

Chapter 5

Consultation and Coordination



Chapter 5 divider photos (top to bottom)

- Brick Baptist Church Graveyard, St. Helena Island, Beaufort County, SC (Photo Credit: Althea Natalga Sumpter)
- Marsh Landing, St. Helena Island, Beaufort County, SC (Photo Credit: Althea Natalga Sumpter)
- McLeod Plantation, James Island, Charleston County, SC (Photo Credit: Althea Natalga Sumpter)

PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

This management plan is based on input from the public, stakeholders, potential partners, and members of the Commission. Consultation with Native American tribes was conducted throughout the planning process. The public had many avenues to provide comments during the development of the plan, including public meetings, postal mail, e-mail, and the Internet.

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 1

In February 2009, a newsletter was sent out to individuals and organizations in all four states within the Corridor. Newsletters and comment forms were distributed at public meetings and other events within the Corridor throughout the spring and summer of 2009. The newsletter provided information about the management plan and asked for public feedback on the proposed vision, mission, purpose, and primary interpretive themes. The comment form asked the following questions:

1. How do you feel about the draft vision and mission statements presented in this newsletter? Do you have additional comments on these statements?
2. How do you feel about the draft purpose statement for the cultural heritage area presented in this newsletter? Do you have any additional comments on the purpose?
3. What do you think is the most important thing visitors should learn about the Cultural Heritage Corridor?
Are there other theme topics you would include besides those listed in this newsletter? Why do you think this category is important?
4. What are the three features of Gullah Geechee culture that you think must be protected, preserved, or continued? What must remain for future generations?
5. What opportunities or management actions would you like to see explored in the management plan for the Cultural Heritage Corridor?
6. What are your greatest concerns about the future of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor?
7. Please add any additional comments you would like to share with the Commission.



FIGURE 19. NEWSLETTER 1

Additionally, 21 public meetings were held in 19 communities in the four states within the Corridor from February to August 2009. These meetings provided the public with an opportunity to express their thoughts and opinions about the future of the Corridor. Discussions focused on stories related to the cultural traditions, heritage, and resources of Gullah Geechee people. Speakers also shared ideas for future management of the Corridor.

TABLE 27. PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD

Date	Location
February 19, 2009	Fernandina Beach, FL
February 20, 2009	Jacksonville, FL
April 7, 2009	Georgetown, SC
April 27, 2009	McClellanville, SC
April 28, 2009	Conway, SC
May 5, 2009	Atlantic Beach, SC
May 14, 2009	Georgetown, SC
May 28, 2009	Wilmington, NC
June 2, 2009	Savannah, GA
June 5, 2009	Mount Pleasant, SC
June 9, 2009	Savannah, GA
June 16, 2009	St. Helena Island, SC
June 22, 2009	Hollywood, SC
June 23, 2009	Walterboro, SC
June 24, 2009	Yemassee, SC
June 26, 2009	Darien, GA
June 29, 2009	Sapelo Island, GA
July 7, 2009	Johns Island, SC
July 27, 2009	Bluffton Village, SC
July 28, 2009	Hardeeville, SC
August 5, 2009	Pineland, SC

The official public scoping comment period for the management plan opened on February 5, 2009, and closed on August 21, 2009. Comments were received via (1) hardcopy comment form included in the newsletter mailing, (2) direct input into the PEPC Web site by the respondent

(<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/guge>), (3) e-mail, or (4) official transcripts from the public meetings. Respondents represented five states (California, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina) and the District of Columbia, and included individuals and organizations.

Every letter, e-mail, electronic entry, comment form, or individual speaker at a public meeting was considered one piece of correspondence. Each correspondence was individually analyzed and specific comments were extracted. A specific comment could include one story; identification of a resource or potential partner(s); a specific issue, concern, or idea, etc. The majority of the correspondences included several comments, and therefore, the number of actual comments is much greater than the number of correspondences received.

During the official comment period 125 individual correspondences were received via letter, e-mail, electronic entries into PEPC, or hardcopy comment forms. Additionally, there were many people that spoke at each of the 21 public meetings. Together, the public input yielded 1,553 total comments.

The majority of comments received identified specific places, people, or features that contribute to the uniqueness of the Corridor; shared stories of direct experiences of growing up in the Corridor and of those that had been passed down through generations, and provided significant insight into Gullah Geechee cultural traditions, language, and people. Comments also included many ideas for primary interpretive themes and various ways for achieving the educational and interpretive goals of the Corridor. Most of the comments expressed support for the preservation, conservation, and restoration of resources and traditional practices. They also stated the need to obtain oral histories and to document historical information, and identified numerous important cultural resources. Many comments also identified potential partners to assist in implementing the management plan.

The public meeting transcripts and entire Public Scoping Comment Analysis Report are available in appendix N and on the Corridor Web site: www.gullahgeecheecorridor.org.

