

Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Management Plan
Newsletter #2
September 2010



Preliminary Alternatives for Future Management

Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor



On The Cover:

Photo of the coastline courtesy of N.C. African American Heritage Commission
 All other photos courtesy of Cari Goetcheus, Assistant Professor, Clemson University and
 Dr. Patrick Hurley, Assistant Professor, Ursinus College



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Preliminary Alternatives for Future Management

Dear Friends, Neighbors, and Partners,

This newsletter includes three preliminary alternatives for managing the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor over the next 10 years. We are at a decisive phase of development, and **your voice and participation are vitally important!** The preliminary alternatives outline basic concepts for management and include potential ways to implement the concepts. We are once again requesting your direct participation and input. Please review the preliminary alternatives on pages 5-7.

Each alternative presents a different guiding framework for management. Each differs in emphasis, in partners likely to assist in implementation, and in resident and visitor opportunities. They were developed using the input received from the public over the course of 21 public meetings held across the corridor last year; Public Law 109-338, Subtitle I (the law that established the corridor); and input from the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission and public and private stakeholders.

Please let us know what you like or dislike about the preliminary alternatives and whether we have left anything out. It is important to be specific. You may like a particular preliminary alternative concept, but disagree with one or more of the potential implementation actions. You may dislike portions or all of one of the preliminary alternative concepts, but like the implementation actions. You may even have an entirely different vision for how the area should be managed. If so, please let us know. Your comments, suggestions, and ideas will guide the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission in developing the best possible management framework for the corridor.

Based on your response, we will then reevaluate these preliminary alternatives and select a preferred alternative. The preferred alternative could be one of the alternatives in this newsletter, a combination of ideas from more than one of the alternatives presented here, or an entirely new alternative. All of this information will then be included in the *Management Plan/Environmental Assessment*.

"Oona support an oona bision jes wha we fa need right now. We da counk pon oona. Do de right ting now. We trus oona ent gon fail we!" Your support and vision are what we need. We are counting on receiving your feedback. We look to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Emory S. Campbell, Chairman
Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission

Please share your thoughts!

Please submit your comments by October 26th, 2010 via one of the following three methods:

- (1) Send comments via the Internet by visiting <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/GUGENewsletter2> and click on "Comment on Document."
- (2) Fill out the mail-in form included with this newsletter (postage included) and mail it back to us.
- (3) Mail a letter to the return address included on this newsletter.



Development of The Preliminary Alternatives

Requirements for the Preliminary Management Alternatives

Both the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Park Service (NPS) planning process



require that the management plan examine a range of different futures or alternative approaches for managing the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. Developing a concept for the future is the primary role of the heritage area management plan. Evaluating a range of alternatives allows managers, users,



partners, and interested citizens to come together and explore different approaches to protecting and interpreting resources, managing use, and resolving conflicts. This ensures that trends, impacts, trade-offs, and the public's ideas and concerns have been considered before a management approach is selected for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor.

The enabling legislation for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor directs the Commission to prepare a management plan that includes ways to assist units of local government and other persons in

- carrying out programs and projects that recognize, protect, and enhance important resource values within the heritage corridor
- establishing and maintaining interpretive exhibits and programs within the heritage corridor
- developing recreational and educational opportunities in the heritage corridor
- increasing public awareness of and appreciation for the historical, cultural, natural, and scenic resources of the heritage corridor
- protecting and restoring historic sites and buildings in the heritage corridor that are consistent with heritage corridor themes

- ensuring that clear, consistent, and appropriate signs identifying points of public access and sites of interest are posted throughout the heritage corridor
- promoting a wide range of partnerships among governments, organizations, and individuals to further the purposes of the heritage corridor



All alternatives must be consistent with the purposes for which the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor was established. The alternatives also must be reasonable, and they must be consistent with NPS policies and other existing legislative mandates such as the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation

Act. Since implementation of any of the alternatives would require the assistance of partners and outside funding, public support is also important in comparing the alternatives.

Please use the comment form provided or go online <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/guge> to comment on the preliminary alternatives!



Commission Meeting, Charleston, SC, May 2010

The Preliminary Alternatives

Preliminary Alternative A No-Action

The no-action alternative is a continuation of the status quo. In the absence of an approved management plan and environmental assessment, the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission would lose the ability to leverage

federal dollars through the National Park Service National Heritage Area program; as a result many of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor projects would likely not be funded.

