

# APPENDIX K: POTENTIAL PARTNERS AND RELATED PLANS

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## POTENTIAL PARTNERS AND RELATED PLANS

### HERITAGE AREA PARTNERS

#### Alliance of National Heritage Areas

[www.nationalheritageareas.com](http://www.nationalheritageareas.com)

The Alliance of National Heritage Areas is a membership organization of the congressionally designated national heritage area committed to raising awareness among the president's 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 Commission is a participating member of the alliance. Participation with the Alliance of National Heritage Areas is critical to achieving both the mission and goals of this management plan.

#### South Carolina National Heritage Corridor

[www.sc-heritagecorridor.org](http://www.sc-heritagecorridor.org)

The South Carolina National Heritage Corridor extends 240 miles across the state of South Carolina, stretching from the western mountains to the port city of Charleston on the coast. Locations of great natural beauty, recreational opportunities, military history, local arts and crafts, agricultural traditions, and the state's rich African American heritage are identified and interpreted throughout the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor. It is divided into four regions, with the Lowcountry (region 4) falling within the boundaries of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. The overlapping of these two national heritage areas presents a unique opportunity to work together collaboratively to foster public awareness and appreciation for Gullah/Geechee culture and traditions.

### FEDERAL AGENCY PARTNERS

Each federal agency has its own unique mission and goals in relationship to the projects with which they are involved. By understanding these goals, potential partnerships between agencies and the Corridor can be identified and cultivated. This section highlights some of the major agencies activities that align with the vision, mission, and goals of the Corridor.

#### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

##### National Heritage Area Program

The national heritage area (NHA) program provides limited technical and financial assistance to the Corridor. The NHA program serves as an advisor to the Commission, yet the Commission has the ultimate responsibility for implementation of this management plan.

##### National Park Service Units

In addition, there eight National Park Service sites throughout the Corridor with which the Commission could partner on a variety of projects, including interpretive, educational, and promotional projects. Raising public awareness and appreciation for the history of the Gullah/Geechee people is a critical goal of this management plan, which can be achieved through strategic partnerships with these sites. For instance, the Charles Pinckney National Historic Site in

South Carolina hosts the Gullah Heritage Celebration & Film series in February and March each year.

The nine NPS sites within the proposed Corridor boundaries include:

- Moores Creek National Battlefield, NC
- Fort Sumter National Monument, SC (general management plan, amended 2003)
- Charles Pinckney National Historic Site, SC (general management plan)
- Cumberland Island National Seashore, GA (general management plan, transportation plan)
- Fort Pulaski National Monument, GA
- Fort Frederica National Monument, GA (general management plan, amended 2006)
- Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve, including Fort Caroline National Monument, FL
- Castillo de San Marcos National Memorial, FL
- Fort Matanzas National Monument, FL

### **Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance**

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The program supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects. The Commission could partner with the program in a number of ways throughout the implementation of this plan. For instance, the RTCA is coordinating the planning of the Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail that traverses the Corridor, which could provide opportunities for interpretation of the Gullah/Geechee culture.

### **National Register of Historic Places**

The National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources. The Commission would seek guidance from NPS staff and/or each state historic preservation office (SHPO) to seek eligibility and designation of historic Gullah/Geechee resources to the national register.

### **National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom**

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom (Underground Railroad) is intended to coordinate preservation and education efforts nationwide and integrate local historical places, museums, and interpretive programs associated with the Underground Railroad into a mosaic of community, regional, and national stories. This project builds upon and is supported by community initiatives around the country as well as legislation passed in 1990 and the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998. The network will also serve to facilitate communication and networking between researchers and interested parties, and aid in the development of statewide organizations for preserving and researching Underground Railroad sites.

### **U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE**

[www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)

The mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) is to work with others, to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. With this focus on natural resources, the USFWS is dedicated to working with stakeholders in order to achieve its mission through numerous grant programs as well as the management of

wildlife refuges. An extensive Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant program is related to the Corridor's mission of sustaining and preserving land within the coastal communities of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Working with the USFWS is vital to maintaining access for traditional recreational uses like hunting and fishing. Key wildlife refuges within the Corridor that are managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service include:

- Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge, SC
- Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, SC
- Ernest F. Hollings Ace Basin National Wildlife Refuge, SC
- Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge, SC
- Savannah National Wildlife Refuge, SC
- Wassaw National Wildlife Refuge, GA
- Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge, GA
- Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge, GA
- Wolf Island National Wildlife Refuge, GA
- Tybee National Wildlife Refuge, GA

## **FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**

### **National Scenic Byway Program**

[www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org)

The mission of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is to improve mobility on the nation's highways through national leadership, innovation, and program delivery. The FHWA also manages the National Scenic Byway program with the vision of creating a distinctive collection of American roads while telling their stories and protecting treasured places. Part of this mission is to provide resources and grants to byway communities so that they may create a unique travel experience and enhance local quality of life through efforts to preserve, protect, interpret, and promote the intrinsic qualities of designated byways. The Commission would consult with the National Scenic Byways Program to seek designation for US 17 and A1A. Designation would enable the Commission to compete for the National Scenic Byways Discretionary Grant program and bring the Corridor's story to a larger audience by raising awareness of Gullah/Geechee culture. Existing scenic byways in the Corridor include:

- Ashley River Road, SC
- Edisto Island National Scenic Byway, SC
- A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway, FL

## **NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION**

[www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)

The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is dedicated to understanding and predicting changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts; to sharing that knowledge and information with others; and to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources. Because of this focus on coastal and marine ecosystems, there exists opportunities for the Commission to partner and work in collaboration on natural resource protection and education. NOAA's Sea Grants Programs and Sea Grant Colleges work to educate communities about the value and importance of coastal resources. Various Sea Grant College chapters are in place throughout the

Corridor and provide an opportunity to develop relationships in order to cultivate educational opportunities.

## **U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

The mission of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is to protect human health and the environment. This mission is accomplished through the development and enforcement of regulations, providing grants, studying environmental issues, and educating the public. Because one of the primary goals of the EPA is administering grants to potential partners, there exists an opportunity to develop a strong partnership with the EPA. The Environmental Justice grant program is a potential resource for achieving the Corridor's mission and goals and for improving the quality of life for the Gullah/Geechee people by sustaining healthy communities.

Link: <http://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/grants/index.html>

## **U.S. FOREST SERVICE**

[www.fs.fed.edu](http://www.fs.fed.edu)

“Caring for the land and serving people” is the official motto of the U.S. Forest Service and is embodied in their mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Based out of Atlanta, Georgia, the Southern Regional (R8) office oversees 16 units, two of which fall within the boundaries of the Corridor. These forests are important natural resources, traditionally used for various cultural practices. The Commission would consult with the Forest Service as appropriate throughout implementation. Francis Marion National Forest, SC is within the Corridor.

## **FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is dedicated to supporting American citizens and first responders to ensure that the nation works together to build, sustain, and improve its capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. Because of its location along the southern Atlantic coast, the Corridor is particularly vulnerable to natural disasters like hurricanes. Through disaster preparedness programs as well as disaster assistance and recovery grants, FEMA could play a critical role within the Corridor if such a disaster were to happen. The Commission recognizes the importance of disaster preparedness and would work to build a relationship with FEMA in order to facilitate appropriate emergency responses in Gullah/Geechee communities and to protect Gullah/Geechee resources.

## **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

The mission of the Department of Defense (DoD) is to provide military forces needed to deter war and to protect the security of the country. The Department of Defense operates numerous sites and military installations within the Corridor, the largest being Fort Stewart in Georgia. Such facilities have a large environmental as well as economic impact on the Corridor. Establishing good working relationships with the Department of Defense and their operations within the Corridor are essential to the future success of meeting the goals of this management plan. Key DoD sites and facilities within the Corridor include:

- Military Ocean Terminal – Sunny Point, NC
- Naval Weapons Station Charleston, SC

- Charleston Air Force Base, SC
- Fort Stewart, GA
- Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base, GA
- Jacksonville Naval Air Station, FL

## **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

[www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is charged with the mission of creating strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable housing for all with a vision to improve lives and strengthen communities to deliver on America's dreams. This mission is accomplished through federal policies, advocacy, education, grant programs, and numerous partnerships. Many of these programs relate directly to the mission and goals of the Corridor, providing an opportunity to cultivate an active partnership with HUD. In particular, goal two of this management plan addresses enhancing the quality of life for current and future generations within the Corridor by maintaining and sustaining healthy communities that are culturally and economically vibrant. Identifying the various HUD programs that relate to achieving similar goals is a critical component to developing successful as well as productive partnerships.