Newsletter 2

Approximately 1,600 copies of Newsletter 2 were distributed to the public and stakeholders in September 2010. The newsletter included descriptions of the preliminary alternatives for future management of the Corridor. The official public comment period opened on September 17, 2010, and closed on October 26, 2010. Comments were received via (1) hardcopy comment form included in the newsletter mailing, (2) direct input into the PEPC Web site by the respondent, (3) e-mail, or (4) letter. No public meetings were held during this period. During the official comment period, 69 correspondences were received. The four questions asked were:

1. Which parts of any of the preliminary alternatives do you feel strongly should be included in the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor?
2. Which parts of the preliminary alternatives would you eliminate in the future management of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor?
3. List any important strategies, approaches, or elements (including themes) that have been missed or overlooked for management of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor.
4. Do you have any other comments or concerns you would like the planning team to take into consideration?

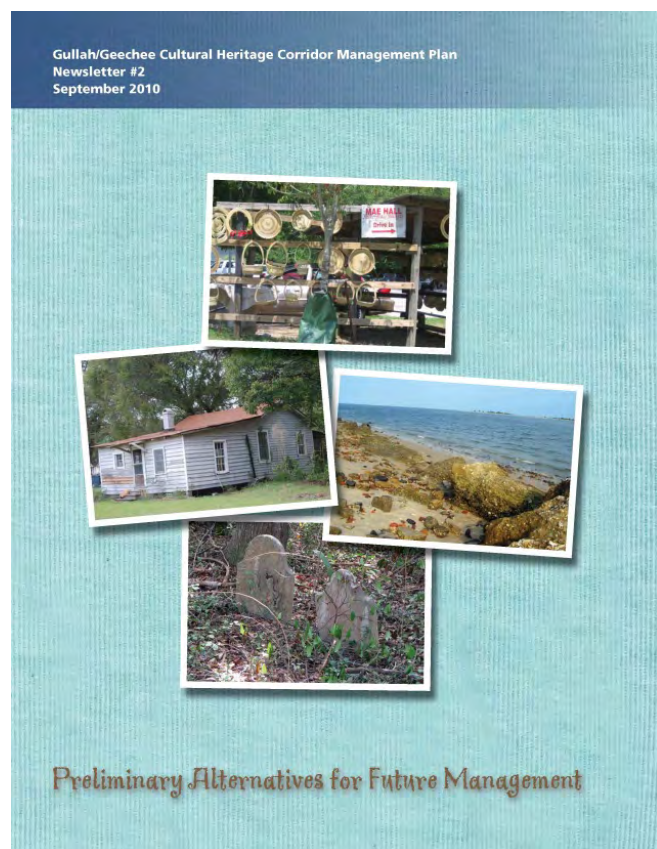


FIGURE 20. NEWSLETTER 2

The majority of comments received were about the parts of the preliminary alternatives that respondents liked. There were differing opinions about whether preliminary alternative B (Document to Sustain and Inform about Gullah Geechee People and Culture) or preliminary alternative C (Empower Gullah Geechee People and Perpetuate and Sustain the Culture) would be more effective in meeting the Corridor's vision and mission. Many people suggested that preliminary alternatives B and C were not mutually exclusive, but interdependent, and suggested that they be combined. The ideas about how to combine them varied, but comments received touched on most of the implementation ideas included in Newsletter 2.

Many comments received noted the importance of having a plan, the "project needs structure and backing." Although there were a few comments received that noted specific items to remove from alternatives B and C, the majority of comments reiterated elements that were liked. Many respondents commented on

the fact that the upcoming difficulty would be deciding how to prioritize the implementation ideas included in Newsletter 2.

Missed or overlooked strategies, approaches, or elements were also included such as addressing the need to trace genealogy; considering vacant property management; creating land use maps of existing/proposed development for each area with overlays and insets; and developing a research team to gather oral histories, stories, and tales. A few comments suggested that the Commission create local advisory groups to assist with implementing the management plan, to instill pride in local areas, and to assist with fundraising. Other comments included suggestions about the potential future location of Coastal Heritage Centers, the need to partner and work closely with local governments, and increase awareness of the Corridor's existence throughout the country and within African American communities. One comment suggested that the Commission develop an endorsement program to assist organizations in finding funding, and yet another suggested reviewing (and conferring about) heritage preservation efforts in other countries.

The entire "Preliminary Alternatives Public Comment Report," including comments received, is available in appendix N and on the Corridor's Web site: www.gullahgeecheecorridor.org.

CONSULTATION WITH TRIBES, AGENCIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS

To review copies of consultation letters and responses, please see appendix G on the CD.

Native American Consultation

The Commission recognizes that indigenous peoples may have traditional and contemporary interests and ongoing rights in lands within the Corridor boundary, as well as concerns and contributions to make for the future of the Corridor.

Native American Consultation with native peoples, such as Native American tribes, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, is required by various federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies. For example, such consultation is needed to comply with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Implementing regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for the National Environmental Policy Act also require Native American Consultation.

Letters were sent to the following Native American tribes in June 2010 (appendix G) to invite their participation in the planning process. Each tribe was invited to consult about the plan. No replies were received by the Commission or the National Park Service. A copy of Newsletter 2 was mailed to each tribe requesting their input. The tribes will have an opportunity to review and comment on this management plan.

- Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
- Catawba Indian Nation
- Cherokee Nation
- Chickasaw Nation
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina
- Kialegee Tribal Town
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama
- Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
- United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians

The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida did not receive a letter and copy of Newsletter 2; rather, they were consulted according to their own communication protocol.