The guiding framework of an approved management plan would also be lacking. There would not be a centralized, coordinated

approach to realizing the corridor's vision, meeting its mission, reaching its goals, or providing organized strategic application of interpretive themes. Existing efforts to promote, share, enhance, protect, and preserve the Gullah/Geechee culture would continue by businesses, organizations, and individuals, but these efforts would likely remain site specific.

A Quick Look At: Preliminary Alternative A

The no action alternative (Alternative A) is required to be considered by law. Under this alternative, the management plan would not be completed as required by law. The Commission would still be authorized to operate, but would lack the guiding management framework of the management plan and would lose all funding from the National Heritage Area program. The Commission would have to raise all funds required for implementation.

Actions Common to Preliminary Alternatives B and C

A number of actions have been identified to be implemented regardless of which management alternative is selected. Some of the actions are required by the law designating the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, while others are included to ensure appropriate exposure of the area and effective implementation.

- Secure funding to match federal appropriations via partners and stakeholders.
- Secure an executive director and appropriate staff.
- Establish legal protection for a logo and corridor graphics to authenticate and validate the work of the corridor.
- Develop a comprehensive, consistent marketing strategy for the corridor, which would include logo, media outreach, website hierarchy, etc. This would include the development of a comprehensive web presence, including a stand-alone corridor webpage. Note: While this action is common to both action alternatives, the web content and marketing materials would differ between alternatives B and C.
- Develop and institute a consistent sign program across the corridor.
- Partner with state and local transportation organizations to explore obtaining Scenic Byway designation along Highway 17/A1A.
- Develop one or more Coastal Heritage Centers.
- Implement a Gullah/Geechee certification process for businesses, organizations, or individuals distributing materials or promoting the culture.
- Develop a position statement defining Gullah/Geechee.
- Partner with the International African American Museum in Charleston, SC, the National African American Museum in Washington, D.C. and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, OH to promote the culture through these "Gateway Sites" to the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor.

Preliminary Alternative B

Document to Sustain and Inform about Gullah/Geechee People and Culture

This alternative would focus on documenting, authenticating, and sharing histories and resources associated specifically with the Gullah/Geechee culture, including both tangible and intangible resources. The Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission would pursue projects and programs to document resources and make cultural and historical information available to the community, most notably youth, for the purpose of increasing cultural awareness and survival.

Resources would be documented to ensure that history is not lost. History and resources would be shared with the Gullah/Geechee community, residents, and visitors; public awareness and appreciation for Gullah/Geechee history, culture, and contributions would be enhanced. Given the limited information and research on Gullah/Geechee culture in North Carolina and Florida, these areas would be the focus of the first phase of research, while the second phase would focus on South Carolina and Georgia. Threatened resources—those endangered by development pressure—would be the target of initial documentation and preservation efforts.

Efforts would then turn toward documenting and preserving intact Gullah/Geechee communities within the corridor. Potential elements could include the following:

- Authenticating existing documentation and working to correct inaccuracies.
- Documenting intangible resources - oral histories, language, music, traditional skills, and arts and crafts.
- Developing priority topics for new research and documentation related to the Gullah/Geechee culture.
- Collaborating with partners and citizens on community-based participatory research.

Implementation Ideas

Restoration and preservation would not be directly undertaken by the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, but through cooperation, collaboration, and partnerships. The following are implementation ideas identified to date and are presented in no particular order:

- Expand and enhance the inventory mapping to date, including documentation of lost resources.
- Develop a repository of both digital and physical archives for research; archives would be used to expand understanding of the Gullah/Geechee culture—within the community first and then to other residents, visitors and researchers. Efforts would be made to document how Gullah/Geechee communities have changed over time and would make historic connections between African traditions, historic Gullah/Geechee traditions, and modern Gullah/Geechee culture.