## **U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

[www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)

The Small Business Administration was created in 1953 as an independent agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist, and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise, and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of the nation. It helps Americans start, build, and grow businesses and provides grants and loans that could be used to create opportunities to promote economic development among Gullah/Geechee people. Along with various financial assistance programs, other services offered by the Small Business Administration that can be used to promote small business development within the Corridor include business counseling and training.

## **LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

### **The American Folklife Center**

[www.loc.gov/folklife](http://www.loc.gov/folklife)

The American Folklife Center was created in 1976 by the U.S. Congress to preserve and protect this great heritage of American folklife through programs of research, documentation, archival preservation, reference service, live performance, exhibition, publication, and training. Housed in the Library of Congress, the American Folklife Center maintains one of the largest collections of ethnographic materials in the United States and has numerous resources and documentation on Gullah/Geechee culture and traditions. These archived materials are valuable resources in interpreting and sharing the history and legacy within the Corridor. The American Folklife Center also offers federally funded grants and nine privately funded grants as well as technical training on the collection and recording of oral histories. Developing a strong working relationship with the American Folklife Center would help sustain language and cultural assets of the Gullah/Geechee people while nurturing pride and awareness of the Corridor.

## **NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES**

The Corridor encompasses numerous traditional tribal lands and potential resources within its boundary. Consultation with tribal nations traditionally associated with the Corridor would be undertaken, as appropriate, according to U.S. law.

Native American tribal groups traditionally associated with the Corridor area include the following:

- 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**

### **GOVERNORS' SOUTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE**

[www.southatlanticalliance.org](http://www.southatlanticalliance.org)

The Governors' South Atlantic Alliance was formed in 2009 when the governors of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida signed the South Atlantic Alliance Partnership Agreement. The Alliance is a voluntary partnership led by the four states in partnership with three federal co-lead agencies: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Geological Survey. The mission of the Alliance is to implement science-based policies and solutions that enhance and protect the value of coastal and ocean resources of the southeastern United States to support the region's culture and economy now and for future generations.

The Alliance has created a final action plan, with several actions strongly related to Corridor goals. A strong partnership with the Alliance could result in collaboration on projects such as the promotion of heritage tourism and increasing public awareness of working waterfronts.

### **SOUTH ATLANTIC LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE**

[www.southatlanticcc.org](http://www.southatlanticcc.org)

Landscape conservation cooperatives are dynamic public-private partnerships that recognize the challenges that the nation's cultural and natural resources face are not always limited to political or jurisdictional boundaries. The stewardship of these resources often requires a collaborative and holistic approach to conservation and the sustainable management of U.S. land, water, wildlife, and

cultural resources. The South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative is part of this national network that works within the Corridor. The Commission recognizes this partnership opportunity in order to work toward larger landscape conservation and protection goals and objectives.

### **SOUTHEAST COAST SALTWATER PADDLING TRAIL**

The Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail is planned to be a continuous water trail through the entire Corridor and would provide water access to many coastal communities within the Corridor. The RTCA program is assisting in the planning of the trail, coordination of partners, and development of the Web site. The Commission could work with the RTCA and state and local governments on projects regarding common access, interpretation, and promotion of the trail and the Corridor. Florida and Georgia each have their own statewide portion of the saltwater paddling trail; the Florida section is named the Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail and the Georgia section is named the Georgia Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail.

### **STATE AGENCY PARTNERS**

State agencies and organizations will likely be some of the strongest partners of the Heritage Corridor. State agencies own some of the land within the Corridor, they provide grants, and they set policy on topics closely aligned with Heritage Corridor goals (such as tourism, education, and coastal management). The following pages include information on the areas of mutual interest between state agencies and the Heritage Corridor, and identify opportunities to work in partnership.

### **NORTH CAROLINA**

#### **NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES**

<http://www.ncdcr.gov/>

The North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources (NCDCCR) serves North Carolina citizens across the state in outreach to broaden minds and spirits, preserve history and culture, and to recognize and promote cultural resources as an essential element of the state's economic and social well-being.

One of the goals of the NCDCCR, according to its 2011–2013 Strategic Plan, is to boost partnerships to support programs and facilities. The Commission may seek to partner with the NCDCCR on projects such as programming and protection of historical and cultural resources. A department representative attended a Corridor partnership workshop and indicated interest in finding opportunities to collaborate on cultural resource projects.

- The department manages the Brunswick Town State Historic Site, located within the Corridor.

#### **North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office**

<http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/>

The North Carolina SHPO assists private citizens, private institutions, local governments, and agencies of the state and federal government in the identification, evaluation, protection, and enhancement of properties significant in North Carolina history and archeology. The North Carolina Historic Preservation Plan 2006–2012 identifies several goals that relate to the Corridor management plan. The Commission could work with the office on historic preservation projects and historic resource surveys.



The SHPO coordinates state and federal historic preservation tax credit programs and federal historic preservation grants, which Gullah/Geechee sites could pursue. The Commission may also pursue technical assistance from the SHPO on historic preservation projects, and historic site designations.

### **North Carolina Arts Council**

[www.ncarts.org](http://www.ncarts.org)

The mission of the council is to make North Carolina a better state through the arts. Their long-range plan identifies goals of the organization. The council is committed to working in partnership with organizations that use the arts to make their communities stronger. The council offers grants to artists and grants to nonprofit organizations that have produced quality arts programs for at least two consecutive years. A representative from the council attended a Corridor partnership workshop and indicated an interest in partnering with the Commission.

Link: [www.ncarts.org/grants\\_resources.cfm](http://www.ncarts.org/grants_resources.cfm)

### **North Carolina Underwater Archaeology Branch, Office of State Archaeology**

[www.archaeology.ncdcr.gov](http://www.archaeology.ncdcr.gov)

The branch completes the surveillance, protection, preservation, survey, and systematic underwater archeological recovery of shipwrecks and other underwater archeological sites throughout the state. The branch works with partners to inventory underwater archeology sites, and was represented at a Corridor partnership workshop, and indicated interest in working toward mutual goals.

### **NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

[www.ncdot.gov](http://www.ncdot.gov)

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) department's mission is connecting people and places in North Carolina—safely and efficiently, with accountability and environmental sensitivity. Balancing transportation access with preservation of natural and cultural resources through the Corridor will be an ongoing challenge for the area. It is important for the Commission to be knowledgeable about key projects and weigh in where these projects have beneficial or adverse impacts on the implementation of the management plan. The Commission may also work with the department in establishing signs for the Corridor at appropriate locations.

### **NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/>

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction is the agency charged with implementing the State's public school laws and the State Board of Education's policies and procedures governing pre-kindergarten through 12th grade public education. The guiding mission of the North Carolina State Board of Education is that every public school student will graduate from high school, globally competitive for work and postsecondary education and prepared for life in the 21st Century. The Commission could work with this department to enhance their objective of promoting knowledge and awareness of Gullah/Geechee history and culture amongst youth.

### **NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

[www.nccommerce.com](http://www.nccommerce.com)

### **North Carolina Economic Development Board**

The North Carolina Economic Development Board oversees state economic development research and planning and makes policy recommendations to the secretary of commerce, the governor and

the general assembly. The board is responsible for North Carolina's economic development strategic plan, which details the goals and actions of the agency.

### **Division of Tourism, Film, and Sports Development**

The division offers comprehensive marketing and promotional programs to bolster the travel, wine, film, and sports industries. The division actively supports heritage tourism including the Civil War Trails and the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War. The Civil War Trails includes a number of sites in Wilmington. The division offers opportunities for tourism sites to cooperatively advertise through a variety of media outlets, including e-newsletters, banner ads, and magazines. The Commission, partners, and partner sites may seek to pursue participation in cooperative advertising programs.

### **Division of Community Assistance**

The division assists local governments with economic development, community development, growth management, and downtown revitalization with three major components: the Main Street Program, Community Development Block Grants, and planning and growth management services. The Commission could partner with the division on economic development projects. The division also carries out the 21st Century Communities Initiative (Columbus County is a participant in this program). The division offers tourism matching grants to assist statewide, regional, and local marketing organizations and some governmental entities in marketing their areas as travel destinations, which the Commission may seek to pursue. A representative of the division attended a Corridor partnership workshop and indicated interest in working collaboratively with the Commission.

Link: <http://www.nccommerce.com/en/CommunityServices/CommunityDevelopmentGrants/TourismMatchingGrants/>

### **Office of Urban Development – North Carolina Main Street Center**

The North Carolina Main Street Center promotes downtown revitalization based on economic development within the context of historic preservation, a concept developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The center provides technical assistance in downtown revitalization to large and small communities, defined as follows:

- Main Street – focuses on communities under 50,000 that have downtown managers.
- Small Town Main Street – provides guidance to local committees in communities under 7,500 that do not have downtown managers.

