



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DENVER SERVICE CENTER

12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

IN REPLY REFER TO:

D18 (DSC-P)
GUGE CHC

December 2, 2010

Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Preliminary Alternatives Public Comment Report December 2, 2010

SUMMARY

Approximately 1,600 copies of Newsletter#2 were distributed to the public and stakeholders in September 2010. The newsletter included descriptions of the preliminary alternatives for future management of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. The official public comment period for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Preliminary Alternatives opened on September 17, 2010 and closed on October 26, 2010. Comments were received via 1) hardcopy form from the newsletter mailing, 2) directly input into the Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) system online by the respondent, 3) were received via email, or 4) were received as a letter. No public meetings were held during this period. During the official comment period, 69 correspondences were received. All comments received in response to the four questions asked about the preliminary alternatives are included in this document. The four questions asked were:

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

The majority of the comments received were about the parts of the preliminary alternatives that respondents liked. There were differing opinions about whether Preliminary Alternative B or C would be more effective in meeting the Corridor's vision and mission. Many people suggested

that Preliminary Alternatives B and C were not mutually exclusive, but interdependent and suggested that they be combined. The ideas about how to combine them varied, but comments received touched on most of the implementation ideas included in Newsletter #2.

Comments received about the parts of the preliminary alternatives to be eliminated were almost unanimous in the need to eliminate Preliminary Alternative A (No-Action) from further consideration because “there needs to be a plan” and the “project needs structure and backing.” Specific items to eliminate in Alternative B and C were noted, but the majority of comments reiterated elements that were liked. Many respondents commented on the fact that the upcoming difficulty would be deciding how to prioritize the implementation ideas included in Newsletter #2.

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

The Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission would like to thank everyone for their continued participation in the planning process and in raising awareness of the culture and its history. Your feedback will be reviewed in detail and considered as the planning process continues. The next step the Commission will take is to identify a Preferred Alternative, which the implementation plan will be developed upon. We sincerely thank you for your feedback.

To review the comments in detail, please refer to the following section titled, “Full Comment Listing Sorted by Topic Question.”

Please note: *to the extent possible, all comments are included in an unedited form to preserve the integrity of the comment.*

Full Comment Listing Sorted by Topic Question

Responses to Topic Question 1:

Which parts of any of the preliminary alternatives do you feel strongly should be included in the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor?

Correspondence Id: 1 Comment Id: 152008

Comment Text: Alternative C, "Empower Gullah/Geechee People and Perpetuate and Sustain the Cultuor" Being 4th generation of James Island we have expreinced the exclusion in partisapation of our culture. Alternative B should be jioned C.

Correspondence Id: 85 Comment Id: 161985

Comment Text: 1.) Which parts of any of the preliminary alternatives do you feel strongly should be included in the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor (GGCHC)? For the long-term viability of the GGCHC, we believe it is necessary to develop a governing body to carry out the established vision, mission and purpose of the organization. Through the creation of a 501-C (3) non-profit organization the GGCHC could continue to leverage funding through the National Park Service / National Heritage Area program and pursue additional public and private sources to address Alternative A. The 501-C (3) organizational structure would provide the staff infrastructure, including various departments, with varied expertise necessary to form a sound management team in the areas of research, education, preservation, membership, business development, and communications/marketing, etc. Staff members would have responsibilities to work with representatives from a number of geographically homogeneous areas throughout the four states in light of the vast area encompassed in the designated corridor. This coordinated, yet local approach would provide access to local and state governments, corporate partners and other related stakeholders. Working with communities and building a tourism base will be vital to financially sustain an organization so it may identify, educate and preserve the Gullah/Geechee culture. We recommend a board of directors with representation, including at least two representatives, from each of the districts within the Corridor. In addition, each district could funnel income, grant funding and corporate sponsorships back to the central organization for disbursement back to the districts for budgeted operating expenses or for specific projects determined by budget and the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors would meet on a regular basis to develop the overall strategies and oversee the implementation of Alternatives Band C.

Organization: Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce Visitor & Convention Bureau

Correspondence Id: 84 Comment Id: 161980

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: N/A; Alt B: There is some repetition in the goals and objectives of B which could be brought together in preparing for the ultimate goals of C.; Alt C: Really all the suggstions are valuable but some of them will take longer than others. It would make sense to start on the ones that will take longer and the ones that could be brought into being quickly to get a sense of having begun. There are already groups and institutions which are in place which could expedite things.

Correspondence Id: 83 Comment Id: 161973

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: I think that the alternative should not be excluded until such time proof demonstrates else.; Alt B: This alternative should be rigorously included to supersede alternative A.; Alt C: This also should be pursued to utmost distinction with alternative A as guidelines.

Correspondence Id: 82 **Comment Id:** 161969

Comment Text: 1. All Alts: We see the Alternative as being more sequential than stand-alone. It appears that with the common elements to Alt B&C in place that Alt B forms the basis for moving to a broader plan outlined in Alt C, which to work needs the authenticity and educational elements of Alt B to be in place - or at least better established. This is especially true when talking about and trying to implement land/ownership/use changes of Alt. C.

Correspondence Id: 81 **Comment Id:** 161965

Comment Text: There are elements in each of the management alternatives for the NPS Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor that merit close consideration. While "no action" at first appears a nihilistic approach, we should recognize that the Gullah/Geechee culture is already recognized as an important component of the American fabric. Imposing control over a complex and multifaceted subculture would be to minimize the private preservation and education that is already underway. Option B, the most academic of the options, naturally appeals to the mission and nature of a university community. USCB is dedicated to the study of the Gullah/Geechee culture as a part of our "regional needs" mission and would welcome the attention that a NPS designation would bring to the region and to Gullah/Geechee history, language, religion and art. Option C, the "empowerment option" is commendable for its recognition of the long-term economic and demographic threats to Gullah/Geechee culture. With the development and gentrification of the Sea Islands, the last strongholds of Gullah culture are changing. If the culture is to survive, the people of the Gullah/Geechee corridor must understand what it is that they possess and how it might be preserved.

Organization: University of South Carolina Beaufort

Correspondence Id: 47 **Comment Id:** 161932

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: There should be some cultural history in Georgetown, SC.; Alt B: The Gullah knowledge of rice cultivation is what made SC the supreme supporter of rice to the U.S.; Alt C: The Gullah contributions to the rice culture and cultivation seems well worth mentioning.

Correspondence Id: 46 **Comment Id:** 161928

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: None; Alt B: Funding/staffing/interpretive signage; Alt C: Funding/staffing/interpretive signage.

Correspondence Id: 45 **Comment Id:** 161924

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: By law, but not desired.; Alt B: The commissioners should form committees under them to help direct traffic for partnerships.; Alt C: These committee chairs could help sustain and disseminate specific information and suggestions for expanding focus points.

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 161920

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: Blank; Alt B: Alternative "B" encompasses all that I would hope the commission could achieve.; Alt C: Blank.

Organization: Mayor, Town of Awendaw

Correspondence Id: 43 **Comment Id:** 161916

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: Secure funding, secure an executive director and staff partner w/state and local transportation, implement a GGCHC certification process, partnership with museums.; Alt B: Collaborate w/partners and citizens, dpt priorities, develop coastal centers.; Alt C: All of C.

Correspondence Id: 40 **Comment Id:** 161912

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: Blank; Alt B: (Circled) Blank; Alt C: Blank

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 161908

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: Blank; Alt B: I like the designation of sites criteria. Like orgs working together. Love the fellowship program and research aspects.; Alt C: Like economic power and impact actions, other than property rights.

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 161904

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: Secure matching funding, partner with other African American centers.; Alt B: Most endangered sites and work with historic preservation organization.; Alt C: Youth participation and economic opportunities heirs property programs.

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 161900

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: Blank; Alt B: (Circled) Gullah Geechee resources must be documented/authenticated. This must be in first steps.; Alt C: Blank

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 161896

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: None; Alt B: Preparation of high quality documentation resulting in National Register nominations; conferences; working partnerships; development of repository of archives, most importantly oral histories at the earliest opportunity.; Alt C: Incentives - tax credit program and enterprise zones; expand economic opportunities; work with partners to provide organic farming, fishing and shrimping co-ops; shopping at local farms.

Correspondence Id: 30 **Comment Id:** 161892

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: No action is not an option for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Management Plan.; Alt B: I agree with all preliminary alternative ideas that are offered with generational future to come 21st-22nd century, etc.; Alt C: I agree with all preliminary alternative ideas that are offered. Give informed knowledge to all citizens of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, to understand "grandfather property." For the purpose zoning and protecting properties, the 1870's "grandfather clause" has a very different purpose and understanding.