The rights, privileges, concerns, and interests of Corridor Native American neighbors are an important consideration; it is equally important to work out mutually acceptable arrangements on particular issues. The tribes have been kept fully informed throughout the planning process. The Commission would continue to consult with each Native American tribe, as appropriate, during implementation.

National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 Consultation

Federal agencies that have direct or indirect jurisdiction over historic properties are required by section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 270 et seq.) to take into account the effect of any undertaking on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. To meet the requirements of 36 CFR 800, the Commission, in cooperation with the National Park Service, mailed a letter to the SHPO in North Carolina, South

Carolina, Georgia, and Florida in February 2010, inviting their participation in the planning process. In addition, a letter was mailed to each SHPO in September 2010 inviting their review and feedback on Newsletter 2.

Due to the general nature of the management plan and the uncertainty of future federal undertakings that may stem from implementation of this plan, the National Park Service has determined that this management plan involves no federal undertakings on historic properties. Per 36 CFR 800.16, “Undertaking means a project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a Federal agency, including those carried out by or on behalf of a Federal agency; those carried out with Federal assistance; and those requiring a Federal permit, license or approval.” The Commission will complete a section 106 review for each undertaking involving a federal nexus that may stem from implementation of this management plan. This management plan does not restrict the subsequent consideration of alternatives to avoid, minimize, or mitigate [a specific] a future undertaking's adverse effects on historic properties in accordance with 36 CFR 800.1(c).

The National Park Service mailed a copy of the management plan to each SHPO with a request for written concurrence with this determination.

Endangered Species Act, Section 7 Consultation

During the preparation of this document, National Park Service staff coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia, office. A letter was sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on February 1, 2010, and to each state's department of natural resources or equivalent (see appendix G), initiating formal consultation and requesting a species list. The list of threatened and endangered species included in appendix H of this plan was compiled using lists and information from online sources developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act and relevant regulations at 50 CFR Part 402, the National Park Service determined that the management approach outlined in the management plan would have no effect on listed species that are under the jurisdictions of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service. A copy of the management plan was mailed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service in accordance with section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act.

Consultation on future actions would be conducted during implementation of this management plan, as necessary, to comply with the Endangered Species Act.

Coastal Zone Management

The Coastal Zone Management Act was enacted in 1972 to preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, to restore and enhance the resources of the nation's coastal zone. The act requires federal agency activities (i.e., “direct” agency activities) to be fully consistent with a state's approved coastal management program, unless full consistency is prohibited by federal law. This plan does not propose any development in the Corridor and no management activities in this plan conflict with the coastal zone management program. Therefore, there is no effect on coastal resources in the Corridor.

FUTURE COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Commission will comply with all appropriate laws and funding requirements in implementing the strategies and actions outlined in this management plan. See “Applicable Laws, Policies, and Initiatives” in chapter 1 and “Other Requirements of the Commission” in chapter 3 for more information.

OTHER OUTREACH EFFORTS

In addition to consultation required by law, the Commission continuously conducted outreach with potential partners, agencies, and the public throughout the planning process.

Quarterly Business Meetings

The Commission is required to hold quarterly business meetings that are open to the public. Table 28 lists the meetings that have been held since the Commission members were publicly announced in October 2007 in Charleston, South Carolina.

Initial Meetings with Potential Partners

Early in the planning process, the Commission opened a dialogue with a few local, county, and regional planning agencies, as well as tourism agencies and organizations. These meetings were informal in nature and allowed the Commission to engage in discussions about local issues and concerns (see table 27). For example, information was shared with the Commission about remnants of indigo dying, threatened slave cemeteries, ideas for an active center with sweetgrass fields, and small African American communities threatened by development pressures. Throughout this round of meetings, all of the potential partners stated that they were willing to assist in any way they could.



**QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING
CHARLESTON, CHARLESTON COUNTY, SC, MAY 2010**

TABLE 28. QUARTERLY PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETINGS (2008–2012)

Date	Location
May 18–19, 2008	Charleston, SC
August 13–15, 2008	Wilmington, NC
September 17–18, 2008	Darien and Sapelo Island, GA
February 20, 2009	Jacksonville, FL
May 15, 2009	Georgetown, SC
July 17, 2009	Wilmington, NC
October 23, 2009	Savannah, GA
February 18–19, 2010	St. Augustine, FL

TABLE 28. QUARTERLY PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETINGS (2008–2012)

Date	Location
May 20–21, 2010	Charleston, SC
August 12–13, 2010	Southport, NC
November 18–19, 2010	Brunswick, GA
February 11, 2011	Jacksonville, FL
May 26–27, 2011	Bluffton, SC
August 19, 2011	Burgaw, NC
November 11, 2011	Midway, GA
February 23–24, 2012	Jacksonville, FL
June 1, 2012	Mount Pleasant, SC

TABLE 29. INITIAL MEETINGS WITH POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Date	Location
July 31, 2009	City of Savannah Community Planning & Development
August 5, 2009	Columbus County Government: Travel & Tourism
August 6, 2009	Charleston County, South Carolina Councilmen
August 12, 2009	Brunswick County Planning & Community Development
August 14, 2009	The Lowcountry Council of Governments (COG)
August 14, 2009	Beaufort County Council Planning Department and Historic Preservationist
August 17, 2009	Berkeley County, South Carolina Councilmen
August 19, 2009	New Hanover County City and Regional Planning Department and Wilmington City and Regional Planning Department
August 20, 2009	Coastal Regional Commission and Camden County Planning Department
August 21, 2009	Savannah Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Workshops with Potential Partners