Link:

<http://www.nccommerce.com/en/CommunityServices/CommunityPlanningAssistance/NCMainStreetCenter/>

### **NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

<http://portal.ncdenr.org>

The department's mission is to conserve and protect North Carolina's natural resources and to maintain an environment of high quality by providing valuable services that consistently support and benefit the health and economic well-being of all citizens of the state. Several of the department's 2009–2013 Strategic Plan goals relate to the Corridor, including those regarding sustaining working lands, addressing climate change, growing visitor attractions, nurturing natural resources, and promoting ecotourism and agri-tourism. The Commission could partner with the department in projects such as promotion of Corridor tourism, maintaining working landscapes, environmental educational programs, and protection of natural resources.

## **North Carolina State Parks**

[www.ncparks.gov](http://www.ncparks.gov)

The mission of the state parks system is to conserve and protect representative examples of the natural beauty, ecological features, and recreational resources of statewide significance; to provide outdoor recreational opportunities in a safe and healthy environment; and to provide environmental education opportunities that promote stewardship of the state's natural heritage. According to the state parks systemwide plan, some of the goals of the department include issues that complement Corridor goals.

State parks plan to increase support for and participation in community festivals, regional tourism initiatives, local planning projects, and youth job projects. State Parks also intends to increase partnerships with educational institutions to develop curriculum and research opportunities. Where educational topics overlap, the Commission could seek to work with state parks toward these goals.

Each of the following state parks within the Corridor has its own general management plan to guide the future of the park:

- Lake Waccamaw State Park
- Carolina Beach State Park
- Fort Fisher State Recreation Area

## **Division of Marine Fisheries**

[www.ncfisheries.net/](http://www.ncfisheries.net/)

The Division of Marine Fisheries is dedicated to ensuring sustainable marine and estuarine fisheries and habitats for the benefit of the people of North Carolina. The division prepares fishery management plans for adoption by the Marine Fisheries Commission for all commercially and recreationally significant species or fisheries that comprise state marine or estuarine resources.

The goal of these plans is to ensure long-term viability of the fisheries. The Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission could partner with the division on projects directly related to fisheries and significant species.

## **Division of Water Resources**

[www.ncwater.org](http://www.ncwater.org)

The division administers programs for river basin management, water supply assistance, water conservation, and water resources development. The division also runs two environmental education outreach programs, Stream Watch and Project WET (Water Education for Teachers). The division provides technical assistance on aquatic weeds, water conservation, and water resources development projects. The Commission could seek technical assistance, or partner with the division on educational programs such as facilitating a Stream Watch program in a Corridor community.

## **Division of Coastal Management**

[dcm2.enr.state.nc.us/](http://dcm2.enr.state.nc.us/)

The division works to protect, conserve, and manage North Carolina's coastal resources through planning, permitting, education, and research. The North Carolina Beach and Inlet Management Plan is an ongoing joint effort of the Division of Water Resources and the Division of Coastal Management to catalog, archive, and compile relevant coastal information to better manage the state's beaches and inlets. In addition to ocean shorelines, additional focus has been placed on the management of estuarine and sheltered shorelines. The Corridor may find opportunities to partner

or seek technical assistance for shoreline or estuarine stabilization, or seek to partner on opportunities such as outreach on the impact of ocean-front development, etc.

Four coastal reserves exist within the Corridor:

- Masonboro Island Coastal Reserve
- Zeke's Island National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Bald Head Woods Coastal Reserve
- Bird Island Coastal Reserve

### **North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission**

<http://www.ncwildlife.org/>

The Wildlife Resources Commission is dedicated to the wise-use, conservation, and management of the state's fish and wildlife resources. The Wildlife Resources Commission oversees game lands, where hunting is allowed. Two game land areas exist within the Corridor:

- Angola Bay Game Land
- Holly Shelter Game Land

### **NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE**

#### **Citizens and Faith Outreach Office**

<http://www.governor.state.nc.us/default.aspx>

The office works with community and faith leaders in the state, and ensures that the state government is open and accessible to all constituents. The office also works to ensure that state boards and commissions are served by a diverse pool of applicants. A representative from the office attended a Corridor partnership workshop, and indicated interest in working with the Commission.

### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY**

<http://scdah.sc.gov>

The department's mission is to preserve and promote the documentary and cultural heritage of South Carolina, "the Palmetto State." The department could assist the Commission in projects regarding preservation of historic records and documents.

#### **South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office**

<http://shpo.sc.gov>

The South Carolina SHPO encourages and facilitates the responsible stewardship of South Carolina's irreplaceable historic and prehistoric places. The current strategic plan for the South Carolina SHPO is titled *Preserving Our Past to Build a Healthy Future: A Historic Preservation Plan for South Carolina 2007-2015*. The plan goals highlight the desire of the office to educate residents about the state's heritage, support stewardship by making economic incentives available, enhancing technical assistance, and supporting planning that incorporates historic preservation. Coordination with state and local preservation offices will be an important part of the future implementation of the

management plan. The SHPO administers historic preservation grants, and offers assistance in meeting standards for eligibility of federal, state, and local tax incentives for historic preservation.

The Commission may also pursue technical assistance from the SHPO on historic preservation projects, and historic site designations.

### **South Carolina African American Heritage Commission**

[www.shpo.sc.gov/SCAAHC.htm](http://www.shpo.sc.gov/SCAAHC.htm)

The mission of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission is to identify and promote the preservation of historic sites, structures, buildings, and culture of the African American experience in South Carolina, and to assist and enhance the efforts of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. The South Carolina African American Heritage Commission accomplishes its mission by providing advice and technical information to individuals and groups who want to preserve historic places; encouraging and supporting the listing of African American historic sites in the National Register of Historic Places, and the placement of South Carolina historical markers; promoting the infusion of African American history into the curriculum of public schools; providing a forum for people interested in preserving African American heritage to learn what is happening across the state, to share success stories, and to receive technical information through meetings and workshops; and collaborating with other organizations and agencies to encourage the preservation of South Carolina's African American history and culture.

Representatives from the African American Commission attended a Corridor partnership workshop and indicated an interest in partnering with the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission.

### **SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

[www.scdot.org](http://www.scdot.org)

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) serves citizens by promoting safe and efficient transportation. Although transportation is critical for tourism access and local and regional economic growth, it does not have to adversely impact Gullah/Geechee resources. For example, the department worked to avoid displacing Gullah/Geechee sweetgrass basket stands during the widening of US 17 near Charleston. This is the type of partnership that the Commission would support.

The department has provided technical guidance on the signage framework for the Corridor. The Commission would continue to collaborate with SCDOT on signage implementation.

### **SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

<http://ed.sc.gov>

The State Department of Education is dedicated to leading educational reform and improvement in the state's 84 school districts and 1,100 public schools. The department provides expertise in research-based teaching and learning and serves as the state's leading advocate for policies promoting school improvement. The department is currently revising its statewide curriculum standards to better reflect African American history. The department has expressed their written support for the Commission and potential partnership opportunities to develop curriculum guides and instructional materials for use in kindergarten through twelfth grade classrooms. A department representative also attended a Commission partnership workshop.

## **SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND TOURISM**

[www.scprt.com](http://www.scprt.com)

The department operates South Carolina's 47 state parks, markets the state as a preferred vacation destination, and provides assistance to communities for parks, recreation, and tourism development and promotion. The department offers several resources for industry partners seeking assistance to promote, enhance, or grow their tourism product such as grant programs, cooperative advertising programs, welcome center and discovery center programs. The Commission may submit festivals and events to be posted to the Official Tourism Web site for South Carolina. The department also promotes tourism attractions on social media outlets such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, and blogs.

Qualified nonprofit organizations may pursue the following grants:

- The Tourism Partnership Fund of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism is a reimbursable matching funds grant with a mission to advance tourism economic benefits throughout the state by providing financial assistance to qualified partners for tourism marketing initiatives that attract visitors and encourage visitor spending in South Carolina.
- The Destination Specific Tourism Marketing Grant Program of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism is a matching funds grant.
- The Recreational Trails Program is a federal-aid assistance program designed to help states provide and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and nonmotorized recreational trail use.

Link: <http://www.scprt.com/our-partners/grants/tmpp.aspx>

### **State Park Service**

The mission of the South Carolina State Park Service is to encourage people to discover South Carolina's state parks by providing resource-based recreational and educational opportunities that emphasize the conservation, protection and interpretation of the state's natural and cultural resources. The service prepares the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, which lays out the goals for statewide recreation. The Commission may partner with the State Park Service in recreational, tourism, and cultural or natural resource projects, or projects on or related to state park land.