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 161888

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: Blank; Alt B: (Circled); Alt C: (Circled)

Correspondence Id: 28 Comment Id: 161884

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: Blank; Alt B: Sharing the history and ongoing cultural beliefs and practices of the people, while encouraging private sector involvement in efforts to perpetuate the culture.; Alt C: Blank

Correspondence Id: 27 Comment Id: 161881

Comment Text: Upon review of the preliminary alternatives outlined in your recent newsletter, we believe that "Preliminary Alternative A (No-Action)" is not an appropriate way to move forward. It is imperative to further teach the world about the Gullah/Geechee heritage and culture, and a lack of action would be severely detrimental to understanding its past and preserving its future. Most elements listed in both "Preliminary Alternative B (Document to Sustain and Inform about Gullah/Geechee People and Culture)" and "Preliminary Alternative C (Empower Gullah/Geechee People and Perpetuate and Sustain the Culture)" should be included in plans moving forward. Since a combination of all activities in Alternatives B and C would be an enormous undertaking, with so many excellent ideas listed, we do not envy your position of having to narrow it down. With the importance of empowerment and sustenance of the Gullah/Geechee culture, every idea in Alternative C should be implemented. However, it would be difficult to do so without including elements from Alternative B, including: expanding and enhancing the inventory mapping to date, including documentation of lost resources; developing a list of "most endangered Gullah/Geechee sites" to raise awareness and even funding for documentation, preservation, or restoration; enhancing interpretation of cultural traditions, storytelling, language, and traditional skills and arts, and expanding on the connection of Gullah/Geechee peoples to specific sites and buildings.

Organization: Coastal Conservation League

Correspondence Id: 26 Comment Id: 161877

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: Blank; Alt B: Blank; Alt C: ALL. Blogs, teachers, curriculums, education, foodways. (Is also circled).

Correspondence Id: 25 Comment Id: 161873

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: Blank; Alt B: Blank; Alt C: It allows for education and promotes business.

Correspondence Id: 24 Comment Id: 161869

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: Include as is.; Alt B: Include as is.; Alt C: Blank

Correspondence Id: 23 Comment Id: 161865

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: Blank; Alt B: Blank; Alt C: Circled.

Correspondence Id: 22 Comment Id: 161861

Comment Text: 1. The heirs property grant program idea and other preservation plans! Alt A: Blank; Alt B: Documentation is key, especially threatened resources. Digital and internet archives promote wider use, provided alternatives are available locally for descendant groups without computers.; Alt C: Collaboration/partnership with G/G people is crucial. Grade level curriculum, public events and for sharing info. I'm intrigued.

Correspondence Id: 21 Comment Id: 161857

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: Blank; Alt B: Documenting and archiving the history and resources seem of prime importance to me. Oral histories needed before the older generations die off. There are funding sources for history and culture projects, and facilities, like the Avery Research Center at the College of Charleston are available. Developing the school curriculum is extremely important. There are sites available in SC to be preserved - like praise houses and the Penn Center.; Alt C: Blank.

Correspondence Id: 17 Comment Id: 161851

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: Unacceptable.; Alt B: Better - preserves heritage, stories are important and using National Register is a good method for sites.; Alt C: But because it reflects the importance of land ownership, preservation, uses, emphasizes partnerships.

Correspondence Id: 16 Comment Id: 161846

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: I disagree with this alternative as status quo will not preserve enough.; Alt B: Definitely the research on threatened resources must be first as I see as a S.C. citizen the development.; Alt C: I would include empowerment of the Gullah/Geechee people in Plan B.

Correspondence Id: 15 Comment Id: 161842

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: The No Action Alternative should not be considered.; Alt B: Collaborating with partners (inclusive of on and off island constituencies) would require many of the points listed. Internships.; Alt C: Curriculums for all school children. Friends of Gullah/Geechee network; develop an heirs property grant; expand appropriate economic opportunities; increase financial opportunity.

Correspondence Id: 13 Comment Id: 161838

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: Blank; Alt B: Blank; Alt C: Because negroes, Native Americans, etc. need to be more educated, informed about our heritage.

Correspondence Id: 12 Comment Id: 161834

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: I do not think this is an option. This heritage corridor needs hands-on support and funding opportunities.; Alt B: This is my second choice. I think the need to document and archive materials is valuable and important.; Alt C: I like this the most. This culture is more than a language, food, and customs. It is a way of life. The only way Gullah community members and outsiders are going to appreciate this heritage is by having access and intangible resources.

Correspondence Id: 11 Comment Id: 161831

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: Blank; Alt B: Blank; Alt C: I support this alternative primarily because it supports economic development opportunities such as heritage tourism, enterprise zones, small business, business education, and incubators appropriate to the area.

Correspondence Id: 75 Comment Id: 161725

Comment Text: I feel as if B and C should be included. I do not favor A at all. When I am told that the young are not interested in this heritage at all, I feel that to continue with the prevailing

lack of structure will insure that the culture which has been handed down and remains will be lost. Consider that it takes all people a while to return to their roots. Appalachian music has just been studied as a genre for a little over sixty years. Likewise, the Scottish games here in the U.S. did not become fashionable or recognized for their cultural value until the last 50 years. Looking out over the blooming life everlasting plant, I realize had I not been told of its medicinal value by a friend, I would have never know of it. These are the heritages to formalize and display. note none that I would eliminate in the management. I favor the webpage. I see having a director. Likewise, labeling and developing logo is essential. Consider the marking and marketing of Highway 66 (or the Mother Road-Route 66). Even the movie "Cars" played up the road. I definitely feel that a definition of Gullah-Geechee be established. Feel that the flipping of the words does not pay homage to the heritage, regardless which side the river one is reared on. Also feel important to mark Highway 17 and A1A. Each state should have a heritage center as the culture differs so widely from state to state. Is there an effort to partner with in Boston also? Part of the underground railroad.

Correspondence Id: 63 Comment Id: 161676

Comment Text: I believe that A, B and C should be taken together as Phases I, II, and III. Some communities are successfully promoting and preserving their heritage without a framework (A). All the communities will benefit from B. C also provides a good framework for how GG communities can make money (live) by promoting and preserving their traditional culture. In some cases where communities have moved away from traditional GG careers (no longer oystermen, fishermen, or even building tradesmen) C would provide GG communities with an economic framework for making money by returning to some of the traditional jobs and skills. Plan B: Partnering with existing local communities and non-profits is important. Local, regional and national economies cannot support a multitude of different places and programs without partnering. We need to see added depth , added breadth, added value and added support to existing programs. We need to show that the GG heritage is part of, not separate from, the history already told and preserved. Local historical societies and tourism organizations need to tell the whole story of their places and all their people.

Correspondence Id: 57 Comment Id: 161650

Comment Text: Alternative B: - Develop a list of most endangered Gullah/Geechee sites... - Work with state historic preservation offices to encourage documentation... - Digital & Physical archives - Inventory mapping Alternative C: - Work with partners to preserve land and water for subsistence hunting and fishing, agriculture, open space, water and land access, and recreational opportunities. - Work with partners to grandfather property uses against adverse zoning. - Develop position papers highlighting the adverse consequences of existing laws... - Expand appropriate economic opportunities within the corridor to assist in empowering people and perpetuating and sustaining the culture. - Create Gullah/Geechee enterprise zones. - Work with partners to promote organic farming and fishing or shrimping co-ops, etc... - Promote culturally appropriate industries... - Develop a heritage tourism plan...

Correspondence Id: 54 Comment Id: 161632

Comment Text: Alternative C is most appropriate in protecting the land base and cultural heritage of the Corridor. There is also value in the research referred to in Alternative B,

specifically, the point on providing training to the GG Community on historic research, documentation, etc.

Correspondence Id: 53 Comment Id: 161627

Comment Text: I prefer Alternative C because it seems to enhance what already exists and makes the cultural pride a living story.

Correspondence Id: 50 Comment Id: 161616

Comment Text: Alt. B: Include inventory, mapping, archives, etc. and digitize it and put online for access. All libraries in the Corridor should have some sign/instruction about how to access this material and an overview of what is available and becoming available. Partner with scholarly institutions so that fragile materials can be properly cared for and find funds to move, if necessary, decaying materials so that they are stabilized. Find funding to have on-site permanent displays and accessible (although secured by staff) primary source material (university libraries or a room in a county library). Hold sessions where individuals can bring family artifacts/treasures/letters, etc to be photographed for the archive. Provide advice about acid-free containers, etc., and information about where the material might be archived if the owner/families so choose. Definitely train community to identify and protect their resources. Create some model teaching aids (interpretative, history, various foci for history, art, music, etc) for different age groups that teachers can adapt and modify. Post them and make them free. A much lower priority would be holding conferences and having a research center. Alt. C: Fund workshops/trainings on land retentions and land use; partner with organizations about easements to ease tax burdens and allow land to remain undeveloped or minimally developed. Explain options to landowners in real dollars and cents. Provide economic development/business incubators for Gullah/Geechee focused business in corridor. Enterprise zones, tax credits etc. are necessary. A Small Business Bureau in corridor? Political education of residents and interface with elected officials critical. Establish regular (2x/yr) community meetings with specific agenda about visioning an area: what will it look like in 20 years. This usually happens when there is a crisis or a new building. Start to create the dialogue proactively (last comment in C)

Correspondence Id: 48 Comment Id: 161591

Comment Text: Preliminary Alternative A: Efforts to promote, share, enhance, protect and preserve the Gullah/Geechee culture. Preliminary Alternative B: (a) projects and programs documenting resources and the preservation; (b) providing cultural and historical information, particularly to the youth; and (c) authenticating information and efforts to correct inaccuracies. Preliminary Alternative C: (a) Considering young people are the carriers of history and culture, the focus and emphasis directed toward the youth would be key to sustainability, empowerment and pride of the Gullah/Geechee Corridor. (b) Raising awareness about land use, land ownership and land rights would be a vital component. (c) The American fabric, through which Gullah/Geechee history culture flows supports the thesis that sharing the culture in the community, the African Diaspora, as well as the larger community throughout the world.