In early 2010, the Commission distributed “Partner Packets” to more than 100 potential partners requesting their involvement at an in-person meeting. Recipients of the “Partner Packet” included each state’s congressional delegation; federal agency officials; the governors of the four states; state cabinet members and high-ranking state officials (including each state SHPO); county and town administrators, mayors, and regional, county, and local planning directors; representatives from convention and visitor bureaus; and chambers of commerce. Throughout the spring of 2010, members of the Commission held face-to-face workshops with potential partners. Four meetings were held, one in each state—they are presented here in chronological order.

North Carolina. The North Carolina meeting was held at the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources in Raleigh on Thursday, April 29, 2010, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There were 19 non-Commission participants in attendance. The group unanimously agreed that efforts in North

Carolina to conserve Gullah Geechee culture would require a sustained effort from within the state; the larger effort being undertaken by the full Commission. The city of Raleigh was the site of the workshop because the majority of potential state-level partners are concentrated in the capital city.

North Carolina Participants

- John Battle, Chairman African American Heritage Foundation of New Hanover County
- Leslie Bell, Director, Brunswick County Planning and Community Development
- Linda Carlisle, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
- Margaret Conrad, Resourceful Communities
- Jeff Crow, Assistant Secretary, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
- Angella Dunston, Director of Outreach and Faith in the Governor's Office
- Fleming A. El-Amin
- Mary Ruffin Hanbury, Hanbury Consulting
- Bill Hart, New Hanover County Soil and Water District and Eagles Island Coalition
- Jamilla Hawkins, Consultant to the African American Heritage Commission
- Dr. Valerie Johnson, Bennett College and North Carolina Historical Commission
- Dr. Rhonda Jones, North Carolina Central University History Department
- Dr. Richard Lawrence, North Carolina Underwater Archeological Commission
- Michelle Lanier, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
- Gloria Nance Simms, Director, Division of Community Assistance, North Carolina Department of Commerce & NCAPA Representative
- Connie Nelson, Cape Fear Visitors Bureau, Wilmington, North Carolina
- Sally Peterson, North Carolina Arts Council Folk Life Program
- Susan Sachs, Resourceful Communities
- Mikki Sager, Vice President, The Conservation Fund
- Jim Williard, Audio/Visual, North Carolina Cultural Resources



**NORTH CAROLINA PARTNERS MEETING
RALEIGH, WADE COUNTY, NC, APRIL 2010**

South Carolina. The South Carolina meeting was held at the Wachovia Room of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History in Columbia on Tuesday, April 27, 2010, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Twenty-five non-Commission or National Park Service participants attended. The participants expressed gratitude for having been invited and presented accolades for the way their input was solicited and would be used. The capital city, Columbia, was the site of the workshop since the majority of potential state-level partners are located at the government seat.

South Carolina Participants

- Rene Ann Tenkesbury, Office of Senator Lindsey Graham
- Randy Akers, South Carolina Humanities Council
- Jane Baker, City of Charleston
- Marcy Benson, City of Hilton Head Island
- Chris Bickley, Lowcountry Council of Governments
- Michael Covington, South Carolina Department of Transportation
- Susan DuPlessis, South Carolina Arts Commission
- W. Eric Emerson, South Carolina Department of Archives and History
- Adam Emrick, Horry County Government
- George Estes, South Carolina Department of Parks and Recreation
- Jannie Harriot, South Carolina African American Heritage Commission
- Louis Heyward, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- Elizabeth Johnson, South Carolina Department of Archives and History
- Leon Love, South Carolina African American Heritage Commission
- Joseph McGill Jr., National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Ron Mitchum, Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments
- Tom O'Rourke, Charleston County Parks and Recreation
- Kiera Reinertsen, Town of Mount Pleasant
- Chanda Robinson, South Carolina Department of Education
- Samuel N. Robinson, Mayor, Town of Awendaw
- Sharon Scott, International African American Museum
- Ray Sigmor, South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism
- Michelle Sinkle, The Donnelly Foundation
- Elizabeth Tucker, Georgetown County Government



**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETING
GEORGETOWN, GEORGETOWN COUNTY, SC,
MAY 2009**

Georgia. The Georgia meeting was held at the National Park Service, Martin Luther King Jr. Historic District, Visitor's Center Conference Room in Atlanta on Monday, May 3, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There were seven non-Commission participants in attendance. The capital city, Atlanta, was the site of the workshop since the majority of potential state-level partners are located at the government seat.

Georgia Participants

- Cynthia Peurifoy, Environmental Justice, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- William T. Austin, Mayor, City of Riceboro
- K. Lynn Berry, NHA Program Manager, National Park Service, Southeast Region
- Leslie Breland, Heritage Tourism, Georgia Department of Economic Development
- Shedrick Coleman, Commissioner, Metropolitan Savannah Planning Commission
- Dave Crass, Director, Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Jamil Zainaldin, President, Georgia Humanities Council

Florida. Outreach to potential partners formally commenced in Florida with a workshop at Mission San Luis Visitor Center in Tallahassee, Friday, April 9, 2010, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There were five non-Commission participants in attendance. The capital city, Tallahassee, was the site of the workshop since the majority of potential state-level partners are located at the government seat.