The following state parks are within the Corridor boundaries:

- Myrtle Beach State Park
- Little Pee Dee State Park
- Brookgreen Gardens State Park
- Huntington Beach State Park
- USS Yorktown State Park
- Cypress Gardens State Park
- Magnolia Gardens State Park
- Edisto Beach State Park
- Hunting Island State Park

## **Tourism and Recreation Development**

This division offers a positive business environment that encourages quality tourism and recreation development through financial and technical assistance provided in support of local and regional economic development activities throughout South Carolina. The program offers services of writing product development plans for helping regions promote their unique tourism appeal, and offers assistance specifically in heritage tourism development. The program has a tourism structure plan that lists heritage tourism development as a focus.

The state tourism action plan proposes development of the Gullah/Geechee heritage and is proposed as the priority flagship project for the Charleston area. It states, “The Gullah story requires stronger presentation. Towards this end, better packaging and three interpretative centers are proposed which will gather together the Gullah story and present it in a more comprehensive and interactive manner. The locations proposed are Penn Center, Charles Towne Landing, and Beaufort as the hub center for the Gullah.”

The tourism product development concept for the Lowcountry Region highlights Gullah/Geechee culture as a regional asset, and includes a goal developing a Lowcountry Gullah Trail. The Commission could partner with the Division of Tourism and Recreation Development on some of the identified projects, including reinforcement of oral traditions, animation of key sites, and enabling the African American community to participate in the development of the trail and tourism development in the region.

Plans for the Charleston region include support for the International African American Museum, which would be a major visitor attraction in the Charleston area and could direct visitors to other Corridor sites.

Link:

<http://www.scprt.com/files/Tourism%20and%20Recreation%20Development/roll%20out%20presentations/Lowcountry%20Volume%201%20final.pdf>

## **SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

<http://sccommerce.com/>

The Department of Commerce is the state’s leading economic development agency. It works to promote economic opportunity for individuals and businesses. Through its Community and Rural Planning and Development Division, it assists development in rural areas through funding crucial tourism projects. With shared interests related to economic development appropriate for the portion of the state within the Corridor, there are many opportunities to potentially work together in the future.

## **SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL**

[www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov)

The department promotes and protects the health of the public and the environment. The department provides guidance and goals for coastal resource management. The 2006 report, *Adapting to Shoreline Change*, examines science and policy issues related to both beachfront and estuarine shoreline management in South Carolina, and helps the state address future social, economic, and natural resource impacts of shoreline changes that may result from continued (or accelerated) rise in sea level, development encroachment into the beach/dune system, shoreline alterations, and coastal storms. The department offers technical assistance to municipalities on a range of coastal management issues.



## **SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

<http://agriculture.sc.gov/>

The Department of Agriculture promotes and nurtures the growth and development of the state's agriculture industry and its related businesses while assuring the buying public of safety and security. The department is a partner of the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor and assisted in forming the Heritage Corridor Farmers Association. Similar efforts to meet shared interests could be explored and developed for the Corridor.

## **SOUTH CAROLINA ARTS COMMISSION**

The South Carolina Arts Commission is an autonomous state agency governed by a nine-member board of commissioners. Its mission is to build a thriving arts environment for the benefit of all South Carolinians.

The arts commission participated in a partnership workshop with the Commission, and indicated an interest in formally defining traditional arts related to the Gullah/Geechee culture. The arts commission offers several grants, some which may be applicable to the Corridor, including a folk life grant.

Link: <http://www.southcarolinaarts.com/grants/organizations/index.shtml>

## **SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

[www.dnr.sc.gov](http://www.dnr.sc.gov)

The department's mission is to serve as the principal advocate for and steward of South Carolina's natural resources. The division publishes two types of plans of interest to the Commission. The first are River Corridor Management Plans, for designated scenic rivers. Management issues are presented and recommendations provided to address access and facilities, historic and archeological sites, law enforcement, litter, resource protection, tourism and promotion, and user safety. The Aquatic Plant Management Plan works to minimize adverse impacts of aquatic plant populations on the use of South Carolina's public waters. The department strives to partner with other organizations to cooperatively protect the state's natural resources. Representatives from the department attended a partnership workshop held by the Commission, and indicated interest in partnering with the Corridor on shared educational opportunities regarding sweetgrass and rice production in communities of the Ashepoo, Combahee and Edisto (ACE) Basin.

The Division of Natural Resources manages the following wildlife areas within the Corridor in cooperation with private landowners and the U.S. Forest Service, when applicable:

- Pee Dee Game Management Area
- Bear Island Game Management Area

## **GEORGIA**

### **GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

[www.gadnr.org](http://www.gadnr.org)

The mission of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is to sustain, enhance, protect, and conserve Georgia's natural, historic, and cultural resources for present and future generations, while



recognizing the importance of promoting the development of commerce and industry that utilize sound environmental practices.

The DNR Strategic Plan focuses on ways in which the DNR can expand public-private partnerships to address critical natural and cultural resources issues, among other goals. The department publishes a number of plans on related topics, including statewide water management, development, coastal management, and wildlife. The Commission could seek consultation from the department in projects related to any of these topics. A representative from the DNR attended a Corridor partnership workshop and indicated interest in partnering with the Commission to identify sites for potential land easements.

### **Georgia Historic Preservation Division**

<http://gashpo.org>

The State of Georgia's Historic Preservation Division works to promote the preservation and use of historic places for a better Georgia. This organization has many programs that could assist the Commission with heritage resource preservation. The division surveys historic resources, and coordinates the national and Georgia registers of historic places. The division also offers technical assistance such as architectural technical assistance, providing guidance on rehabilitation issues by distributing technical information, participating in project consultations, making presentations, and undertaking site visits. The division provides technical advice, information, and educational opportunities related to all aspects of archeology, and offers historic preservation planning.

The division's African American programs provide technical assistance in preservation of African American historic resources. Representatives from the division attended a Corridor partnership workshop and indicated an interest in linking historic resource inventories with the Commission's, and with the other three states' inventories. The division also identified an opportunity to work together in the development of preservation overlays for barrier islands.

The division published a heritage tourism guide entitled: *Heritage Tourism Handbook: A How-to-Guide for Georgia*, which includes examples of cultural and natural tourism along the coast including Sapelo Island and Jekyll Island. This division also provides a clearinghouse of heritage tourism resources on its website.

State and federal grants are available on a competitive basis to local governments and nonprofit organizations for projects that aid in the preservation of historic properties and for preservation planning. State and federal tax incentives are available to private property owners to encourage the adaptive use of historic buildings and the revitalization of historic neighborhoods and commercial areas.

Link: <http://gashpo.org/content/displaynavigation.asp?TopCategory=36>

### **Division of State Parks and Historic Sites**

<http://gastateparks.org>

The division protects the state's natural beauty and historic integrity while providing opportunities for public enjoyment and education. The division's 2004 strategic plan includes goals to acquire lands for park use and to increase awareness of state parks and historic sites, among others. The Commission could work with the division on projects in or relevant to state parks and historic sites. The division coordinates Georgia's Recreational Trails Program, which provides funding for trail construction, maintenance, and education. Authorized commissions are a category of potential awardees.

Link: <http://gastateparks.org/item/18195>

The following state parks are within the Corridor:

- Magnolia Memorial Park
- Fort King George State Historic Site
- Skidaway Island State Park
- Fort McAllister State Park
- Jekyll Island State Park
- Crooked River State Park

### **Georgia Wildlife Resources Division**

<http://georgiawildlife.com>

The division is charged with conserving, enhancing and promoting Georgia's wildlife resources, including game and nongame animals, fish, and protected plants. The wildlife resources division is composed of four sections—Game Management, Fisheries Management, Law Enforcement, and Nongame Conservation—which regulate hunting, fishing and boat operation, protect nongame and endangered wildlife, provide conservation education, and enforce laws for the protection and use of Georgia's natural resources. Two areas within the Corridor are managed by the division:

- Altamaha State Waterfowl Management Area
- Altamaha Wildlife Management Area

### **GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Georgia Historical Society is the premier independent statewide institution responsible for collecting, examining, and teaching Georgia history. A representative from the historical society attended a Corridor partnership workshop. The historical society received a grant from the Georgia Humanities Council to create a curriculum on the Gullah/Geechee culture. The Commission could work in partnership with the historical society on curriculum development.

### **GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

[www.dot.state.ga.us](http://www.dot.state.ga.us)

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless, and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. The department formally indicated its interest in the Corridor through a letter of support. The Commission would seek to work with the department toward designing and installing signage for the Corridor.

### **GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

[www.doe.k12.ga.us](http://www.doe.k12.ga.us)

The Department of Education oversees public education throughout the state. It ensures that laws and regulations pertaining to education are followed and that state and federal money appropriated for education is properly allocated to local school systems. We also provide education-related information to students, parents, teachers, educational staff, government officials, and the media. The Commission could work with this department to enhance their objective of promoting knowledge and awareness of Gullah/Geechee history and culture amongst youth.