Correspondence Id: 36 Comment Id: 161409

Comment Text: Prefer all implementation ideas of alternatives B or C.

Correspondence Id: 34 Comment Id: 161402

Comment Text: Alternative A - should not be accepted. Alternative B - Develop a repository of digital and physical archives for research; Develop a list of most endangered Gullah/Geechee sites; Work with SHPOs to encourage documentation; Provide training for Gullah/Geechee members on research, documentation and preservation Alternative C - Share stories and educational content through diverse media; Maintain, promote and publicize the language and cultural traditions; Work with partners to increase awareness and understanding among Gullah/Geechee people; Develop outreach and educational efforts to assist in preservation of family lands; Develop a property grant program that would provide info and legal assistance to private landowners wishing to keep property in family ownership; Expand appropriate economic opportunities and increase generational financial sustainability; Work with partners to create co-ops/markets; Develop a heritage tourism plan; Partner with public and private entities to create, preserve and protect sites for gathering sweetgrass and other plants; Work with EPA; Work with conservation easements; Educate and work closely with local governments re: impacts of land use decisions

Correspondence Id: 33 **Comment Id:** 161384

Comment Text: Alternative A - No comment Alternative B - I think the implementation ideas under this alternative are fine. For the bullet "enhance interpretation of cultural traditions, storytelling, language, and traditional skills....," I think you need to be more specific about what this means. The Commission probably already has a clear sense of this, but I suspect you will receive queries. I think the bullet "work with partners to develop a fellowship/scholarship..." is a bright idea. For the final bullet "encourage and assist with the development of student internships," there may be opportunities to work with the Student Conservation Association (SCA). Environmental protection and conservation are important themes for this effort; therefore, it would be appropriate to confer with SCA. Alternative C - I think the implementation ideas under this alternative are fine. I think the challenge will be prioritizing these alternatives based on: short-term (six months); intermediate (12 months); and long-term (24 months) actions. I didn't include 36 months in my assessment. I think the sooner you can execute some of these implementation ideas, the better.

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 161274

Comment Text: I support the common alternatives in B and C. I also support programming, communication, and networking within the local Gullah/Geechee resident population, especially initiatives that focus on young people. I also endorse promotion of the Corridor among cultural heritage tourists across the nation and residents of SC, NC, GA, and FL in particular.

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 160994

Comment Text: Preliminary Alternative B: In general, Alternative B is too static and academic. The Gullah/Geechee culture should be a living one, not one that is being studied as if it were extinct. However, the following components of the Alternative B proposal are good and useful even as the Commission, hopefully, chooses to adopt Alternative C going forward: ? Develop a repository of both digital and physical archives for research; archives would be used to expand understanding of the Gullah/Geechee culture within the community first and then to other residents, visitors and researchers. Efforts would be made to document how Gullah/Geechee communities have changed over time and would make historic connections between African traditions, historic Gullah/ Geechee traditions, and modern Gullah/ Geechee culture. ? Host

conferences and establish a Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor speaker's bureau to showcase both academic and community-based participatory research and to increase exposure locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Preliminary Alternative C: This is the alternative that should be chosen by the Commission. I believe the following items are the MOST IMPORTANT for the survival of the culture: ? Develop an heirs? property grant program that would provide information and legal assistance to private landowners wishing to keep their property in family ownership. ? Work with partners to preserve land and water for subsistence hunting and fishing, agriculture, open space, water and land access, and recreational opportunities. ? Work with partners to grandfather property uses against adverse zoning in order to protect existing Gullah/Geechee properties. ? Develop position papers highlighting the adverse consequences of existing laws and proposed legislation on the ability of private property owners to hold onto their land and pass it on to their descendants.

Correspondence Id: 20 Comment Id: 160816

Comment Text: Preliminary Alternative B - Make cultural and historical information available to the community. Develop both digital and physical archives for research. Encourage organizations/sites within the corridor to work together and with the public to develop a research institute(s) on the gullah/Geechee Culture. Host conferences and develop a Gullah/Geechee speaker's bureau. Perform a research gap analysis to identify where research is needed and grant funding could be best used.//////Preliminary Alternative C - Strive to enhance the cultural pride of those who are aware of their history and culture. Promote knowledge and awareness of gullah/Geechee history and culture from its earliest formation to the present and into the future. Share stories and educational content through diverse media; website, in print, TV, on the radio, through driving tours and podcasts. Develop a 'teach the teachers' program that are experiential in nature, such as field trips, after school activities, and youth volunteer opportunities. Provide training, free seminars and workshops to landowners and youth. Create Gullah/Geechie enterprise zones and a tax credit program for locally owned small businesses that promote or interpret the culture. Develop a heritage tourism plan to assist in organizing, promoting, marketing sites, festivals and local businesses.

Correspondence Id: 19 Comment Id: 160680

Comment Text: I feel strongly about alternative c because this states to empower the people. Empowering the people makes them aware of thier unique culture by educating them so that they can become more of a stakeholder in their culture.They will also be able to educate the upcoming generation of Gullah/Geechee. This alternative will also pay homage to our Gullah/Geechee ancestors who played an important role in building of America With the resources that go along with empowering the people, they will be able to be the best American . They can have laws put in place to protect Gullah/Geechee tradition, land and causeways. This alternative would be a win win for everyone. I full heartley do declare that alternatitve c would truly be my choice. In name of my ancestors , I sign my name to alternative c .

Correspondence Id: 10 Comment Id: 154599

Comment Text: All of Alternative C - "empowering Gullah/Geechee people and perpetuating and sustaining the culture." I think those affected and invested in the land and culture should be the ones to determine their future. I agree with all points in this initiative

Correspondence Id: 9 Comment Id: 154296

Comment Text: Alternative B is the foundation for advancing Alternative C. The management plan should first focus on documenting and preserving information on the tangible and intangible resources. One possibility is to establish a resource center at the College of Charleston Library where documents, photographs, maps, etc could be deposited, catalogued and made available for research. Tangible (movable) resources could be placed at the College's Avery Institute. As this substantive foundation is developed the proactive elements of Alternative C could be implemented. The management plan should be a specific "action/work" plan with goals, costs, and dates. The plan would be reviewed and revised annually based on experience, accomplishments and challenges.

Correspondence Id: 8 Comment Id: 153676

Comment Text: Alternative B is best designed to capture the history of the Gullah Geechee. Once the buildings, sites and structures are gone or are moved from their historical locations, they are gone forever. Alternative C also has great merit, but this education of heritage could be done at any time. Alternative B is the most time sensitive approach to preserving the endangered resources of the Gullah Geechee people.

Correspondence Id: 2 Comment Id: 152208

Comment Text: I feel strongly that Alternative C “Empower Gullah/Geechee People and Perpetuate and Sustain the Culture”, should be included in the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. I particularly like the fact that it would be focusing on strategies designed to educate residents and visitors, particularly youth as well as enhancing economic opportunities, protecting natural resources and perpetuating traditional skills, arts, and crafts. I believe that this alternative would be a complete and comprehensive alternative.

Correspondence Id: AC-1 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: Alt A: Blank; Alt B: Develop repository both digital & physical/Encourage organization to work together/develop “most endangered sites” list/Partner w/local non-profit communities; Alt C: this alternative seems most appropriate and as much of the ideas as possible.

Correspondence Id: AC-2 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: Alt A: Blank; Alt B: Researching history and maintaining records, documentations, sharing info with public; Alt C: involving the people in planning and in maintaining their culture; involving the young in order to perpetuate their culture.

Correspondence Id: AC-3 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: Alt A: Add funds for local citizens to document personal experiences and photographs, art, etc.; Alt B: Add Rue Chapel AME Church as the first AME church in this area (New Bern, N.C.); Alt C: Write and/or rewrite the history of African American state school text books. Seek living Gullah/Geechee people and their stories, they are dying fast.

Correspondence Id: AC-4 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: Alt A: the [UNK] needs to stay [intact]; Alt B: Surely [UNK] & research for Gullah Geechee community. Alt C: I like C because it will empower the cultural people.

Correspondence Id: AC-5 **Comment Id:** XXXXXX

Comment Text: Alt A: Non part should be included because no-action alternative would not be productive or constructive for the corridor; Alt B: documenting, authenticating as well as sharing histories & resources related to the Gullah Geechee culture are all crucial to maintaining the Gullah-Geechee Culture; Alt C: Focusing on promoting cultural pride is very important to Gullah Geechee Heritage but I believe this alternative needs to be combined in some way with alternative B.

Correspondence Id: AC-6 **Comment Id:** XXXXXX

Comment Text: Alt A: N/A; Alt B: Document and authenticate histories and resources associated w/ the culture (they are disappearing fast!). Preservation of threatened resources (protect from development); Alt C: I think this is the most comprehensive, best all-around plan. I like the concepts of appropriate economic enterprises, especially organic farming, fishing, shrimping, marine industries, heritage-tourism, ecotourism, and – work with partners to use conservation easements & other land preservation tools.

Correspondence Id: AC-7 **Comment Id:** XXXXXX

Comment Text: The Gullah/Geechee Fishing Association enters our support for the alternative that “Empowers the Gullah/Geechee People to Sustain the Culture.”

Organization: Gullah/Geechee Fishing Association

Correspondence Id: AC-8 **Comment Id:** XXXXXX

Comment Text: The alternatives that you have set forth in your second newsletter dated September 2010 are comprehensive.