- o Use photos and drawings to develop digital re-creations of threatened and even lost buildings and sites.
- o Archives would include both tangible and intangible resources, including oral histories; Gullah/Geechee language, music, and art; recipes; photos of traditional crafts and events; and building and site surveys, drawings, and photographs.
- Encourage organizations/sites within the corridor to work together and with the public to develop a research institute(s) on the Gullah/Geechee culture to institutionalize targeted academic and community-based participatory research and documentation.
- Evaluate and even rewrite national register applications to ensure accurate representations of connections to Gullah/Geechee culture or individuals.
- Develop a list of “most endangered Gullah/Geechee sites” to raise awareness and even funding for documentation, preservation, or restoration.
- Work with state historic preservation offices to encourage documentation through the Historic American Building Survey (HABS)/Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), archaeological surveys, seismic studies, and other documentation of threatened and significant Gullah/Geechee resources.
- Provide training for members of the Gullah/Geechee community on historic research, documentation, and preservation, so the community can actively participate in identifying and

- protecting resources they value.
- Develop criteria for designation and certification of properties, sites, and resources as Gullah/Geechee cultural properties to ensure proper recognition of Gullah/Geechee resources.
- Work with the National Park Service and the National Register of Historic Places program to expand the existing national register criteria to be more inclusive.
- Host conferences and establish a Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor speaker’s bureau to showcase both academic and community-based participatory research and to increase exposure locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.
- Enhance interpretation of cultural traditions, storytelling, language, and traditional skills and arts, and expand on the connection of Gullah/Geechee peoples to specific sites and buildings.
- Partner with local communities and nonprofits to focus on community-based participatory research, documentation, and preservation.
- Perform a research gap analysis to identify where research is needed and where research grant funding could be best focused.
- Review dissertations related to Gullah/Geechee culture and associated sites.
- Work with partners to develop a fellowship/scholarship program to help fund critical research needs within the corridor as well as a priority list of research topics.
- Encourage and assist with the development of student internships.

A Quick Look At: Preliminary Alternative B

Alternative B focuses on strategies designed to document and archive the history and resources of the corridor, promote community-based participatory research and community training opportunities, and share Gullah/Geechee history and resources with the Gullah/Geechee community, residents, visitors, and scholars.

Preliminary Alternative C

Empower Gullah/Geechee People and Perpetuate and Sustain the Culture

This alternative would focus on empowering Gullah/Geechee people and perpetuating and sustaining the culture. Under this alternative, the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission would pursue projects and programs that strive to enhance the cultural pride of those who are aware of their history and culture, and develop cultural pride in those who have

never been educated about their history and culture. Focus and emphasis would be directed toward the youth—the key to the culture's continuation. Education, economic empowerment, and a focus on traditional skills and arts and crafts would be key avenues for developing cultural pride and creating economic opportunities. Raising awareness about land use, land ownership, and land rights would be a vital component of this alternative. Stewardship of natural resources would be promoted and partners would be engaged to assist in ensuring

a clean, healthy environment that would continue to support the Gullah/Geechee people and their culture. To ensure the success of this alternative, implementation would initially focus internally on Gullah/Geechee people, themselves, and then externally, but with the understanding and awareness that the culture is inextricably linked to the American fabric, and that sharing the culture with the American people and international visitors is critical to creating respect.

Implementation Ideas

Comprehensive and network-driven collaboration with partners would be the key to implementing this alternative. The following are implementation ideas identified to date and are presented in no particular order:

- Promote knowledge and awareness of Gullah/Geechee history and culture from its earliest formation to the present and into the future as the culture continues to evolve, with particular emphasis on youth.
- Share stories and educational content through diverse media, including on a website, in print, on radio and TV, through driving tours, and through podcasts.
- Assist in the development of appropriate grade-level curriculum guides for the study of Gullah/Geechee history and culture.
- Partner with teachers and others to support the development, promotion, and distribution of interpretive exhibits.
- Work with partners to develop and implement a “teach the teachers” program, as well as youth programs that are experiential in nature, such as field trips, after school activities, and youth volunteer opportunities.
- Maintain, promote, and publicize the language and authentic cultural traditions, crafts, folklore, and graphic and performing arts of the Gullah/Geechee people.
- Develop a “Friends of Gullah/Geechee” network