## **GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

[www.georgia.org](http://www.georgia.org)

The Department of Economic Development is the state's sales and marketing arm and lead agency for attracting new business investment; encouraging the expansion of existing industry and small businesses; developing new domestic and international markets; attracting tourists to Georgia; and promoting the state as a location for film, video, music, and digital entertainment projects, as well as planning and mobilizing state resources for economic development. Representatives from the department attended a Heritage Corridor partnership workshop. The Commission could work with the department to promote heritage tourism and economic development in line with the Corridor's goals.

## **GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

### **Office of Downtown Development**

The Office of Downtown Development coordinates the Georgia Main Street and Better Hometown programs. These programs assist Georgia cities and neighborhoods in the development of their core commercial areas. Assistance provided by the Office of Downtown Development emphasizes community-based, self-help efforts grounded in the principles of professional, comprehensive management of core commercial districts. Communities are expected to work within the context of historic preservation and the National Main Street Center's Four-point Approach to Downtown Revitalization™: Organization, Design, Economic Restructuring and Promotion.

Link: See Map: [http://www.mainstreetgeorgia.org/assets/pdf/maps/mainstreet\\_oct2009.pdf](http://www.mainstreetgeorgia.org/assets/pdf/maps/mainstreet_oct2009.pdf)

## **FLORIDA**

### **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

#### **Division of Historical Resources**

[www.flheritage.com](http://www.flheritage.com)

The Division of Historical Resources is the state agency responsible for promoting the historical, archeological, and folk cultural resources in Florida. The director of the Division of Historical Resources serves as Florida's SHPO, providing a liaison with the national historic preservation program conducted by the National Park Service. The mission of the division is to inspire a love of history through preservation and education.

The division focuses on historic preservation and main street programs among others, and develops Florida's Statewide Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan. The plan describes preservation goals, including expansion of educational information about preservation issues, nomination of properties to the national register, providing technical assistance to government agencies, providing support services to rural communities and to minority groups.

The Division of Historic Resources has published a *Florida Black Heritage Trail* book that highlights African American sites throughout the state and lists places with Gullah/Geechee connections like American Beach and Kingsley Plantation.

A representative from the division attended a Corridor partnership workshop, and identified several potential areas for future partnership work. These include: folk life programs and festivals,

educational programs, library programs, access to state Web sites such as FloridaMemory.com, and state youth topical essay contests.

The division administers state and federal historic preservation grants. Tax credits are available for rehabilitations, and property tax exemptions are also available for historic properties. The division of historical resources provides architectural technical assistance for historic preservation.

Link: <http://www.flheritage.com/grants/>

### **Bureau of Historic Preservation**

The Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources, administers the Florida Main Street program. Through this technical assistance program the bureau conducts statewide programs aimed at identifying, evaluating, and preserving Florida's historic resources. Main Street, with its emphasis on preservation, is an effective strategy in achieving these goals in Florida's historic retail districts.

Since 1985, the bureau has offered manager training, consultant team visits, design and other technical assistance, as well as the benefit of experience gained by other Florida Main Street programs. Main Street communities receive up to three years of technical assistance from the bureau.

Link: <http://www.flheritage.com/preservation/mainstreet/index.cfm>

### **Division of Cultural Affairs**

[www.florida-arts.org](http://www.florida-arts.org)

The division strives to promote arts and culture as essential to quality of life for Floridians and visitors. A representative of the division attended a partnership workshop held by the Commission. Potential partnership opportunities include working together to host heritage art displays in state buildings, and partnering for National Endowment for the Arts grants.

### **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

[www.dot.state.fl.us](http://www.dot.state.fl.us)

The department's mission is to serve the people of Florida by delivering a transportation system that is fatality- and congestion-free. Some of the intended results of the 2025 Florida Transportation Plan would be to help Florida establish more sustainable development patterns, support more livable communities through local transportation investments, and carefully implement transportation projects to address impacts on our natural and human environments. Several transportation projects are currently planned and underway within the Corridor. An opportunity exists for the Commission to work collaboratively with the Florida Scenic Highway program toward designation of scenic byways along US 17 and A1A, as well as on implementation of consistent signage. The department sent a letter of support for the Corridor.

### **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

[www.fldoe.org](http://www.fldoe.org)

The Department of Education serves as the single repository of education data from school districts, community colleges, universities and independent postsecondary institutions. The department tracks student performance across time and across varying education sectors. One of the department's functions is to enhance the economic self-sufficiency of Floridians through programs and services geared toward workforce education, apprenticeships, job-specific skills and career development. In addition, the department manages programs that assist people with disabilities

succeed in the school setting or in careers. The Commission could work with this department to enhance their objective of promoting knowledge and awareness of Gullah/Geechee history and culture amongst youth.

### **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

[www.floridajobs.org](http://www.floridajobs.org)

The Department of Economic Opportunity's mission is to promote economic prosperity for all Floridians and businesses through successful workforce, community, and economic development strategies, with a vision of Florida having the nation's top performing economy, recognized as the world's best place to do business. The guiding principles of this department are to (1) be in a state of readiness to support economic development projects, capital investment and infrastructure opportunities that advance Florida in achieving its vision; (2) be effectively and efficiently responsive to the global business climate; (3) make data-driven decisions and set credible benchmarks; and (4) deliver successful, strategic, and clearly articulated performance.

### **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

[www.dep.state.fl.us](http://www.dep.state.fl.us)

The Department of Environmental Protection protects, conserves, and manages Florida's natural resources, including the Pellicer Creek Aquatic Preserve, and enforces the state's environmental laws. Some of the divisions of interest to the Commission could include:

- Division of State Lands, which provides oversight for about 11 million acres of public lands.
- Coastal Management Program, which provides a grant for Coastal Partnership Initiatives for community projects such as dune restoration.
- Florida Forever, which purchases the most significant natural and historical properties, which could include Gullah Geechee resources for preservation in perpetuity.
- Office of Greenways and Trails, which has a long-range strategic priority to establish the Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail, sections of which follow the Corridor coastline.

The Department of Environmental Protection is also responsible for developing and executing the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. A goal of the most recent plan related to the Corridor is to promote the public's understanding of the value and importance of Florida's public lands and their natural and cultural resources.

The Commission may find opportunities to work in partnership with these entities on specific projects, such as common visitor promotions where lands or trails meet

### **Florida Park Service**

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/>

The goal of the Florida Park Service is to help create a sense of place by showing park visitors the best of Florida's diverse natural and cultural sites. Florida's state parks are managed and preserved for enjoyment by this and future generations through providing appropriate resource-based recreational opportunities, interpretation and education that help visitors connect to the Real FloridaSM. Florida State Parks manages the following state parks within the Corridor:

- Fort Clinch
- Fernandina Plaza
- Amelia Island
- George Crady Bridge Fishing Pier
- Big Talbot Island
- Little Talbot Island
- Fort George Island
- Pumpkin Hill Creek
- Yellow Bluff Fort
- Fort Mose
- Anastasia
- Washington Oaks Gardens

### **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**

<http://myfwc.com>

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission enacts rules and regulations regarding the state's fish and wildlife resources. The organization's Web site contains information on protected species and related education and conservation information. The Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission could seek to partner with the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in projects related to habitat restoration or protection of native species.

Florida's wildlife management area system is managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to sustain the widest possible range of native wildlife in their natural habitats. The following areas are within the Corridor:

- Nassau Wildlife Management Area
- Branan Field Mitigation Park Wildlife and Environmental Area

### **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES**

#### **Florida Forest Service**

<http://www.floridaforestservice.com>

The mission of the Florida Park Service is to protect Florida and its people from the dangers of wildland fire and manage the forest resources through a stewardship ethic to assure they are available for future generations. The four core program areas are: wildfire prevention, detection and suppression, state land management, and forestry technical assistance. The Florida Forest Service manages the following state forests within the Corridor:

- Carl Duval Moore State Forest and Park
- Cary State Forest
- Deep Creek State Forest
- Etoniah Creek State Forest
- Four Creeks State Forest
- Jennings State Forest

- Matanzas State Forest
- Ralph E. Simmons State Forest
- Watson Island State Forest

## **COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS**

The local municipal planning landscape is made up of regional planning organizations that work together to achieve common interests. Issues or problems regarding land use or comprehensive planning seldom end at county lines or political boundaries, so effective regional planning requires a collaborative approach that brings multiple partners together.

