email list to learn about exhibits and programs that share the long and rich history of Black Raleigh. To subscribe, Text RALEIGH HISTORY to 468311.



Pope House Manager Hazel Boomer talks with a group exploring Southeast Raleigh in October 2022.



African American reenactors at the Pope House talk with visitors about Black doctors from Shaw's Leonard Medical School during World War I.

Upcoming Events

Museums

Friends of the City of Raleigh Museum is Celebrating 30 Years

Special events all year long at the City of Raleigh Museum

The COR Museum will be celebrating its 30th birthday. The Museum will be looking back at three decades of service to Raleigh and the great community through a series of events.

Celebrating Emancipation Day

Saturday, January 7

1 p.m.

City of Raleigh Museum

COR Museum will begin the year by partnering with the Pope House Museum to commemorate Emancipation Day, Raleigh's version of Juneteenth.

Playdate with Sammy the Squirrel

Saturday, January 21

10 a.m.

City of Raleigh Museum

Children will have Storytime with Sammy the Squirrel.

6th Annual African American History Symposium

Saturday, February 11

Time TBA – an evening event

City of Raleigh Museum

For Black History Month, the Museum will present its sixth annual African American History Symposium featuring speakers discussing politics in the 20th century.

History Explorer – Looking for Dix Park's African American History

Saturday, February 18

10 a.m.

Dorothea Dix Park

Walking tour of Dorothea Dix Park exploring African American history.

Raleigh Roasts

Saturday, March 18

9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Moore Square

Our annual Raleigh Roasts event brings hundreds of people together to taste amazing coffees, teas & treats from our wonderful local Raleigh vendors.

Friends of the City of Raleigh Member Events

The City of Raleigh Museum depends on the support of the community through annual memberships. Members get free admission to several openings and programs at the Museum and take advantage of discounts at the Museum store and for venue rentals if you'd like to organize an event.

cityofraleighmuseum.org/become-a-member.html



Upcoming Events

Sites

Free Friday

Friday, January 27

10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Mordecai Historic Park

Take a free tour of Mordecai Historic Park! Mordecai Historic Park will offer free tours throughout the day on this special Friday! Tours begin on the hour and half-hour and are first come, first served. Please call (919) 996-4364 for more information.

Flannels and Frost

Saturday, February 25

2 p.m.–6 p.m.

Moore Square

Come play outside at Flannels & Frost, DRA's winter activation in partnership with City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Resources. Join us for a celebration of cold-weather sports and family fun with hot beverages, sweet treats, local vendors, and activities. This event is free and open to all ages.

First Friday Feature Film and Market

Friday, March 3

Market runs from 5 p.m.–9 p.m.

Movie starts at dusk

Moore Square

Grab a blanket or lawn chair, pack a picnic, and enjoy an artisan market followed by a feature film each First Friday. The March film is *The Princess Bride* (1987). Rated PG. Market presented by Pop-Up Carolinas.



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
- 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 25,000 fine and decorative material culture objects.

Tucker House
418 N Person Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

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