Preliminary Alternative B- Document to Sustain and Inform about Gullah/Geechee People and Culture must be undertaken to its fullest extent. The Implementation Ideas presented in the newsletter are very thorough and we would focus on identifying and preserving that which is physically left of Gullah/Geechee landmarks. By identifying, preserving and protecting what is still physically left of the culture, we can teach, share and bring back to life the ways of the people. This will, in turn, help to re-instill the values in an effort to celebrate the pride of the Gullah/Geechee nation.

In Preliminary Alternative C- Empower Gullah/Geechee People and Sustain the Culture, again we feel the Implementation Ideas are quite comprehensive. From our perspective, increasing the awareness and knowledge of the Gullah/Geechee Culture is paramount. The potential economic opportunity via tourism promotion is astounding. This also must be done under the watchful eye of the Commission to ensure authenticity and respect to the legacy.

Organization: South Carolina Lowcountry & Resort Islands Tourism Commission

Correspondence Id: AC-9 **Comment Id:** XXXXXX

Comment Text: This is the official response of the **Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition** which is a national organization with international supporters and which is the premiere organization that advocates for the rights of Gullah/Geechees and their traditions worldwide. We have surveyed our members and supporters in regard to the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage

Corridor's Preliminary Alternatives and we support the alternative to "Empower the Gullah/Geechee People to Sustain the Culture." We see this alternative being directly in accordance with the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act. We do not see the other alternatives meeting with the requirements of the initial legislation since they do not directly relate to the Gullah/Geechee people themselves being able to retain their culture on their homeland in the Gullah/Geechee Nation.

Organization: Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition

Correspondence Id: AC-10 **Comment Id:** XXXXXX

Comment Text: Preliminary Alternative C, the objective of which is to "Empower Gullah/Geechee People and Perpetuate and Sustain the Culture," is the plan framework that most accurately reflects the type of activities within our community that the membership of the **Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Committee of Northeast Florida** supports for inclusion in the Corridor's heritage area management plan.

Organization: Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Committee of Northeast Florida

Correspondence Id: AC-11 **Comment Id:** XXXXXX

Comment Text: In support of Preliminary Alternative C that empowers the Gullah Geechee People to Perpetuate and Sustain their culture.

Organization: Earthwise Productions, Inc.

Responses to Topic Question 2

Which parts of the preliminary alternatives would you eliminate in the future management of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor?

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 152009

Comment Text: Neither there must be balance.

Correspondence Id: 85 **Comment Id:** 161986

Comment Text: 2.) Which parts of the preliminary alternatives would you eliminate in the future management of the GGCHC? The GGCHC commission has done an outstanding job in developing the implementation ideas in Alternative Band C. While priorities and specific projects need to be based on importance and available resources, we believe there are implementation initiatives from Alternative Band C that could be incorporated with each other and not limited to certain areas in the four states. In other words, implementation ideas from Alternative Band C should be cross-pollinated depending on the opportunities and challenges of each state and areas along the Corridor. By creating a 501-C (3) organization with a board of directors and staff, the GGCHC would be best served to allow this collective group to set priorities, evaluate which projects are feasible and determine short-term and long-term plans with realistic timelines.

Organization: Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce Visitor & Convention Bureau

Correspondence Id: 84 **Comment Id:** 161981

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: (Crossed out); Alts B&C: I do not know if you need to eliminate anything but certainly several choices need to be brought together and thereby eliminate some of the items. The cultural research is of major interest to me but the economic, ecological and education initiatives are of maximum importance to provide a basis for the ongoing manifestation of cultural phenomena.

Correspondence Id: 83 **Comment Id:** 161974

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: This should not be eliminated until such time courses of action replace guidelines.; Alt B: This alternative cannot be eliminated since it provides specific steps and conducts.; Alt C: This alternative needs adherence to alternative A to guide development parameters.

Correspondence Id: 82 **Comment Id:** 161970

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: Blank; Alt B: There is no reason to expand National Register criteria to make them more inclusive. Use of TCPs should work with the existing criteria to cover Gullah/Geechee resources.; Alt C: Blank.

Correspondence Id: 47 **Comment Id:** 161933

Comment Text: 2. All Blank

Correspondence Id: 46 **Comment Id:** 161929

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: All; Alts B & C: Are these alternatives too [illegible]? Maybe focus more [illegible] on being able to secure adequate resources to carry out the agenda.

Correspondence Id: 45 **Comment Id:** 161925

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: Using Alternative A as the guide for implementation of the management plan, eliminate except authorization.; Alt B: Would not propose any elimination, but structure implementation and collaboration of ideas and project/programs.; Alt C: Would not propose any elimination.

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 161921

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: Alternative "A" because it seeks to maintain the status quo.; Alt B: Blank; Alt C: Blank

Organization: Mayor, Town of Awendaw

Correspondence Id: 43 **Comment Id:** 161917

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: Develop position statement.; Alt B: Student internships . . . let's get up and running first.; Alt C: None of C.

Correspondence Id: 40 **Comment Id:** 161913

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: Was there specific tribal language on the North & South Carolina coast could we integrate this.; Alt B: Blank; Alt C: Blank

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 161909

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: I do not like the do nothing approach!; Alt B: No negatives.; Alt C: I am concerned about NHA becoming involved in property rights issues and zoning. This may have unintended negative impact on all NHAs - particularly St. Johns County, FL.

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 161905

Comment Text: 2. All Blank

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 161901

Comment Text: 2. All Blank

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 161897

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: All; Alt B: None; Alt C: While Alternative B is our preferred choice, Alternative C has ideas that should be considered. All of the ideas in both alternatives seem needed.

Correspondence Id: 30 **Comment Id:** 161893

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: I would eliminate the No Action Alternative.; Alt B: Blank; Alt C: Blank

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 161889

Comment Text: 2. All Blank

Correspondence Id: 28 **Comment Id:** 161885

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: The "status quo" is not a viable alternative.; Alt B: This alternative is the most important. Add to this a promotional aspect to encourage cultural tourism. This should spur more private sector interest in preserving and perpetuating the culture. Don't eliminate anything from Alt. B.; Alt C: While there are clearly benefits derived from cultural diversity, government's role should be equal protection. The Gullah/Geechee culture should have no barriers imposed either by intent or by effect of government action. However, it is not government's role to create its own vision of the culture.

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 161878

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: Not doing anything to preserve this culture would be tragic. (Is also circled).; Alt B: Blank; Alt C: Blank

Correspondence Id: 25 **Comment Id:** 161874

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: No action (also circled); Alt B: Blank; Alt C: Blank

Correspondence Id: 24 **Comment Id:** 161870

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: Do not change or eliminate.; Alt B: Do not change or eliminate.; Alt C: Blank

Correspondence Id: 23 **Comment Id:** 161866

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: Circled; Alt B: Blank; Alt C: Blank.

Correspondence Id: 22 **Comment Id:** 161862

Comment Text: 2. I worry that B w/o C will be sterile and useless/elitist and C w/o B will be overly bureaucratized and/or kitschy/condescending. I think that specialist (historian, anthropologist, musicologist, folklorist, etc.) perspectives matter but the G/G people need to get something out of this besides an academic book - if you take my meaning.; Alt A: Blank; Alt B: Blank; Alt C: Blank.

Correspondence Id: 21 **Comment Id:** 161858

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: I would eliminate Alternative A; there needs to be a plan.; Alt B: Blank; Alt C: Blank.

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 161852

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: Nothing to eliminate.; Alt B: N/A; Alt C: I'm a little worried about "work with partners to grandfather property uses against adverse zoning" in some cases that may not be the best approach.

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 161847

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: Blank; Alt B: I would start with Plan B and then go to incorporation of Plan C.; Alt C: Blank

Correspondence Id: 15 **Comment Id:** 161843

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: Eliminate - doing nothing does not protect or maintain the historical significance of the culture.; Alt B: Include all that is feasibly possible.; Alt C: All points are relative and important. Prioritizations is needed for the purpose of where to start and a timeline for beginning the different tasks.

Correspondence Id: 13 **Comment Id:** 161839

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: I would eliminate Alternative A, because of the way it is written, need to be "explained" more carefully.; Alt B: Blank; Alt C: Blank

Correspondence Id: 12 **Comment Id:** 161835

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: I would forget this entire section. This project needs structure and backing.; Alt B: I like this as is.; Alt C: I like this as is and feel it is the best option.

Correspondence Id: 11 **Comment Id:** 161832

Comment Text: 2. All Blank

Correspondence Id: 75 **Comment Id:** 161726

Comment Text: note none that I would eliminate in the management. I favor the webpage. I see having a director. Likewise, labeling and developing logo is essential. Consider the marking and marketing of Highway 66 (or the Mother Road-Route 66). Even the movie "Cars" played up the road. I definitely feel that a definition of Gullah-Geechee be established. Feel that the flipping of the words does not pay homage to the heritage, regardless which side the river one is reared on. Also feel important to mark Highway 17 and A1A. Each state should have a heritage center as the culture differs so widely from state to state. Is there an effort to partner with in Boston also? Part of the underground railroad.