Florida Participants

- Dawn Kimmel Roberts, Assistant Secretary of State and Chief of Staff, Florida Department of State
- Barbara Mattick, Bureau Chief, Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State
- JuDee Pettijohn, Department Chief, Cultural Affairs, Florida Department of State
- Scott Stroh, Department Chief, Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State
- Phillip Werndli, Florida Park Service, Division of Recreation and Parks, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

New Elected Officials

Following the November 2010 election, the Commission reached out to newly elected officials at the federal and state level. A letter was mailed to the following elected officials in April 2011 to congratulate them on their electoral success and introduce them to the Corridor and the management planning process.

- Honorable Marco Rubio, United States Senator, Florida
- Honorable Tim Scott, United States Congressman, South Carolina
- Honorable Nathan Deal, Governor of Georgia
- Honorable Nikki Haley, Governor of South Carolina

- Honorable Rick Scott, Governor of Florida – c/o Jennifer Carroll, Lieutenant Governor

OTHER COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

Table 30 identifies some of the events, conferences, meetings, and other activities held by other organizations that one or more commissioners presented at or attended as representatives of the Commission. Meetings related to Commission operations and/or the development of the management plan are described in the *Timeline of Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Committee Development and Management Plan Process* in the section titled “Commission Committees, Preparers, and Appendices.”

TABLE 30. OTHER COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

Activity	Date	Location
Attended the African American Life in the Georgia Lowcountry Symposium	February 20, 2008	Savannah, GA
Attended the Alliance of National Heritage Areas Annual Meeting/Congressional Reception	March 2–4, 2008	Washington, D.C.
Presented at the South Carolina Federation of Museums Conference. “Connecting Nature and Culture: SC Museums in a Changing Environment”	February 27–29, 2008	Beaufort, SC
Attended the Coastal African American Summit, Geechee Kunda	April 19, 2008	Riceboro, GA
Attended the Georgia Sea Island Festival	June 21, 2008	St. Simons Island, GA
Attended the Wanderer Slave Ship Memorial	November 25, 2008	Jekyll Island, GA
Presented at the Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting. “Public History Roundtable: The Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor”	April 2009	Washington, D.C.
Attended the Georgia Sea Island Festival and distributed Newsletter 1	June 20–21, 2009	St. Simons Island, GA
Attended and spoke at the dedication of the Sweetgrass Cultural Arts Pavilion at Mount Pleasant Memorial Waterfront Park	July 5, 2009	Mount Pleasant, SC
Presented at the Association of African American Museums	August 19-22, 2009	Baton Rouge, LA
Presented at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation’s legislative conference	September 2009	Washington, D.C.
Presented at the National Trust for Historic Preservation	October 13–17, 2009	Nashville, TN
Presented at the Connecting the Worlds of the African Diaspora: The Living Legacy of Lorenzo Dow Turner Symposium	November 12–13, 2010	Washington, D.C.
Attended and presented at the Mitchellville Preservation Project Committee. “Inaugural Forum: Unheard Voices”	October 21, 2011	Hilton Head Island, SC

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

The following section includes letters from governments and other organizations, as well as a county resolution supporting the Commission and the development and implementation of this management plan. The letters were received from state and local governments and other organizations that support the work of the Commission. Additional letters were received in direct response to Newsletter 2 and are included in appendix N.



South Carolina
Department of Education

Together, we can.

October 5, 2010

Michael Allen, NPS Community Partnership Specialist
1214 MIDDLE STREET
SULLIVANS ISLAND SC 29482

Dear Mr. Michael Allen:

The South Carolina Department of Education is pleased to support the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission. We are excited about joining with the four-states in partnership along our shared corridor to develop curriculum guides and instructional materials for the use in kindergarten through twelfth grade classrooms.

Sincerely,

Chanda L. Robinson
Education Associate

cr

cc: Valerie E. Harrison Ed.D, Deputy Superintendent
Cathy Jones, Team Leader, Office of Standards and Support
Andrew Coburn, Planning, NPS Denver Service Center

Vance C. Smith, Jr., Commissioner



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

One Georgia Center, 600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
Telephone: (404) 631-1000

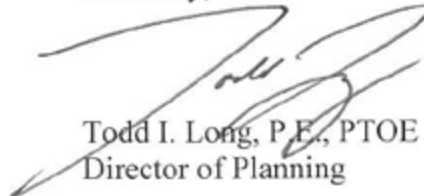
October 7, 2010

Michael Allen
NPS Community Partnership Specialist
Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor
1214 Middle Street
Sullivan's Island, SC 29482

Dear Mr. Allen:

The Georgia Department of Transportation is pleased to support the Gullah/Geechee Heritage Corridor. We recognize that the programs and projects of the Corridor Commission will serve to celebrate and preserve the unique culture of the Gullah/Geechee people and will create educational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. We look forward to seeing future progress in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd I. Long".