- that would allow for seamless communication with the public and key stakeholders.
- Develop an online, printable calendar of events and newsletter.
- Assist with the development of training opportunities, in concert with partners, on the Gullah/Geechee language, crafts, folklore, and graphic and performing arts, etc., specifically targeting youth.
- Work with partners to increase understanding and awareness among Gullah/Geechee people, including youth; the American public; and visitors about land loss and lack of access to vital cultural resources, such as burial sites.
- Develop outreach and educational efforts to assist in the preservation of family land and the integrity of family compounds.
- Develop an heirs’ property grant program that would provide information and legal assistance to private landowners wishing to keep their property in family ownership.
- Provide training, free seminars, and workshops to landowners and youth.
- Work with partners to preserve land and water for subsistence hunting and fishing, agriculture, open space, water and land access, and recreational opportunities.
- Work with partners to grandfather property uses against adverse zoning in order to protect existing Gullah/Geechee properties.
- Develop position papers highlighting the adverse consequences of existing laws and proposed legislation on the ability of private property owners to hold onto their land and pass it on to their descendants.
- Expand appropriate economic opportunities within the corridor to assist in empowering people and perpetuating and sustaining the culture.
- Increase generational financial sustainability in the Gullah/Geechee community to ensure people are able to live, work, and raise families at home,

- without having to leave the corridor to seek jobs elsewhere.
- Create Gullah/Geechee enterprise zones and a tax credit program for locally owned small businesses that promote or interpret the culture.
- Work with partners to promote organic farming and fishing or shrimping co-ops, shopping at local farmers markets and locally owned grocers, and eating at locally owned restaurants.
- Promote culturally appropriate industries, such as marine industries, heritage tourism, ecotourism, and renewable energy through partnership development, and marketing, etc.
- Develop a heritage tourism plan to assist in organizing, promoting, and marketing sites, festivals, and local businesses.
- Promote the development of business education classes and entrepreneur centers, such as business incubators, to provide additional education opportunities and support and enhance the creation of culturally appropriate businesses in the corridor.
- Protect and preserve the natural resources within the corridor.
- Partner with public and private entities to create, preserve, and protect sites for gathering sweetgrass and other traditional herbs and plants.
- Work with the Environmental Protection Agency and environmental justice organizations to identify and educate the public, political leaders, and decision makers about past and present environmental degradation and injustices; promote rapid clean-up.
- Work with partners to use conservation easements and other land preservation tools to protect important cultural sites and areas.
- Educate and work closely with councils of government, planning departments, and boards of directors to ensure that the impacts of land use decisions on Gullah/Geechee people, resources, and communities within the corridor is understood.

A Quick Look At: Preliminary Alternative C

Alternative C focuses on strategies designed to educate residents and visitors—particularly the youth; enhance economic opportunities; protect natural resources; and perpetuate traditional skills, arts, and crafts.

Recent Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission Highlights

2009	2010
<p>The Commission held business meetings (open to the public) every quarter.</p> <p>February 2009 in Jacksonville, FL May 2009 in Georgetown, SC July 2009 in Wilmington, NC October 2009 in Savannah, GA</p>	<p>The Commission is holding business meetings (open to the public) every quarter.</p> <p>February 2010 in St. Augustine, FL May 2010 in Charleston, SC August 2010 in Southport, NC November 2010 in Brunswick, GA</p>
<p>In February, Newsletter #1 was mailed to individuals and organizations in all four states.</p>	<p>From February to May, the Commission developed initial partner programs and distributed information to each state's congressional delegation representing the corridor and government agencies, followed by in-person meetings.</p>
<p>In April, the Commission presented at the Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.; "Public History Roundtable: The Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor"</p>	<p>In May, the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor joined the Alliance of National Heritage Areas (the Alliance). The Alliance defines itself as a membership organization of the congressionally designated national heritage areas committed to raising awareness among the Administration, Congress, its partners, and the public of the benefits of national heritage areas to the public sector and private citizens and fostering educational opportunities and partnerships among organizations in the heritage development field. The Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor joined the Alliance to not only have a voice in the national heritage area movement, but to provide the unique perspective of the only national heritage area that focuses on a distinct African American population.</p>
<p>From February to August, the Commission held 21 public meetings throughout the 4-state corridor and garnered more than 1,500 comments to guide the development of the management plan. Your participation and input at those meetings has guided the Commission's work over the past year – Thank You!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments provided at the meetings focused on stories related to the cultural traditions, heritage, and resources of the Gullah/Geechee people. The public comment report can be viewed online at www.parkplanning.nps.gov/guge • The vast majority of the comments received identified specific places, people, or features that contribute to the uniqueness of the cultural heritage corridor. Community members also shared stories of direct experiences growing up in the corridor and stories that have been passed down through generations—these provided significant insight into Gullah/Geechee cultural traditions, language, and people. Comments also provided many ideas for interpretive themes and expressed support for the preservation, conservation, and restoration of resources and traditional practices. 	<p>From May to August, the Commission developed preliminary management alternatives as part of complying with the National Environmental Policy Act.</p>
<p>From August to December, the Commission developed a vision, mission, and purpose statement, as well as goals, objectives, and primary interpretive themes.</p>	<p>From June 27th to July 1st, the Commission co-sponsored the 2010 International Heritage Development Conference in Charleston, SC. This biennial conference is put on by the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and provides a venue for education and information sharing about best practices and innovations related to heritage preservation and development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission co-sponsored "A Dialogue on Diversity" at the conference and is currently developing a national-level policy paper based on this session. • The Commission sponsored the Gullah/Geechee Culture & Traditions Pre-Conference Tour at the conference. The tour provided conference attendees a "taste of our history" and served to educate and raise awareness of Gullah/Geechee culture and history.
<p>In September, the Commission presented at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's legislative conference in Washington, D.C.</p>	<p>In September, the Commission released Newsletter #2 to the public, government agencies, and stakeholders in all four states.</p>
<p>In December, the Commission briefed the National Park Service Southeast Regional Director.</p>	<p>In November, the Commission intends to select a preferred alternative based on your feedback.</p>