Correspondence Id: 63 Comment Id: 161677

Comment Text: Actions Common to B and C: 1. Any GG certification program must extend to non GG persons and organizations who have the interest and the capability to complete goals of the GG Corridor -- in other words existing organizations with the means to help promote the goals. 2. It will be near to impossible to select a location for one or more Coastal Heritage Centers. Instead, develop programs and exhibits that can be added to existing state visitor centers, non-profit museums, colleges, universities, and state and federal historic sites. 3. I am not familiar with any of the museums listed as partners. If GG is to be recognized as a national program, it should partner with/be represented by all of our nation's leading and mainstream institutions -- i.e. Library of Congress, National Museum of History, etc. not just those with an African American bent. Pls. do not let GG be a way to fund these AfAm museums. 4. In Plan B: I do not think you should first focus on the least researched places (NC and FL). Better to use Phase I to do a really good job of gathering information and research on Georgia where GG heritage has been less publicized than SC, but just as deep. The traditions of Georgia's mainland communities like Sandfly and PinPoint and the island communities being ignored/destroyed by developers (SSI's Harrington, South End and Jewtown) are not as obvious as those of Sapelo or St. Helena. Many of the people have assimilated to some extent -- got jobs and followed careers outside the traditional GG crafts, but they are still GG. And the folks are getting older so it would be unwise to chase down NC and FL stories first while the ones we know need to be saved, disappear. The hunt might be more challenging and fun in NC and FL, but we cannot let what's in front of us disappear. 5. Plan C: Education needs to focus on all age groups, not just youth. I know it is easier to develop (and to get funding for) GG curriculum based school programs but there are many persons between 80 and 20 who would be interested in knowing more about their heritage, too. Especially those who moved away and now live elsewhere.

Correspondence Id: 53 Comment Id: 161628

Comment Text: No comment.

Correspondence Id: 50 Comment Id: 161617

Comment Text: Eliminate Alt. A. Something must be done. Alt. B. Don't need research gap analysis or dissertation review (by whom?) Alt C: You don't need any more position papers.

Correspondence Id: 48 Comment Id: 161592

Comment Text: Alternative A: I would eliminate most of the Preliminary Alternative A. Simply stated, Alternative A appears more like planning changes in the traffic pattern than in touch with the significant culture of the Gullah/Geechee people. Alternative B: North Carolina and Florida are the states, which require substantial information about the Gullah/Geechee culture. Perhaps first phase would be to consider South Carolina and Georgia because it would reduce initial costs. The second phase study would similarly be in tact because of electronic and other mediums by the time research, funding, etc., would be required. Alternative C: I do not immediately see a prospect for eliminating future management of the Gullah/Geechee Heritage Corridor under Preliminary Alternative C simply because every aspect is necessary; however, if asked to quantitatively decide, I would eliminate the stewardship of natural resources; however leave a window to later explore/explain the importance of natural resources.

Correspondence Id: 36 Comment Id: 161410

Comment Text: Would prefer to eliminate alternative A.

Correspondence Id: 34 Comment Id: 161403

Comment Text: Eliminate Alternative A, the no action alternative. Both Alternatives B and C contain excellent options, and all proposed implementation ideas seem valuable; however, I don't think they are mutually exclusive. Focusing on documentation and academic exercises exclusively wouldn't seem to assist in promoting the sustainability of Gullah-Geechee culture. The more tangible, on the ground implementation ideas in Alternative C are critical to include, so that the culture is able to continue. Documentation and research can occur simultaneously. A blend of B and C, both documentation and empowerment, seem to be the best course for the final management plan.

Correspondence Id: 33 Comment Id: 161385

Comment Text: Alternative A - No comment Alternative B - No comment Alternative C - In the first column, you may wish to consider collapsing bullets 1, 3, 4, and 5. There seems to be some overlap here.

Correspondence Id: 32 Comment Id: 161275

Comment Text: My highest priorities are on education of young people, education of the populations of the states through which the Corridor passes, preservation of land and structures, and promotion of the history and culture of this significant and also massive geographic/cultural site.

Correspondence Id: 31 Comment Id: 160995

Comment Text: Preliminary Alternative A: Should be eliminated entirely. A no-action status quo plan is unacceptable. It will result in accelerated loss of the Gullah/Geechee culture.

Correspondence Id: 20 Comment Id: 160817

Comment Text: Preliminary Alternative A - I would eliminate in it's entirety

Correspondence Id: 19 Comment Id: 160681

Comment Text: I would eliminate alternative a. We must do something positive so that Gullah/Geechee Culture survives for generations to come.

Correspondence Id: 10 Comment Id: 154600

Comment Text: All of Alternative A

Correspondence Id: 9 Comment Id: 154297

Comment Text: The "action/work" plan should be based on a realistic analysis on those elements that are fundable/doable. The plan should identify costs and resources, partnership possibilities, with specific project fundraising targeting individuals, foundations, corporations, and government at all levels.

Correspondence Id: 8 Comment Id: 153677

Comment Text: Since Alternative A does nothing, it should be eliminated entirely. In Alternative C, we must be careful not to stray too far from the known, nor alienate any group of people in the education of the Gullah Geechee. We need to make sure that all races and groups are welcomed to the sharing of the Gullah Geechee culture and take great strides to assure this.

Correspondence Id: 2 Comment Id: 152209

Comment Text: I would eliminate Alternative A, the "No-Action Alternative," as the continuation of the status quo (required to be considered by federal law) means that the management plan would not be completed. And even though the GGCHCC would still be authorized to operate they would lack any guiding management framework of the management plan and would not be eligible for funding through the National Park Service National Heritage Area program, which to me, seems essential, if it is to succeed/be successful. If the GGCHCC would have to raise all funds required for implementation, I believe that it would hamper its success.

Correspondence Id: AC-1 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: Alt A: Eliminate the no action approach; Alt B: Blank; Alt C: Blank

Correspondence Id: AC-2 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: Alt A: wouldn't consider as you want to move forward and this doesn't do that; Alt B: Blank; Alt C: Blank

Correspondence Id: AC-3 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: All blank

Correspondence Id: AC-4 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: Alt A: none; Alt B: none; Alt C: none

Correspondence Id: AC-5 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: Alt A: I would eliminate the entire "no action" alternative as no action would not be productive or constructive; Alt B: I would not focus primarily on the first stage with just North Carolina and Florida – there are at risk site and programs in Georgia and S.C. that may not survive if only included in the second phase and not included in the 1st phase; Alt C: It is important to promote Gullah Geechee Heritage and pride particularly with the youth so they can continue our heritage with pride.

Correspondence Id: AC-6 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: Alt A: N/A; Alt B: combine some points; Alt C: combine some points.

Correspondence Id: AC-8 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: We do not feel that Preliminary Alternative A-No Action is an option. We understand that it must be considered, but feel as though it would be an unfortunate step backwards.

Organization: South Carolina Lowcountry & Resort Islands Tourism Commission

Responses to Topic Question 3

List any important strategies, approaches, or elements (including themes) that have been missed or overlooked for the management of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor.\

Correspondence Id: 1 Comment Id: 152010

Comment Text: Setting up a system to tie all aspects of the bill together., Web, staff, funding etc.

Correspondence Id: 85 Comment Id: 161987

Comment Text: 3.) We would like to respond to questions #3 and #4 by providing the information below. We feel the GGCHC is employing a thorough process and has not overlooked any important aspects given the scope of this significant endeavor. Our community wants the planning team to know of our immerse interest, commitment, support and desire to be intimately involved with the GGCHC. Why? Because the roots of the Gullah/ Geechee history is tied to our community and the Gullah/Geechee culture is still flourishing today. The rich culture remains woven in the fabric of residents in the Sea Islands, Port Royal and Beaufort area. As documented through Gullah/Geechee history and National Park Service data, our area holds significant importance in the past, present and future of the Gullah/ Geechee heritage. Further, we also believe based on research that Beaufort County and its Sea Islands are the heart of the Gullah culture, and the geographic center of the Corridor. The Sea Islands are blessed with a large number of decedents, current residents, historic cultural sites and appropriate facilities to be considered for the development of critical centralized information and document depository, as well as an interpretive center to be an educational tool and enjoyed by the public. Our area exemplifies the GGCHC purpose and description of a Coastal Heritage Center: "a community anchor that focuses on a living group of people that connects the past and the present through interaction and outreach across generations; a physical space that embodies the vision and mission of the GGCHC. The physical space combined with the knowledge and ideas of the community will instill pride, understanding and awareness, sustain and preserve language and cultural assets, and serve as a vehicle to tell the story to the American people and the world." Simply, we are that "community anchor" which also has a strong tourism industry to promote the Gullah/Geechee treasures uniquely located in our area and to market the rest of the Corridor.

Organization: Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce Visitor & Convention Bureau

Correspondence Id: 84 Comment Id: 161982

Comment Text: 3. Working with the concept of the coastal and island region in the context of the African world not just in terms of the forced migration but the overall culture in related areas (Brazil, Cuba, Caribbean, etc.)

Correspondence Id: 83 Comment Id: 161975

Comment Text: 3. Each area of the Cultural Corridor should be specifically identified as to progress.

Correspondence Id: 82 Comment Id: 161971

Comment Text: 3. Blank

Correspondence Id: 47 **Comment Id:** 161934

Comment Text: 3. Please keep giving information of future events.

Correspondence Id: 46 **Comment Id:** 161930

Comment Text: 3. Recommend that the International African American Museum serve as the Charter Heritage Center with smaller centers in each state.

Correspondence Id: 45 **Comment Id:** 161926

Comment Text: 3. Create site specific land use maps of both existing and proposed development for each area; with overlays and insets.