In order to better address some of these large-scale regional planning issues and to work together collaboratively, some counties in the Corridor have developed Councils of Governments (COGs). Traditionally, a council is created to serve an area of several counties, and they address issues like regional and municipal planning, economic and community development, water use, pollution control, transportation planning, and provide local planning assistance. COGs allow municipalities to work across county lines to further larger regional goals and objectives. Building partnerships with COGs in the Corridor could facilitate preservation planning and ensure the Commission's interest in preserving the Gullah/Geechee culture is known at the regional planning level.

COGs within the Corridor include:

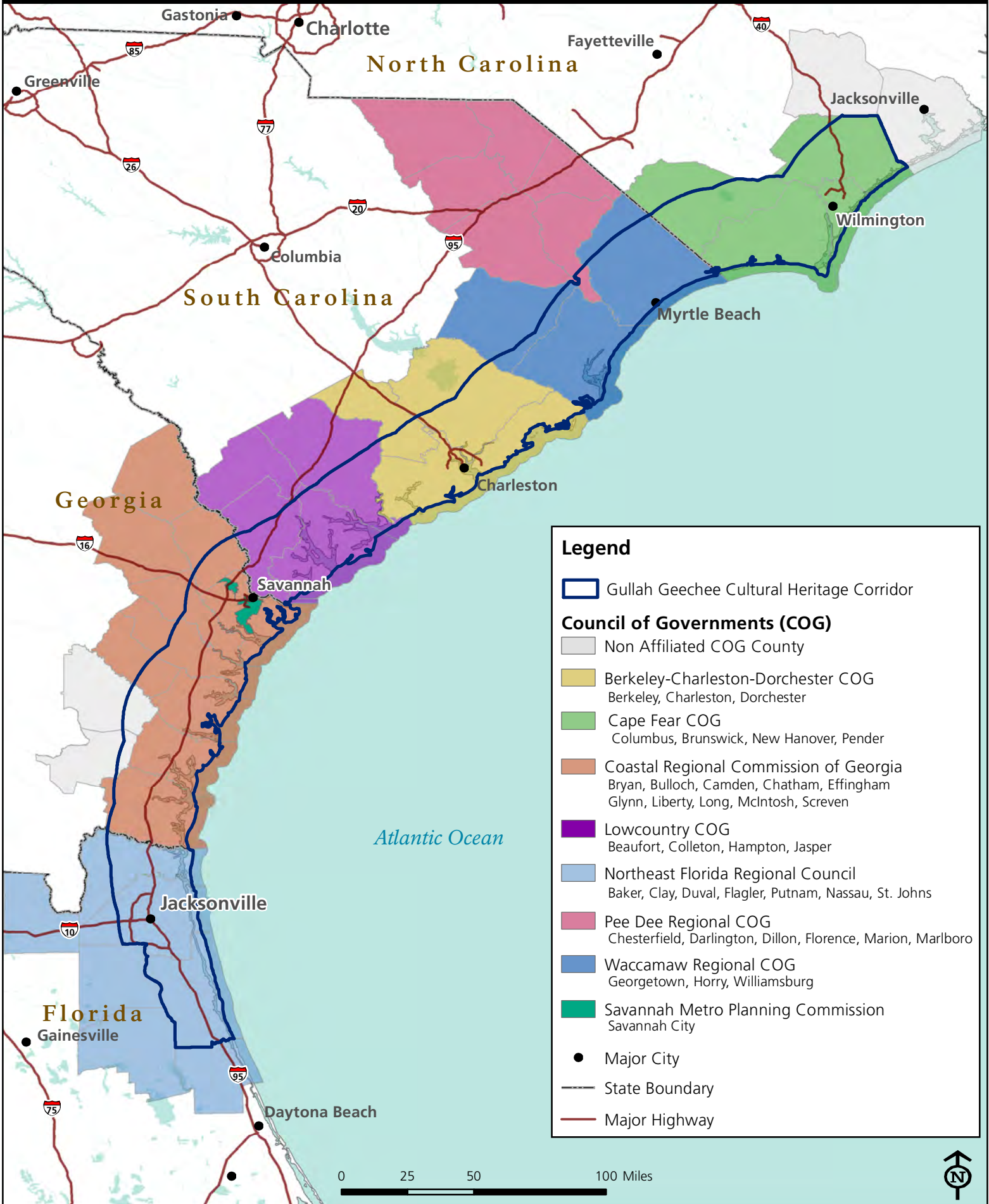
- Cape Fear Council of Governments, NC
- Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments, SC
- Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments, SC
- Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments, SC
- Lowcountry Council of Governments, SC
- Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia, GA
- Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission, GA
- Northeast Florida Regional Council, FL



# Council of Governments

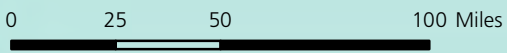
## Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



**Legend**

- Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor
- Council of Governments (COG)**
  - Non Affiliated COG County
  - Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester COG  
Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester
  - Cape Fear COG  
Columbus, Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender
  - Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia  
Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Screven
  - Lowcountry COG  
Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper
  - Northeast Florida Regional Council  
Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Putnam, Nassau, St. Johns
  - Pee Dee Regional COG  
Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion, Marlboro
  - Waccamaw Regional COG  
Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg
  - Savannah Metro Planning Commission  
Savannah City
- Major City
- State Boundary
- Major Highway





## CORRIDOR COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

Since the Corridor’s boundary encompasses part or all of 27 individual counties, there are numerous comprehensive land use plans, zoning codes, and protective ordinances. The diversity and multitude of these plans and their broad scope reflects the challenges facing many of these counties and the local stakeholders involved with land use decisions in the region.

Table 19 identifies major countywide plans. It is not an exhaustive list and will become outdated as older plans are replaced or amended and new plans are adopted.

Exploring opportunities to participate in county planning and preservation efforts is another method of raising awareness of Gullah/Geechee culture and resources. The Commission considers all county governments and communities within the Corridor as potential partners.

County	Comprehensive & Related Plans	Relationship to Corridor
NORTH CAROLINA		
Brunswick	CAMA Core Land Use Plan	Identifies land use and coastal area management strategies
Brunswick	Comprehensive Historical Survey	Survey lists various structures and graveyards
Brunswick	Brunswick Tomorrow	20-year vision plan for Brunswick County
New Hanover	New Hanover County Joint Coastal Area Management Plan	Identifies land use and coastal area management strategies
Pender	Pender County Comprehensive Land Use Plan	Identifies land use and coastal area management strategies
Pender	Pender County Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan	Identifies community groups and recreation opportunities
SOUTH CAROLINA		
Beaufort	Beaufort County Comprehensive Plan	Chapter 6 lists Gullah/Geechee culture for protection
Beaufort	Rural & Critical Lands Preservation Program	Goal to preserve rural and lowcountry lands
Berkeley	Berkeley County Comprehensive Plan	Identifies land use and cultural resources in the county
Charleston	Charleston County Comprehensive Plan	Chapter 3.4 mentions African American groups
Colleton	Colleton County Comprehensive Plan	Appendix C mentions African American heritage
Georgetown	Georgetown County Comprehensive Plan	Cultural resources element mentions various Gullah/Geechee resources
Horry	Envision 2025	Identifies land use and cultural resources in the county
Jasper	Jasper County Comprehensive Plan	Chapter 3 identifies historic resources and preservation strategies
Marion	City of Marion – Comprehensive Plan	Identifies long range land use and community planning goals

County	Comprehensive & Related Plans	Relationship to Corridor
GEORGIA		
Brantley	Building Brantley Today – Tomorrow & Beyond	
Bryan	Comprehensive County Plan	
Camden	Joint Comprehensive County Plan	Primary focus on community development
Camden	Camden County Strategic Plan - Goals & Strategies 2008	Focuses on smart growth and economic stability
Chatham	Tricentennial Comprehensive Plan	Chapter 8 <i>Historic &amp; Cultural Resources</i> identifies Gullah/Geechee and African American cultural resources
Effingham	Effingham County Comprehensive Plan	
Glynn	Glynn County Comprehensive Plan	
Glynn	Glynn County Historic Resources Survey Report	Survey of historic resources includes some sites related to Gullah/Geechee culture
McIntosh	City of Darien Comprehensive Plan	Mentions heritage and open space preservation
Wayne	Wayne County Comprehensive Plan 2025	Identifies costal and cultural resources for protection
FLORIDA		
Duval	City of Jacksonville 2030 Comprehensive Plan	Includes historic preservation and costal management elements
St. Johns	Saint Johns County 2025 Comprehensive Plan	Primary focus is on land use and housing, some emphasis on coastal protection

**Local Planning Best Practices.** An inventory of many local land use plans identify best management practices that could be promoted to further the mission and goals of the Corridor. By using these real world examples, the Commission, partners, and local citizens can encourage other counties to adopt similar practices throughout the region.