Todd I. Long, P.E., PTOE
Director of Planning

TIL:ATA:lms

cc: Vance C. Smith, Jr., Commissioner



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

CHARLIE CRIST
Governor

DAWN K. ROBERTS
Interim Secretary of State

October 6, 2010

Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor
c/o Michael Allen, NPS Community Partnership Specialist
1214 Middle Street
Sullivan's Island, South Carolina 29482

Dear Mr. Allen:

The Florida Department of State is pleased and excited to see the Gullah-Geechee Heritage Corridor Commission's great progress toward the development of the Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Management Plan. Although Florida's Gullah-Geechee cultural heritage is not widely known, the Gullah-Geechee have been a presence in Florida since the early eighteenth century. We enthusiastically support the Commission's efforts to expand the boundary of the Corridor to include St. Johns County, where Fort Mose was established just north of St. Augustine in 1738, the earliest free black community in what is now the United States.

Because the role of the Gullah-Geechee in Florida and North Carolina is not as well defined in popular culture as it is in South Carolina and Georgia, the plan to initially focus on research in Florida and North Carolina is a logical course of action. It was my pleasure to participate in the Florida Partner meeting in Tallahassee and learn more about this important initiative.

The Florida Department of State's Office of Cultural, Historical, and Information Programs is ready to assist in this effort through its various programs in the divisions of Historical Resources, Cultural Affairs, and Library and Information Services. We look forward to exploring how specific programs in the Department can support this effort.

Sincerely,

Dawn K. Roberts
Interim Secretary of State

DKR/bm



Florida Department of Transportation

CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

STEPHANIE C. KOPELOUSOS
SECRETARY

October 25, 2010

Gulla/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor
c/o Michael Allen, NPS Community Partnership Specialist
1214 Middle Street
Sullivan Island, South Carolina 29482

RE: Gulla/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor

Dear Mr. Allen:

The Florida Department of Transportation is pleased to support the Gulla/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission's development and implementation of its Cultural Heritage Management Plan. The department acknowledges and appreciates the important contribution of the Gulla/Geechee people to the culture and history of the United States. Furthermore, the department recognizes the need to protect and preserve the lifeways and resources of the Gulla/Geechee people, as practicable.

A specific objective of the Gulla/Geechee Corridor Management Plan is to institute a consistent signage program in each state within the corridor and to obtain a Scenic Byway designation along Highways US- 17 and A1A. The Florida Scenic Highway Program may be of particular benefit in this regard. This Program represents a "grass roots," community based effort to heighten awareness of our State's history and its cultural, historical, archeological, recreational and scenic resources. The intent of the Program is to designate roadway corridors to preserve and enhance these resources for public education and enjoyment while also seeking to promote economic benefits that may result from designation. The department's Scenic Highway Program thus has the potential to assist the accomplishment of this objective of the Corridor Management Plan in Florida.

The department is committed to work with the Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission to pursue its development and implementation of its Cultural Heritage Corridor Plan in matters related to transportation. Please keep the department informed of activities associated with the Plan as it continues to be developed and implemented.

Sincerely,

Debbie Hunt
Assistant Secretary for
Intermodal Systems Development

DH/gb
Cc: Secretary Kopelousos



Lowcountry Council of Governments

Phone (843) 726-5536
Fax (843) 726-5165
Email: office@lowcountrycog.org
Website: www.lowcountrycog.org

P.O. Box 98
Yemassee, SC 29945-0098
Delivery Address: 634 Campground Rd.
Office at Point South: I-95 Exit 33 at US Hwy. 17

Lowcountry Regional Development Corporation • Lowcountry Workforce Investment Area
Lowcountry Economic Development District • Lowcountry Regional HOME Consortium
Lowcountry Aging & Disability Resource Center / Area Agency on Aging

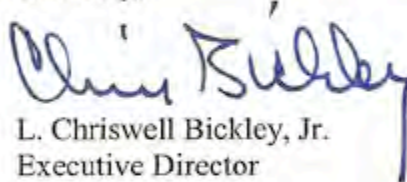
October 25, 2010

Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor
c/o Michael Allen, NPS Community Partnership Specialist
Sullivan's Island, SC 29482

Dear G/GCHC:

I have reviewed the recent letter and enclosures from Chairman Campbell outlining the Commission's work toward a Corridor Management Plan. Know that the Corridor has our support. I think the most exciting challenge is to preserve the heritage of the past to benefit present and future generations. You are working on a significant element of the culture and history of the Lowcountry Region. Please continue to keep me updated as your work progresses. The COG stays ready to assist.