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 161922

Comment Text: 3. There is none that I can think of.

Organization: Mayor, Town of Awendaw

Correspondence Id: 43 **Comment Id:** 161918

Comment Text: 3. It's all covered.

Correspondence Id: 40 **Comment Id:** 161914

Comment Text: 3. Blank

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 161910

Comment Text: 3. Blank

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 161906

Comment Text: 3. NA

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 161902

Comment Text: 3. Blank

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 161898

Comment Text: 3. Perhaps consider prioritizing the list to allow the process/plan to build upon itself.

Correspondence Id: 30 **Comment Id:** 161894

Comment Text: 3. Blank

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 161890

Comment Text: 3. Blank

Correspondence Id: 28 **Comment Id:** 161886

Comment Text: 3. Blank

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 161882

Comment Text: One thing that is still of utmost importance to the League is that the Commission and National Park Service consider Angel Oak Park (whether in its current state or

expanded) as a good location for a Coastal Heritage Center. The Angel Oak Park can become a prominent interpretive center, telling the stories it holds about the community whose deep traditions area still entrenched in the lands and people around the tree.

Organization: Coastal Conservation League

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 161879

Comment Text: 3. Blank

Correspondence Id: 25 **Comment Id:** 161875

Comment Text: 3. Saving the land of individual.

Correspondence Id: 24 **Comment Id:** 161871

Comment Text: 3. Blank

Correspondence Id: 23 **Comment Id:** 161867

Comment Text: 3. Blank

Correspondence Id: 22 **Comment Id:** 161863

Comment Text: 3. N/A

Correspondence Id: 21 **Comment Id:** 161859

Comment Text: 3. Most of the partnerships are with government agencies, please try to connect with local chambers of commerce and bank executives, especially for any economic plans.

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 161853

Comment Text: 3. Very comprehensive - good job.

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 161848

Comment Text: 3. Blank

Correspondence Id: 15 **Comment Id:** 161844

Comment Text: 3. There needs to be more awareness of the existence of the corridor, its history and cultural aspects, many U.S. citizens have 0 knowledge about the existence.

Correspondence Id: 13 **Comment Id:** 161840

Comment Text: 3. To inform more black communities about the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, like Church Associations.

Correspondence Id: 12 **Comment Id:** 161836

Comment Text: 3. This is extremely thorough.

Correspondence Id: 11 **Comment Id:** 161833

Comment Text: 3. Expand the corridor to St. Augustine's Ft. Mose.

Correspondence Id: 75 **Comment Id:** 161727

Comment Text: I do not know that any of this centers on the famous musicians, authors or artists that this trail or corridor has produced. Zora Neal Hurston comes to mind. All the singers of the rich music heritage need to be cited. The early work done by both white and black in preserving the culture need to be highlighted. No one wants to credit Lydia Parrish, who published "slave songs of the coastal sea Islands" in 1942 or Robert Gordon, who recorded in Darien over 500 songs by black singers and then went on to be head of the Library of Congress Folk Lore museum. Likewise, Lorenzo Dow Turner did just as much work in Georgia as he did in South Carolina and built upon the work of the former two people. Is there emphasis on tabby. Would someone consider saving the Adam Strain building in Darien, Georgia, the one building on the waterfront that survived the burning of Darien in 1863. It was built of tabby, made by slaves and then erected. Perfect time to give emphasis to it at the beginning of the commemoration of the war years that rendered our country- the Civil War, 150 years ago. This is a native building material. Likewise are we considering the foods, the herb and plants used for medicinal reasons. So many native plants. Have you looked at athletes. Jim Brown grew up or visited St. Simons Island for many years. His daughter still lives there. Basketball has come out of the area. Magic in North Carolina. Kwame in Georgia. The heritage of the very tall people brought from Africa lives to this day. And the churches and the singing and the music. All so much a part of the corridor.

Correspondence Id: 63 **Comment Id:** 161678

Comment Text: Use and partner with existing organizations and structures as much as possible to achieve your goals.

Correspondence Id: 54 **Comment Id:** 161633

Comment Text: Regarding the point in Alternative B on developing a fellowship/ scholarship program and developing student interns.-I would add that those opportunities are offered first to young people of GG descent.

Correspondence Id: 53 **Comment Id:** 161629

Comment Text: Nothing to suggest.

Correspondence Id: 48 **Comment Id:** 161593

Comment Text: Recognition of St. Simons Island on the map of the southern states, as well as to include Ebo Landing (1802-1803), a heroic event and a moment of great pride for the Igbo people who resisted and rebelled against slavery; a poignant point in sharing information in the broader community.

Correspondence Id: 42 **Comment Id:** 161530

Comment Text: I am concerned that the term "Geechee" is used to refer only to persons of African-American descent. My mother's family from lower South Carolina, of European descent, identify themselves as Geechee, with language and other affinities to Black Geechees. Therefore, "Geechee" represents a shared culture between black and white of the low country and these affinities should be researched and recognized.

Correspondence Id: 36 **Comment Id:** 161411

Comment Text: None

Correspondence Id: 33 Comment Id: 161386

Comment Text: Have you considered how to partner with foundations such as Ford; Rockefeller; or SURDNA? Have you considered U.S. EPA's programs that target "environmental justice"; "Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE)"; or "Collaborative Problem Solving". Have you considered outreach to the National Endowment of the Arts; the National Endowment of the Humanities; and the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC). For the later, DOC contributed to a white paper on heritage tourism in 2005. See this link for more details - - <http://www.pcrah.gov/pdf/05WhitePaperCultHeritTourism.pdf> Have you considered strategies for vacant property management along the corridor. This appears to be a problem along the Civil Rights Trail in Alabama. See this article for details - - <http://www.slate.com/id/2267743/?from=rss>

Correspondence Id: 32 Comment Id: 161276

Comment Text: The report is very thorough. I have nothing to add.

Correspondence Id: 20 Comment Id: 160818

Comment Text: Although understood that all corridors are under the umbrella 'Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor' - each individual corridor could develop and establish (what might be called) a Chapter, This Chapter would have an active Board of Directors. Although we have the expertise of the Executive Committee and Commissioners, even Jesus had help to fulfilled His mission (the 12 Disciples). In so establishing the 'Chapter' of each corridor, the trademark, copyright of each corridors own products (t-shirts, caps, mugs, handkechiefs, pillows, etc.) could be for sale in their designated towns. This will encourage and instill 'pride' to those in that corridor and would be a good way for each corridor to raise revenue. Develop a research team specifically to seek out our Gullah/Geechie elderly. If possible, have them (the elderly) tell their stories and tales of long ago. Compile these stories and create a colorful keepsake book with glossy pages that their families will cherish from generation to generation.

Correspondence Id: 19 Comment Id: 160682

Comment Text: The Gullah/Geechee Nation leaders Queen Quet ,Wisdom Circle of Elders and Assembly of Representative should be a part of empowering process since they had already started that process since 2001 when Queen Quet was enstooled as Chieftess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation. They have been working to promote and protect the culture . They have divinley been a conduit for educating everyone about the unique culture we have call Gullah/Geechee. They would be a great asset to this empowering process.

Correspondence Id: 9 Comment Id: 154298

Comment Text: The danger is to end up with a "wish list" that will not serve as a realistic guide to the future. Difficult decisions will be needed and priorities set. Not everyone will be happy. But that is not the goal. The goal is to create a long term, sustainable plan that advances the Commisson's misson. All the ideas in B and C are "good" - select only those that are fesible in the short run and those that will provide the foundation for the future. Start with winners - "Nothing succeeds like success." This will require strong and focused leadership.

Correspondence Id: 8 Comment Id: 153678

Comment Text: As the preservation of remaining historic sites is likely the most time sensitive issue, we need to work closely with local governments to preserve these sites. As much of the research of these sites as possible should be done by the Commission or their representatives to ease the burden upon local governments and to help streamline the preservation process.

Correspondence Id: 2 Comment Id: 152210

Comment Text: Being that I feel strongly about Alternative C "Empower Gullah/Geechee People and Perpetuate and Sustain the Culture", I also believe that to properly do this, the GGCHCC MUST partner with the Gullah/Geechee Nation, which was established before the GGCHCC, if Gullah/Geechee people are truly to be empowered, as the establishment of the Gullah/Geechee Nation was the peoples' voices - speaking very loud and clear about their right to self-determination.

Correspondence Id: AC-1 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: not knowledgeable enough to do so.

Correspondence Id: AC-2 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: Blank

Correspondence Id: AC-3 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: Document, document language on tape!

Correspondence Id: AC-4 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: "missing is advertisement."

Correspondence Id: AC-5 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: I believe the element of "revitalization" of the Gullah Geechee Heritage has been overlooked and would be crucial to include in any alternative selected.

Correspondence Id: AC-6 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: I think it is very important to a) preserve the past, b) analyze the present, and c) maximize the future of the Gullah/Geechee people. Therefore, I really think Alternatives B & C should be combined – both are important aspects of the project. Some of the points can be combined and some overlap. Essential to partner to prevent lands from being developed that will take away from the culture - preserve for compatible uses. Important for people to understand that all people in a community may not be able to work in their own community, but to be able to go home to it at the end of the day is, perhaps, the best of both worlds.

Correspondence Id: AC-10 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: If Preliminary Alternative C is to be successful in its implementation, the Commission should establish a "comprehensive and network-driven collaboration of partners" structured through volunteer advisory boards organized in each state. This is an important strategy that has been overlooked.