**Comprehensive Plans.** Comprehensive plans are a vital part of land use decision making. Most comprehensive plans address cultural or historic resources and values. Promoting the protection of Gullah/Geechee resources in these planning processes is a critical strategy for the future preservation of Gullah/Geechee communities. Good examples within the Corridor include:

- **Beaufort County Comprehensive Plan:** Like most comprehensive plans, a chapter is dedicated to cultural resources within the county. Gullah/Geechee culture and its historic resources are listed as a critical piece of the identified cultural landscape of the county. By working to include Gullah/Geechee cultural resources into countywide comprehensive management plans, better protection as well as local recognition can be achieved.
- **Chatham County Tricentennial Comprehensive Plan:** Like Beaufort County, a chapter of this plan highlights historic and cultural resources throughout the area. Emphasis is also given to African American history and recognizes their importance to the local community.

**Overlay Districts.** An overlay district is a planning tool that applies special rules and regulations to a specific district in order to achieve conservation or historic preservation goals. Through the use of various overlay districts, Beaufort and Charleston Counties in South Carolina provides good examples of how local planning efforts can positively impact and protect the cultural resources in the Corridor, including:

- **Saint Helena Cultural Protection Overlay & Guidelines:** A cultural protection overlay district was established in Beaufort County to preserve traditional land use patterns and retain established customs and rural ways of life by protecting families that have lived on the island for 50 years or more. Such an overlay district is a legal strategy that can be used to protect Gullah/Geechee life ways within the Corridor.
- **Commercial Fishing Village Overlay:** This is another overlay district within Beaufort County developed to protect and preserve traditional commercial fishing communities. The overlay district is designed to reduce the conflicts between fishing industries and residential development in the county. Similar overlay districts could be developed in other areas to protect Gullah/Geechee culture.
- **Sweetgrass Basket Overlay:** This Charleston County overlay district along U.S. Highway 17 in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina provides a transportation impact fee credit to encourage business owners to build and maintain wooden sweetgrass basket stands on their property, where safe parking areas are available for buyers and sellers. This overlay districts allows Gullah/Geechee people to continue to practice and showcase a long-standing tradition that provides economic benefits to Gullah/Geechee people and the surrounding communities.

**Historic Resource Surveys.** Another valuable local planning tool that has been implemented in some of the counties within the Corridor is historic resource surveys. These surveys of historic and culturally significant resources create an inventory of properties and sites that the local municipality recognizes as important. Although these types of surveys do not provide direct protection, they do raise local awareness and support for the preservation of these resources. By participating and partnering on such survey projects, the Commission can foster public awareness and appreciation for the history and importance Gullah/Geechee historic resources. Examples of such historic resource surveys include:

- Glynn County Historic Resources Report – pending approval
- Brunswick County Comprehensive Historical/Architectural Site Survey – 2010

## **CITY GOVERNMENTS**

Numerous cities within the Corridor use land use as well as resource protection plans to help manage growth and development within their communities. Some cities employ historic preservation staff and/or work with local preservation organizations and historic districts to protect and conserve regional heritage resources. Exploring opportunities to participate in local planning and preservation efforts within cities is another method of raising awareness of Gullah/Geechee culture and resources. The Commission considers all city governments and communities within the Corridor as potential partners. Cities with larger populations that have adopted comprehensive plans include:

- Wilmington, North Carolina: Future Land Use Plan – 2004
- Charleston, South Carolina: Century V Comprehensive Plan – 2011

- Savannah, Georgia: Tricentennial Comprehensive Plan – 2006
- Jacksonville, Florida: City of Jacksonville 2030 Comprehensive Plan – 2009

## **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

Colleges and universities provide many opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships with the Commission. For example, students and professors may be interested in providing research on Corridor resources, visitors, etc. Student projects or fieldwork could also benefit the Corridor while providing a learning experience for students. Many educational subjects relate to potential corridor projects, from history, recreation, historic preservation, and environmental sciences, to GIS, communications, marketing, and graphic design. Another benefit of partnering with universities and colleges is a greater level of outreach to students, generating ongoing appreciation and support for the Corridor. While there are too many colleges and universities within and nearby the Corridor to name each individually, the opportunities for collaborative work are extensive. Both Savannah State University and Edward Waters College, two historically black colleges and universities, lie within the Corridor. The Commission has met with representatives of some colleges already, and partnerships with educational institutions are expected to be formalized and strengthened over time.

## **NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

Nonprofit organizations at both the national and local level provide yet another opportunity for cultivating strong partnerships to achieve the mission and goals of the Corridor. Although some of these organizations may not provide direct financial support, the opportunity for indirect support and collaborative efforts are critical to further the mission of the Corridor. Formalizing relationships with nonprofit organizations that have similar interests would ensure continued success and support for the Corridor.

Given the large number of nonprofit organizations operating within the Corridor, only a few are listed here. All nonprofits are encouraged to become a Corridor partner or partner site. See appendix F for how to become a formal Corridor partner or partner site.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **The Nature Conservancy**

[www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)

One of the largest nonprofit land conservation organizations in the world, the mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. This mission is achieved through land conservation programs and numerous collaborative partnerships among government agencies, local stakeholders, indigenous communities, and private-sector business. The Nature Conservancy manages conservation areas throughout the Corridor where potential collaborative opportunities exist. These conservation areas include:

- Boling Spring Lake Preserve, North Carolina
- Green Swamp Preserve, North Carolina
- Washo Reserve, South Carolina
- Carr's Island, Georgia

- Machaba Balu, Florida

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **National Trust for Historic Preservation**

[www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org)

The National Trust for Historic Preservation provides leadership, education, and advocacy to save America's diverse historic places and revitalizes communities. In order to achieve this mission, the National Trust provides numerous resources, educational opportunities, and grants for communities to protect the historic places that are important to them. Of particular interest to building a strong working relationship between the Commission and the National Trust are the programs focusing on African American historic resources, which include online tools as well as a specific grant program designed for African American historic properties. This grant program provides unique opportunities to protect, preserve, and restore many of the tangible cultural resources important to Gullah/Geechee communities. Links to the online resources offered by the National Trust include:

- National Trust Grant Link: [www.preservationnation.org/resources/find-funding/grants/](http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/find-funding/grants/)
- African American Places Link: [www.preservationnation.org/forum/african-american-historicplaces/](http://www.preservationnation.org/forum/african-american-historicplaces/)

### **Preservation North Carolina**

[www.presnc.org](http://www.presnc.org)

Founded in 1939, Preservation North Carolina is North Carolina's only private nonprofit statewide historic preservation organization. Its mission is to protect and promote buildings, landscapes, and sites important to the diverse heritage of North Carolina. Through its award-winning Endangered Properties Program, Preservation North Carolina acquires endangered historic properties and finds purchasers willing and able to rehabilitate them. Preservation North Carolina's work with challenging properties has raised the level of awareness about the value and promise of historic preservation to local communities. Among Preservation North Carolina's other activities are the operation of two major museum properties (the Bellamy Mansion in Wilmington and Ayr Mount in Hillsborough), awards, workshops, publications, legislative advocacy, and public education (such as heritage education materials for 8th grade classrooms).

### **The Humanities Council of South Carolina**

[www.schumanities.org](http://www.schumanities.org)

The Humanities Council of South Carolina's mission is to enrich the cultural and intellectual lives of all South Carolinians. It seeks to increase public understanding of and support for the humanities; telling the human story by awarding grants for high-quality public programs, by generating special humanities initiatives, and by bringing humanities perspectives to bear on contemporary issues.

### **Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation – South Carolina**

[www.palmettotrust.org/](http://www.palmettotrust.org/)

The Palmetto Trust is South Carolina's only statewide partner with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and works toward: (a) the advocacy of historic preservation, with an active voice raised to state government leaders on behalf of preservation legislation, and in community efforts to save historic properties; (b) the education about the state's history and culture, by talking with individuals and groups in South Carolina communities that harbor historic properties in need of preserving; (c) the funding of historic preservation efforts by providing assistance to communities, organizations, and individuals dedicated to the preservation of the state's rich and diverse past; (d) the preservation

of properties with real input in acquiring, stabilizing, and reselling historic buildings for proper rehabilitation and reuse; and (e) the networking of passionate and talented preservationists in the Palmetto State, who can work together to professionally preserve the state—one property, one district, one town at a time.

### **Municipal Association of South Carolina**

[www.masc.sc](http://www.masc.sc)

Formed in 1939, the Municipal Association of South Carolina represents and serves the state's 270 incorporated municipalities. Main Street South Carolina is a service of the Municipal Association of South Carolina and is accredited by the National Trust Main Street Center. Main Street South Carolina empowers residents with the knowledge, skills, tools, and organizational structure necessary to revitalize their downtowns, neighborhood commercial districts, and cities/towns into vibrant centers of commerce and community.