Sincerely,



L. Chriswell Bickley, Jr.
Executive Director

/cws

July 21, 2009
Charleston, SC

**A RESOLUTION
of Charleston County Council**

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has enacted the National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 creating ten new heritage areas among which is the Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor along the coasts of northern Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and southern North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Heritage Corridor recognizes the important contributions made to American culture and history by Africans and African Americans known as Gullah/Geechee who settled in the coastal counties of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Heritage Corridor provides assistance to federal, state, and local governments, grassroots organizations, and public and private entities in interpreting the story of Gullah/Geechee culture and preserving Gullah/Geechee folklore, arts, crafts, and music; and

WHEREAS, the Heritage Corridor assists in identifying and preserving sites, historical data, artifacts, and objects associated with Gullah/Geechee culture for the benefit an education of the public; and

WHEREAS, Mount Pleasant Sweetgrass Overlay District possesses significant history related to Gullah-Geechee culture and Gullah-Geechee folklore, arts, crafts, and music; and

WHEREAS, the historical sites, historical data, artifacts and objects associated with Gullah-Geechee culture in Mount Pleasant Sweetgrass Overlay District should be identified and preserved for the benefit and education of the public.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by **CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL OF CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA** as follows:

1. County Council hereby endorses and supports the goals and objectives of the National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 and the work of the Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission.
2. County Council hereby endorses the inclusion of the Mount Pleasant Sweetgrass Overlay District in the Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor.

Adopted in regular session of County Council for the County of Charleston, South Carolina this 21st day of July, 2009.

CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL
Teddie E. Pryor, Sr., Chairman
July 21, 2009

Gullah-Geechee
Cultural
Corridor
Request
Resolution



City of Charleston
South Carolina

Joseph P. Riley, Jr.
Mayor

Timothy J. Keane
Director

Department of Planning, Preservation and Sustainability

October 6, 2010

Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor
c/o Michael Allen, NPS Community Partnership Specialist
1214 Middle Street
Sullivan's Island, SC 29482

Dear Chairman Campbell:

The Commission's work to date has been exemplary. Your preliminary outlines show a true effort to identify in each of the four states specific needs and concerns. I am especially excited by the recurring theme of partnership in each of the meeting highlights. Partnership and collaboration will be strengths which the Commission can use to finalize the management plan and its ultimate implementation.

The City of Charleston would like to extend its support to the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission as it develops a management plan that implements the Commission's vision, mission and purpose.

Yours truly,

Jane W. Baker
Director, Neighborhood Services and
Special Projects

TOWN OF MOUNT PLEASANT

P.O. BOX 745
MOUNT PLEASANT, SC 29465



TEL (843) 884-1229
FAX (843) 856-2195

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Gullah/ Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor
c/o Michael Allen, NPS Community Partnership Specialist
1214 Middle Street
Sullivan's Island, SC 29482

Dear Michael,

The Town recently received a letter from Emory Campbell with the Gullah/ Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission requesting a letter of support regarding the implementation of a management plan for the Corridor. I understand that there are currently several alternative plans that are being reviewed and that at this point in time the Commission is seeking support in general for adopting and implementing a management plan.

Please know that the Town of Mount Pleasant supports this effort and the eventual adoption of a management plan. We recognize the importance of this Heritage Corridor to our community as well as other communities along the Corridor route. We request that you keep us informed as the Commission moves forward with selection of the best Preferred Alternative plan. If we may provide any information that will be useful in this effort, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christiane Farrell".

Christiane Farrell

Director of Planning and Development



Hall of the States, Suite 342
444 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC, 20001

Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission
1214 Middle Street
Sullivan's Island, SC 29482

To Whom It May Concern:

The Alliance of National Heritage Areas is 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 Alliance fully supports the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission by acting as a resource for heritage area best practices and also by being a network of similar minded organizations throughout the United States of America.

As the current Chairman of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, I can testify to the good standing the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission has as a member of the organization. They are active in our collective work to preserve and promote America's story for the economic benefit of our communities.

Sincerely,

Michelle McCollum
Chairman
Alliance of National Heritage Areas



South Carolina National Heritage CorridorTM

PO Box 477
Belton, SC 29627

Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission
1214 Middle Street
Sullivans Island, SC 29482

To Whom It May Concern:

Since our inception as a National Heritage Area in 1996, the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor (SCNHC) has been able to bear witness to the extensive planning process and now implementation of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission. Not only do we share a designation from the National Park Service, but we also share common territory in the state of South Carolina, where we both aim to continuously preserve and promote our cultural, natural and historical resources.

The similar goals and mission present a major opportunity for increasing the effectiveness of efforts from both parties such as grant funding, leveraging partnerships and joint project development. In addition, the experience and expertise of the SCNHC lends itself to the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission in terms of advising on heritage area best practices.

As the Executive Director for the SCNHC, I gladly offer my support to the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission and look forward to continuing our already positive working relationship.

Sincerely,

Michelle McCollum
Executive Director
SC National Heritage Corridor
Michelle@scnhc.com
(864)245-7380

AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT

U.S. Senate

Richard Burr, NC
Kay R. Hagan, NC
Jim DeMint, SC
Lindsey Graham, SC
Saxby Chambliss, GA
Johnny Isakson, GA
Bill Nelson, FL
Marco Rubio, FL

U.S. House of Representatives

Mike McIntyre, NC – 7th District
James Clyburn, SC – 6th District
Tim Scott, SC – 1st District
Joe Wilson, SC – 2nd District
John Barrow, GA – 12th District
Jack Kingston, GA – 1st District
Corrine Brown, FL – 3rd District
Ander Crenshaw, FL – 4th District
John Mica, FL – 7th District
Clifford Stearns, FL – 6th District