Foundation Statements

VISION

An environment that celebrates the legacy and continuing contributions of the Gullah/Geechee people to our American heritage.

MISSION

To nurture pride and facilitate an understanding and awareness of the significance of the Gullah/Geechee history and culture within the Gullah/Geechee communities.

To sustain and preserve land, language, and cultural assets within the coastal communities of South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida.

To promote economic development among Gullah/Geechee people.

To educate the public on the value and importance of the Gullah/Geechee culture.

PURPOSE

To recognize and sustain the important contributions made to American culture and history by African Americans known as the Gullah/Geechee who settled in the coastal counties of South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida.

To assist state and local governments and public and private entities in South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida in interpreting the story of the Gullah/Geechee and in preserving Gullah/Geechee folklore, arts, crafts, and music.

To assist in identifying and preserving sites, historical data, artifacts, and objects associated with the Gullah/Geechee for the benefit and education of the public.



Bottle tree in SC

Photo Credit:
Brookgreen Gardens



First African Baptist Church in GA

GOALS

Goal 1: Protect, preserve, and restore tangible and intangible natural and cultural resources in communities and other areas that are of cultural and historical significance to the Gullah/Geechee people.

Goal 2: Enhance the quality of life for current and future generations within the cultural heritage corridor.

Goal 3: Foster public awareness and appreciation for the history of the Gullah/Geechee people, their contributions to the development of the United States, and connection to the African Diaspora and other international cultures.

PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEMES

- | | |
|-----|---|
| I | Development of the Plantation Economy |
| II | The Quest for Freedom and Equality |
| III | Global Connections |
| IV | Education |
| V | Influence of Gullah/Geechee People on Cultural and Natural Landscapes |
| VI | The Cultural Continuum (From Africa to the Present) |

THE PLANNING PROCESS

Planning for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor is organized around three primary questions:

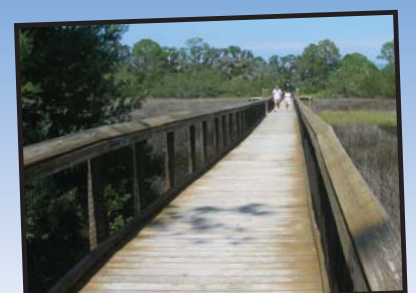
1. **WHY** was the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor established and what is its overall mission?
2. **WHAT** is the vision for the future (what kind of place do we want the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor to be in the next 10 years?)
3. **HOW** do we accomplish our future vision?

Statements of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor's purpose and significance provide answers to the **WHY** questions and form the foundation for the general management plan. Developing a vision for the area's future (answering the **WHAT** question) is the primary function of the management plan. The **HOW** question will initially be answered in the management plan and then in more detailed implementation plans developed by the Commission in the future.



St. Stephen A.M.E. Church in NC

Photo Credit:
N.C. African American Heritage Commission



Fort Mose Boardwalk in FL

Photo Credit:
FL Dept. of Environmental Protection

Coastal Heritage Center(s)

To comply with the requirements in the law that designated the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor and to provide an interpretation and experiential anchor, one or more Coastal Heritage Centers would be developed in the future. The center(s) would be sited and developed in the future and be dependent upon adequate funding, partnerships, and community support. The process and criteria for identifying the site, facility, and management entity will be outlined in the *Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Management Plan/EA*.