### **Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation**

[www.georgiatrust.org/](http://www.georgiatrust.org/)

The Mission of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation is to promote an appreciation of Georgia's diverse historic resources and provide for their protection and use to preserve, enhance, and revitalize Georgia's communities. In addition to providing preservation resources for individuals and communities throughout the state, the work of The Georgia Trust helps to save endangered houses and buildings, uncover the beauty of downtown buildings, educate the next preservation generation, and advocate for preservation funding and laws. Since 1990, the trust has had a Revolving Fund for Endangered Properties Program to provide effective alternatives to demolition or neglect of architecturally and historically significant properties.

### **Florida Trust for Historic Preservation**

[www.floridatrust.org](http://www.floridatrust.org)

The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation's mission is to promote the preservation of the architectural, historical, and archeological heritage of Florida through advocacy, education, and historic property stewardship. The trust advocates for legislation and funding in support of historic preservation on behalf of Florida's many historic sites, museums, and parks. The trust represents Florida's preservation community through public and media outreach, empowers and supports local preservationists by publicizing Florida's Eleven Most Endangered Historic Sites each year. The trust recognizes efforts in historic preservation through their preservation awards program and offer extensive education and training opportunities, including local workshops, Webinars, and an annual conference during the month of May each year. The trust educates the public on the benefits of historic preservation and provides resources to preservationists, home owners, preservation professionals, and media representatives.

### **Institute of Museums and Library Services**

[www.ims.gov](http://www.ims.gov)

With the mission of creating strong libraries and museums that connect people to ideas and information, the Institute of Museums and Library Services offers many educational and grant programs that are relevant to the goals of protecting and preserving intangible resources within the Corridor. These programs offer unique opportunities to foster public awareness and appreciation for the history and culture of the Gullah/Geechee people. The institute also offers numerous museum grants specifically for the protection of African American history and culture including:

- Museums for America Grants Link: <http://ims.gov/applicants/grants/forAmerica.shtm>

- National Leadership Grants Link: <http://imls.gov/applicants/grants/nationalLeadership.shtm>
- African American Culture Grants  
Link: <http://www.imls.gov/applicants/grants/AfricanAmerican.shtm>

### **American Association of Museums**

[www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org)

The American Association of Museums is dedicated to ensuring that museums remain a vital part of the American landscape, connecting people with the greatest achievements of the human experience, past, present, and future. As the Commission develops opportunities to raise public awareness and appreciation for the history of the Gullah/ Geechee people, it will become increasingly important to work with organizations like the American Association of Museums. Developing these professional partnerships with heritage industry groups and leaders is essential to accomplishing the goals of the Corridor.

### **American Association for State & Local History**

[www.aaslh.org](http://www.aaslh.org)

The American Association for State & Local History is another heritage industry advocacy group that is dedicated to providing leadership and support for its members who preserve and interpret state and local history to make the past more meaningful to all Americans. They offer numerous educational opportunities and online resources for heritage-based organizations. Such resources and professional partnerships will be essential to successfully sharing the mission and raising awareness of the Corridor with the public.

### **Association of African American Museums**

[www.blackmuseums.org](http://www.blackmuseums.org)

The Association of African American Museums is a nonprofit organization established to support African and African American focused museums nationally and internationally, as well as the professionals who protect, preserve, and interpret African and African American art, history, and culture. Established as the single representative and principal voice of the African American museum movement, the association seeks to strengthen and advocate for the interests of institutions and individuals committed to the preservation of African-derived cultures. The Commission recognizes the important role of this organization and would seek to collaborate with the Association of African American Museums in order to promote and raise awareness of the cultural and historic significance of the Gullah/Geechee people.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **Convention and Visitors Bureaus**

The number of convention and visitors bureaus that the Commission could partner with are too numerous to include each in detail. These organizations are marketing organizations and can go by many names, including visitors' bureaus, tourism bureaus, travel and tourism bureaus, etc. They promote economic development through increasing visitation and provide information to the traveling public through a number of mediums. The convention and visitor bureaus listed through the following organizations represent different geographies; some represent counties, others represent cities.

- Destination Marketing Association of North Carolina: <http://visit.nc.org/>
- South Carolina's Information Highway: <http://www.sciway.net/econ/visit.html>
- Georgia Association of Convention & Visitor Bureaus: <http://www.gacvb.com/>

- Florida Association of Convention & Visitor Bureaus: <http://ym.facvb.org/>

### **Federation of Southern Cooperative Land Assistance Fund**

[www.federationsoutherncoop.com](http://www.federationsoutherncoop.com)

The Federation of Southern Cooperative Land Assistance Fund is dedicated to the development of self-supporting communities with programs that increase income and enhance other opportunities; it strives to assist in land retention and development, especially for African Americans, but essentially for all family farmers. One of the cooperative's primary objectives is the retention of land owned by African Americans and the use of cooperatives for land-based economic development. Because the cooperative focuses on providing support to low-income rural communities in the Southeast, it is an ideal partner that shares similar interests as the Corridor in promoting economic development and sustainability for the Gullah/Geechee people.

### **OTHER POTENTIAL PARTNERS**

<b>Name of Potential Partner (County)</b>	<b>State</b>
Conservation Trust for North Carolina	North Carolina
Harris Barber Shop (New Hanover County)	North Carolina
Land Loss Preservation Project	North Carolina
North Carolina Coastal Federation	North Carolina
North Carolina Coastal Land Trust	North Carolina
Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce (Beaufort County)	South Carolina
Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce Visitor & Convention Bureau	South Carolina
Bertha's Kitchen (Charleston County)	South Carolina
Blake's Liquor/Long Bay Service Station (Charleston County)	South Carolina
Buckshot's Carry Out (Charleston County)	South Carolina
Bureau Office of Vital Statistics (Beaufort County)	South Carolina
Center for Heirs' Property Preservation	South Carolina
Committee for African American Observances (Georgetown County)	South Carolina
Charleston Museum (Charleston County)	South Carolina
D&D Restaurant & Catering (Charleston County)	South Carolina
Dave's Carry-out Restaurant (Charleston County)	South Carolina
Ernie's Restaurant (Charleston County)	South Carolina
Gullah/Geechee Angel Network	South Carolina
Gullah/Geechee Fishing Association	South Carolina
Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition	South Carolina
Heirs Property Law Center	South Carolina
Heirs Property Preservation Organization	South Carolina
Historic Beaufort Foundation (Beaufort County)	South Carolina
Historic Charleston Foundation (Charleston County)	South Carolina
L J's Restaurant (Charleston County)	South Carolina
Lowcountry & Resort Islands Tourism Commission	South Carolina
M and L Snack Bar (Charleston County)	South Carolina
Manigault's Seafood (Charleston County)	South Carolina



Name of Potential Partner (County)	State
Martha Lou's Kitchen (Charleston County)	South Carolina
Methodist Labor & Burying Society (Jasper County)	South Carolina
Ona's Busy Bee's Restaurant (Charleston County)	South Carolina
Queens Restaurant (Horry County)	South Carolina
Salt & Pepper Café (Charleston County)	South Carolina
Skeeter's Place/Skeeter's Restaurant (Horry County)	South Carolina
Taylor's Barber Shop (Marion County)	South Carolina
The Native Island Business and Community Affairs Association (Beaufort County)	South Carolina
The Penn Center	South Carolina
Wali's Restaurant (Charleston County)	South Carolina
Wisdom Circle Council of Elders and Assembly of Representatives	South Carolina
Atlanta University Center (Fulton County)	Georgia
Brunswick Coasta GA Regional Development Center (Glynn County)	Georgia
Coastal Georgia Historical Society (Glynn County)	Georgia
Dunbar Theater (Chatham County)	Georgia
Geechee Kunda Living History Museum, Riceboro (Liberty County)	Georgia
Georgia Southern University	Georgia
Harris Vaughn Crab Factory (Chatham County)	Georgia
Lula' Kitchen (McIntosh County)	Georgia
Oyster Factory (Chatham County)	Georgia
Sapelo Island Visitors Center (McIntosh County)	Georgia
Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD)	Georgia
Star Theater (Chatham County)	Georgia
Stock Theater (Chatham County)	Georgia
Telfair Museum (Chatham County)	Georgia
The Vanity Shop (Chatham County)	Georgia
Wall's Barbecue Restaurant (Chatham County)	Georgia
Blue Moon Café (Nassau County)	Florida
Fernandina Historical Society (Nassau County)	Florida
Florida A&M University	Florida
Florida State	Florida
Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Committee of Northeast Florida	Florida
Mt. Olive Historical Society (Nassau County)	Florida
University of Florida	Florida