Federal Agencies and Lands

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Castillo de San Marcos National Memorial
Charles Pinckney National Historic Site
Cumberland Island National Seashore
Environmental Protection Agency Region 4
Fort Caroline National Monument
Fort Frederica National Monument
Fort Matanzas National Monument
Fort Pulaski National Monument
Fort Sumter National Monument
Francis Marion National Forest
Library of Congress, The American Folklife Center
Moore's Creek National Battlefield
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Coastal Services Center
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Scenic Byway Program
Timucuan Ecological and Historic National Preserve
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southeast Region

Native American Tribes

Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
Catawba Indian Nation
Cherokee Nation
Chickasaw Nation
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina
Kialegee Tribal Town
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma

Interstate Organizations

Governor's South Atlantic Alliance
South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Governors

Governor Bev Perdue, NC
Governor Nikki Haley, SC
Governor Nathan Deal, GA
Governor Rick Scott, FL

State of North Carolina

Department of Administration
 State Environmental Review Clearinghouse
Department of Commerce
 Division of Community Assistance
 Division of Tourism, Film, and Sports Development
 Economic Development Board
Department of Cultural Resources
 North Carolina African American Heritage Commission
 North Carolina Arts Council
 Office of Archives and History
 Office of State Archaeology
 State Historic Preservation Office
 State Historic Sites
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 Coastal Management
 North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
 Office of Conservation and Community Affairs
 Office of Environmental Education
 Parks and Recreation
Department of Transportation
Public Schools of North Carolina
 State Board of Education

State of South Carolina

Budget and Control Board
 State Clearinghouse for Intergovernmental Review
Department of Agriculture
Department of Archives and History
 South Carolina African American Heritage Commission
 State Historic Preservation Office
Department of Commerce
 Community & Rural Planning and Development
Department of Education
Department of Health and Environmental Control
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
 State Park Service
 Tourism and Recreation Development
Department of Transportation
South Carolina Arts Commission

State of Georgia

Department of Economic Development
Department of Education
Department of Natural Resources
 Coastal Resources Division
 Georgia African American Historic Preservation Network
 Historic Preservation Division
 State Parks and Historic Sites Division
Department of Transportation
Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
 State Clearinghouse

State of Florida

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
 Florida Forest Service
Department of Education
Department of Economic Opportunity
Department of Environmental Protection
 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 Florida State Clearinghouse
 Florida Park Service
Department of State
 Division of Cultural Affairs
 Division of Historical Resources (State Historic Preservation Officer)
 Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network
Department of Transportation

Regional Organizations

Cape Fear COGs, NC
Waccamaw Regional COG, SC
Pee Dee Regional COGs, SC
Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester COG, SC

Lowcountry COG, SC
Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia, GA
Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission, GA
Northeast Florida Regional Council, FL

Libraries

C. Louis Shields Learning Resource Center, Coastal Carolina Community College, NC
Central Branch Library, Pender County, NC
Columbus County Public Library, Columbus County, NC
G.V. Barbee, Sr. Library (Oak Island), Brunswick County, NC
New Hanover County Central Library, New Hanover County, NC
Onslow County Library, Onslow County, NC
William Madison Randall Library, University of North Carolina –Wilmington, NC

Allendale County Library, Jasper County, SC
Avery Research Center for African American History & Culture, Archives & Library, SC
Beaufort Branch Public Library, Beaufort County, SC
Charleston County Library – Main Branch, Charleston County, SC
Colleton County Memorial Library, Colleton County, SC
Daniel Library, The Citadel Military College, SC
Dorchester County Library, Dorchester County, SC
Georgetown County Library – Main Branch, Georgetown County, SC
H.V. Manning Library, Claflin University, SC
Hilton Head Gateway Campus Library, University of South Carolina, SC
Historic Beaufort Campus Library, University of South Carolina, SC
Horry County Memorial Library, Horry County, SC
Kimbrel Library, Coastal Carolina University, SC
L. Mendel Rivers Library, Charleston Southern University, SC
Miller F. Whittaker Library, South Carolina State University, SC
Moncks Corner Library, Berkeley County, SC
Waring Historical Library, Medical University of South Carolina, SC
Williamsburg County Library, Williamsburg County, SC

Asa H. Gordon Library, Savannah State University, GA
Bull Street Library Branch, Chatham County, GA
Brunswick-Glynn County Library, Glynn County, GA
Camden County Public Library (Kingsland), Camden County, GA
Jen Library, Savannah College of Art & Design, GA
Lane Library, Armstrong Atlantic State University, GA
Statesboro-Bulloch Regional Public Library, Bryan County, GA

Betty P. Cook Nassau Center Library, Florida State College, FL
Duval County Library – Main Branch, Duval County, FL
Edward Waters College Library, Edwards Waters College, FL
Nassau County Public Library, Nassau County, FL
Proctor Library, Flagler College, FL
St. Johns County Library – Main Branch, St. Johns County, FL
Swisher Library, Jacksonville University, FL
Thomas G. Carpenter Library, University of North Florida, FL

County/Local Government

All 27 county governments that are wholly or partially within the boundary of the Corridor.
Local, municipal, and town governments within the Corridor, to the extent possible

Organizations and Businesses

An extensive list of organizations and businesses will be notified of the availability of the draft plan.

Individuals

An extensive list of individuals will be notified of the availability of the draft plan.