A Coastal Heritage Center is a community anchor that focuses on a living group of people that connects the past and the present through interaction and outreach across generations; a physical space that embodies the vision and mission of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. The physical space combined with the knowledge and ideas of the community will instill pride, understanding and awareness, sustain and preserve language and cultural assets, and serve as a vehicle to tell our story to the American people and the world.

BOUNDARY

The Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission intends to propose that the geographical boundary of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor be adjusted to include St. Johns County, Florida (subject to the 30 mile offset). The proposal, including the rationale for inclusion and documentation of support for the decision will be included in the management plan for consideration by the Secretary of the Interior as allowed for by the designating law. The Commission also intends to propose that following signature by the Secretary of the Interior, the boundaries of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor be fixed as those lands and waters running from Pender County, North Carolina southward to Saint Johns County, Florida, from the Atlantic coast to 30 miles inland.

FINANCING IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the preferred alternative, once selected, will require a stable and sustainable financial plan. The Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission will continue to receive very limited amounts of money in the coming years to serve as seed money that can be leveraged by the commission. This small amount of money each year will not be sufficient to implement the plan and therefore, additional funds will need to be raised to meet the federal match obligation and to implement projects in the corridor. Cooperation and collaboration with federal, state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and individuals will be the key to successful implementation of the management plan.

Q & A

With the National Park Service Gullah/Geechee Coordinator, Michael Allen

Q: What new innovative occurrences and programs have come about in the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor since its inception?

A: On a daily basis, I'm reminded through phone calls, newspaper articles, and personal visits of the remnants, residues, and vestiges of the culture. In the face of the many threats that the culture is facing today, I'm also reminded daily of the programs and occurrences that celebrate the culture's victories. I'll mention only two, but there are many tangible places in the culture and beyond that weren't acknowledging or celebrating Gullah/Geechee heritage just some 15 years ago. One of these is the Sweetgrass Cultural Arts Pavilion in Mount Pleasant, SC. Chairman Campbell spoke on behalf of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission at its dedication in July 2009. And, then, there is the unveiling of the "Grass Roots: African Origins of an American Art" exhibit about sweetgrass basketry at the National Museum of African Art in Washington, DC in June 2010.

Your continued assistance is needed!

As you review the two "Action" Preliminary Alternatives (Alternative B and C), you'll see many ideas that were brought to the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission's attention during the 21 public engagement meetings held last year. The Commission and the National Park Service want to assure you that, with your continued assistance and feedback, the implementation of the management plan will include numerous new and ongoing innovative occurrences and programs that will help to celebrate, sustain, and educate the nation and the world about Gullah/Geechee culture and heritage.

"The most popular bill I ever sponsored was the 2006 law creating the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor"

— Congressman James E. Clyburn, Southern Legislative Conference in Charleston, SC - August 2010

Planning Schedule

Producing a management plan involves many steps and will take about three years to complete. We have been diligently working on the plan and complying with federal law and NPS policy along the way. The following is a list of the major steps of the planning process.

TIMEFRAME	MAJOR PLANNING ACTIVITY	PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY
Fall 2008	Project Startup. Determine the scope of the project, design the process for carrying out the project, determine issues and concerns, and gather and analyze information.	
2009	Identify the Planning Context. Twenty-one public meetings were held to gather public feedback. Commission developed the vision, mission, purpose, goals/objectives, and primary interpretive themes based on feedback from the public, government agencies, and other stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read newsletter #1 • Send us your comments • Attend public meetings
2010 We are here	Develop and Evaluate Preliminary Alternatives. Develop a reasonable range of alternative futures for the cultural heritage corridor and provide opportunities for the public, government agencies, and other stakeholders to review and comment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read newsletter #2 • Send us your ideas and concerns using the response form provided, a personal letter, or the website at: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/GUGENewsletter2
2011	Prepare and Publish the Management Plan/Environmental Assessment. The Management Plan/EA will be prepared and made available for public review. The plan will describe the planning context, management alternatives, and impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the Management Plan/EA and provide comments
2012 and beyond	Implement the Plan. After the "Finding of No Significant Impact" is issued, the management direction in the plan will be carried out.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission and partners to implement the management plan



If you have questions or need more information, please contact:

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**Thank you
for your
interest!**