Given the size of the Corridor and the magnitude of cultural resources in each state within the Corridor, it would be unrealistic to suggest that a 15-member Commission could effectively implement a management plan without active participation from the local Gullah/Geechee communities within the Corridor. The aforementioned boards represent the type of systematic, “bottom-up” approach, referenced frequently by President Barack Obama, through which the Commission would share ownership of Corridor goals and objectives through a local body that speaks on behalf of Gullah/Geechees as the beneficiaries of Corridor projects. Additionally, corridor community advisory boards would help to build the Corridor’s identity and purpose while encouraging collaboration, partnership and the efficient use of intellectual and fiscal resources.

Each board, open to a broad and diverse cross-section of the Gullah/Geechee citizenry, would submit reports and recommendations to the Commission for how best to “empower” Gullah/Geechee communities in their particular regions. This strategy would allow the Commission to demonstrate that it truly works on behalf of the people.

Secondly, the Commission should also include a strategy in the management plan that acknowledges and capitalizes on the work that Gullah/Geechee people have already done to sustain and perpetuate our culture long before doing so was considered novel. Their work has laid the foundation for the Corridor’s existence.

Organization: Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Committee of Northeast Florida

Responses to Topic Question 4

Do you have any other comments or concerns you would like the planning team to take into consideration?

Correspondence Id: 63 **Comment Id:** 161679

Comment Text: The Corridor can provide many opportunities for GG people. However, the Corridor can and must also provide education, knowledge, and interest to non-GG persons, including those who are white. In fact, the Corridor must acknowledge that some whites can be allies. The Corridor must embrace these allies when it can. On SSI, the last African American school house would have been torn down in January if I had not questioned why a large non-profit land trust, a county government, a local historical society, and the African American coalition had voted to take it down. Now we are building an integrated friends group that is working very hard to raise the funds so that the St. Simons African American Coalition can finally have a lease and the school house can be restored as part of a 12 acre county park. Restoring the Harrington School and researching, recording, preserving and sharing the island's African American heritage is critical to telling the whole story (white and black) of St. Simons Island.

Correspondence Id: 12 **Comment Id:** 161837

Comment Text: 4. I really like the idea of providing aid to those who face issues with heirs property. Well done!

Correspondence Id: 13 Comment Id: 161841

Comment Text: 4. Need to have more small towns, cities, that are rich in Gullah/Geechee heritage.

Correspondence Id: 15 Comment Id: 161845

Comment Text: 4. Perhaps hosting a conference or separate activities for the national media that would generate articles on T.V. programs about the corridor and its history in many different states.

Correspondence Id: 16 Comment Id: 161849

Comment Text: 4. The development along the coast is so rapid, I think immediate action as in Plan B is imperative before more is lost.

Correspondence Id: 17 Comment Id: 161854

Comment Text: 4. Blank

Correspondence Id: 11 Comment Id: 161855

Comment Text: 4. Best wishes for a successful project!

Correspondence Id: 18 Comment Id: 161856

Comment Text: I want to add my support to the National Heritage Area Program which will document and archive the Gullah-Geechee Culture's history, customs, and buildings - including developing a list of the most endangered Gullah-Geechee sites. It would also have programs to educate people about the culture, enhance economic opportunities for the people, protect resources and preserve skills, arts, and crafts unique to the culture. I live on Saint Helena Island, SC in Beaufort County. We have the Penn Center where some schooling materials, historic information, and some arts are preserved. We hear Gullah storytellers and watch videos that explain the history. In Frogmore tourists can enjoy a Gullah meal and crafts are sold. Tourists love and seek out history of these islands. It should be preserved. Everyone benefits from historical attractions. The more we learn about our history, the more we can appreciate "we the people" of the United States of America.

Correspondence Id: 21 Comment Id: 161860

Comment Text: 4. Please helping funding agencies - future funding requests associated with Gullah/Geechee communities should show endorsement from the GGCHCC.

Correspondence Id: 22 Comment Id: 161864

Comment Text: 4. I look forward to learning more!

Correspondence Id: 23 Comment Id: 161868

Comment Text: 4. Blank

Correspondence Id: 24 Comment Id: 161872

Comment Text: 4. Hold fast to your plan as is.

Correspondence Id: 25 Comment Id: 161876

Comment Text: 4. Develop parks and improve waterways.

Correspondence Id: 26 Comment Id: 161880

Comment Text: 4. SIMPLIFY the website! Way too difficult to maneuver. Less words. I am on Edisto Island and attempting to collect support from my Gullah neighbors who can't understand this at all.

Correspondence Id: 27 Comment Id: 161883

Comment Text: The Coastal Conservation League appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Cultural Heritage Corridor's recent mailing, delineating the three preliminary alternatives for future management. As you are aware, we have had the opportunity to work with communities from Beaufort and Jasper Counties to the North Carolina line. We have been involved with wonderful projects and issues, including the Penn Center, Johns Island Progressive Club, and Sandy Island, and have had the privilege to collaborate with the Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition for nearly a decade. We are excited about the prospect to support the people and places pivotal to Gullah/Geechee history and culture, and to tell their stories to the world. We commented at public meetings last year on what we believe is a wonderful opportunity to express those stories at the current Angel Oak Park. This location has natural and cultural beauty, in a setting near communities of Gullah/Geechee heritage and adjacent to meeting places during the Civil Rights movement. The League is very interested in the possibility of turning the Angel Oak Park into an area that tells this rich history, possibly expanding the Park to better achieve this goal. Regardless of whether we are able to expand the area, this Park is visited by many tourists from all over the world, as well as residents every day. It is the perfect location to tell the stories of the Civil Rights movement and the Gullah/Geechee culture and history on Johns and Wadmalaw Islands. [Mid section pulled out for Topic Questions 1 and 3] Thank you again for allowing the League to offer input. We are excited about the Commission's work and the opportunity to be involved. We appreciate the hard work of Queen Quet, William Saunders, the Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition, and Senator Clyburn to form this Commission, and thank Chairman Campbell and Michael Allen for being strong and compelling advocates for the Gullah/Geechee history and community.

Organization: Coastal Conservation League

Correspondence Id: 28 Comment Id: 161887

Comment Text: 4. Partner with state tourism agencies to promote cultural/heritage tourism.

Correspondence Id: 29 Comment Id: 161891

Comment Text: 4. I prefer a blend of B and C. In N.C. we need to inventory resources before we can mount a major educational initiative or promote heritage tourism.

Correspondence Id: 30 Comment Id: 161895

Comment Text: 4. I would like to see education offered K-12 and higher ed. in the cultural corridor, for African herbal medicines and cures. With the U.S. Dept. of the Interior-NPS on board with the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, we as a nation and the world can look far into future generations of learning of this culture. It would be beneficial to the heritage

corridor, for its citizens K-12 and higher education. To be educated in archeology and anthropology, I do understand it would take years of study and apprenticeship in this field. The Gullah/Geechee citizen studying their ancestors would promote a greater interest and long term learning for future generations.

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 161899

Comment Text: 4. Include representatives from the City of Conway in the plan development process.

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 161903

Comment Text: 4. Blank

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 161907

Comment Text: 4. NA

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 161911

Comment Text: 4. I prefer Alternative B. Very strongly.

Correspondence Id: 40 **Comment Id:** 161915

Comment Text: 4. Please address tracing geneology more.

Correspondence Id: 43 **Comment Id:** 161919

Comment Text: 4. N/A

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 161923

Comment Text: 4. Yes, Awendaw, SC is at the midway point of the Cultural Heritage Corridor, and should be strongly considered as a major tourist/information center.

Organization: Mayor, Town of Awendaw

Correspondence Id: 45 **Comment Id:** 161927

Comment Text: 4. Specific fund development committees should address costs of committee participation and needs.

Correspondence Id: 46 **Comment Id:** 161931

Comment Text: 4. I am concerned about the so-called certification person, who's going to be the gate keeper. Could be a real problem.

Correspondence Id: 47 **Comment Id:** 161935

Comment Text: 4. At this point, things seem quite sufficient to my knowledge.

Correspondence Id: 80 **Comment Id:** 161936

Comment Text: The Center for Gullah Studies is envisioned as a setting of national repute for quality and in depth scholarship on Gullah history, language, art, and folklore, and to celebrate Gullah's salient contributions to today's world. The Center will be developed in conjunction with the Museum at Honey Horn Plantation and will be an enhancement to historic Honey Horn

Plantation and Hilton Head Island. The Center will embody the following characteristics, among others: 1. Through the efforts of renowned scholars and motivated graduate level students, it will raise the bar of scholarship and research in the field of Gullah culture, and explore Gullah as a living, dynamic history. 2. In partnership with Penn Center and ethnic and minority studies programs at state colleges and universities, it will be a gathering place, retreat center, executive conference and seminar setting for those interested in Gullah culture and the lessons that emanate from its history. 3. It will offer continuing educational and undergraduate credits and post-graduate degrees from state universities. 4. Noted scholars will be invited to the Center to advance their studies and to lecture to students, museum patrons and guests. 5. In conjunction with the Museum, the Center will sponsor hands-on seminars to immerse participants in living Gullah. 6. Students will be scholars, interpreters, and authors for the Museum. 7. It will be a repository of research data and an archive for Gullah literature, language, songs, and art. 8. It will emphasize genealogical research, analysis and documentation. 9. It will relate the Gullah experience to similar experiences throughout the world. In summary, the Center for Gullah Studies would give Hilton Head Island prominence beyond the commonly perceived reputation of recreation and retirement and would provide a robust collaboration between the Museum and state colleges and universities.

Correspondence Id: 81 **Comment Id:** 161966

Comment Text: The university has long been a supporter of the NPS designation and the study of Gullah/Geechee history, language and art. Members of our faculty were instrumental in the NPS designation process. We are hopeful for the future of the heritage corridor. We also recognize that the opposition of vocal interest groups and the general economic climate will mitigate for option A. As a university in the heart of the Gullah/Geechee corridor, USCB naturally favors much of the action identified in Option B. The "Documentation alternative" is consistent with our academic method. Option C, the "empowerment option", while commendable in its educational goals, seeks to protect Gullah/Geechee heritage through the "economic empowerment" of the Gullah/Geechee people themselves. In an age of limited resources and unlimited needs, it appears unlikely that option C will be fully funded.

Organization: University of South Carolina Beaufort

Correspondence Id: 82 **Comment Id:** 161972

Comment Text: 4. There will need to be much more recognition, understanding, and acceptance of the significance of Gullah-Geechee culture and resources before that is any chance for changing the patterns of land and economic develop along the coast. Money speaks way more than culture, history, and the environment.

Correspondence Id: 83 **Comment Id:** 161976

Comment Text: 4. Form definite committees under commissioners to help exact types of progress; or lack thereof.

Correspondence Id: 84 **Comment Id:** 161983

Comment Text: 4. (Continued) Research Suggestions: Ecology and economic opportunities may need to head the list since without a place to live and a way to gain the wherewithal to live, much of the cultural research does not signify. That said-- -Traditional folk drama in West Africa

and the Sea Islands -Connections between herbs, healing plants and edible greens between West Africa and Sea Islands. -Foodways in West Africa and Sea Islands -Residential concepts in both West Africa and Sea Islands -Body adornment and/or clothing -Preservation through documentation of life histories, narratives and instruction of how to cast net, dance, make chimneys, etc. Some of the categories could be conflated to make the process more efficient. Possible expansion of Gullah Studies Institute and Penn Center to implement and house some research studies. All of this should be under the rubric of Sea Islands in the context of the African World. (For instance, Joe Opala's work linking Bunce Island, Sierra Leone and Sea Islands). Establish connections beyond the Islands, such as to the Caribbean and Africa, a rich area for significant research. African American folk drama is a largely neglected field. Provide opportunities to showcase folk drama, at festival performances-another research initiative possibility. (Examples from Johns Island, S.C. The Devil's Funeral, The Devil Play, and The Indian Wedding) A number of the Implementation Ideas could be brought together in groups for easier administration. Some of the institutional items such as establishing archives or repositories, training of personnel, educational programs could be in place so there would be a direct correlation between field and archive. All of such research from Option B will serve as a valuable source of information for the realizing the aims and goal of Option C. The amassing of cultural information as in B will be crucial to inform initiatives to provide education, economic opportunities, ecological investigations, protections and continuations of traditional skills and artistic crafts.

Correspondence Id: 84 Comment Id: 161984

Comment Text: 4. Option A is a nonstarter. Partnerships: In addition to the sites named you might consider the Anacostia Museum of the Smithsonian Institution. They have recently put on an excellent show on Lorenzo Dow Turner, whose foundational work in Sea Island linguistics is still in use today. The show, cultural activities and informational occasions surrounding the show could be a model for future expositions of Lowcountry culture. Has contact been made with Ms. Rhoda Green, Honorary Consul from Barbados in Charleston, S.C. Her work in establishing the Barbados-Charleston, South Carolina Heritage Corridor is significant in showcasing the relationship between the two areas which is evident in the people's names in both places. She has been awarded by the Barbados government for her activities in the twinning of cities in South Carolina and Barbados- namely Charleston and Speightstown respectively.

Correspondence Id: 85 Comment Id: 161988

Comment Text: Our hope is to have the very first Coastal Heritage Center at Penn Center located on St. Helena Island. Penn Center is an important resource for African-American history that could continue to enhance its preservation and presentation efforts, as well as improve its ability to sustain and maintain its collection of important historical buildings involved in the Penn Center complex. As we are sure the commission is aware, Penn Center has readily available facilities to develop the housing of personnel and artifacts necessary for historical verification of sites and documents, as well as, documentation of oral histories and traditions. This depository for Gullah/Geechee history and traditions would become a worldwide source for historical research in a centralized location and will dovetail with the Gullah period beginning with the Port Royal Experiment as is expressed by the Penn Center museum. We are well positioned for the inaugural Coastal Heritage Center. In addition, Beaufort is host to the oldest and largest celebration of Gullah culture "The Gullah Festival" which takes place on Memorial

Day weekend each year and Penn Center hosts "Heritage Days" the second weekend of November each year, a 4-day celebration which showcases the rich cultural legacy of the Gullah people of the Sea Islands including musical and dramatic performances, storytelling, basketry, net making, hair braiding and bateau making that are part of a cultural legacy connected to West Africa. These events would serve as an extension to complement the Coastal Heritage Center at Penn Center. One of our goals is to continue to be an integral part of preserving and building on the heritage of the Gullah/Geechee culture, which is still alive and flourishing on St. Helena Island. Gullah/Geechee heritage is considered a very important part of our local history that requires preservation and additional public access, as well as a more universal understanding, which was confirmed and supported by a recent study completed by the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism. Additional information will be provided to demonstrate that Penn Center and our community make it the ideal location to host a Coastal Heritage Center. We applaud the efforts of the Gullah/Geechee Heritage Corridor Commission and look forward to working with you.

Organization: Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce Visitor & Convention Bureau

Correspondence Id: 1 Comment Id: 152011

Comment Text: What means would be available for the private sector to obtain grants to perform the tasks in this project?

Correspondence Id: 2 Comment Id: 152211

Comment Text: As stated in my answer to Question 4, I maintain that a partnership **MUST** be established between the GGCHCC and the Gullah/Geechee Nation. Therefore, my concern would be that the GGCHCC respects the Gullah/Geechee peoples' right to self-determination as the right of self-determination of peoples is a fundamental principle in international law. It is embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Common Article 1, paragraph 1 of these Covenants provides that: "All peoples have the rights of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development."this clearly was exhibited by the Gullah/Geechee people with the establishment of the Gullah/Geechee Nation, electing and selecting, Marquette L. Goodwine, officially "Queen Quet", Chieftess and official spokesperson for Gullah/Geechee People and the Gullah/Geechee Nation.

Correspondence Id: 9 Comment Id: 154299

Comment Text: I commend the Commission for its work. Now the for the tough part - deciding how to proceed. Remember it is a marathon not a sprint.

Correspondence Id: 10 Comment Id: 154601

Comment Text: 1) Continuing funding and resources to facilitate the selected alternative. 2) Making sure residents and future residents are aware of their responsibilities and need to be fully informed and committed to the mission.

Correspondence Id: 19 Comment Id: 160683

Comment Text: Please take in consideration the Gullah/Geechee Coalition and Gullah/Geechee Angel network as stakeholder in working with the Gullah/Geechee People. I do this work

because I love humanity. I will continue to work for the people. Gullah/Geechee Angelnetwork would love to be partners in this process in empowering the Gullah/Geechee people for truly we are Gullah/Geechee Anointed people. Thank you so much for the opportunity to partake in this survey.

Correspondence Id: 20 Comment Id: 160819

Comment Text: Never forget the people who attended the 21 public meetings conducted. There has to be an honorary sector in the future to be recognized. With this being a 10 year Start-Up project, there will be many more meetings to come and these names along with the people completing the comment cards should know that what they contributed made the difference.

Correspondence Id: 31 Comment Id: 160996

Comment Text: The "ACTIONS COMMON TO PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES B AND C" as listed on page 5 of Newsletter 2 are all excellent actions and are necessary but not sufficient to maintain of the Gullah/Geechee culture. Documentation and preservation of the history of a culture is important, but in order for the culture to have a future is must be assisted in its efforts to remain a viable entity. There must be governmental recognition, from the federal level down to the local level, of the uniqueness of the culture. As part of this recognition some sort of protection(s) MUST be provided for the members of the Gullah/Geechee community so they are not run off their land by developers.

Correspondence Id: 32 Comment Id: 161277

Comment Text: The Corridor Management Plan is an outstanding document, and I congratulate all involved in the thoroughness of the options and strategies laid out.

Correspondence Id: 33 Comment Id: 161387

Comment Text: I advise conferring with representatives from New Zealand and Brazil. The New Zealand government and Iwi authorities (tribal authorities) have had ongoing discussions about heritage preservation as well as heritage landscapes. Initiating discussions with representatives from Waiwhetu Marae or the Ngai Tahu tribal authority may yield some transferable best practices. Alternatively, the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission may have best practices that would interest authorities in Brazil, particularly the country's Afro-Brazilian population. In 2010, the State Secretariat of Tourism of the State of Bahia and Bahiatursa convened the first National African Heritage Seminar and its first International African Heritage Forum. Further, please share the lessons from your unique experience with the World Heritage Centre of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Correspondence Id: 36 Comment Id: 161412

Comment Text: None

Correspondence Id: 48 Comment Id: 161594

Comment Text: It is important that the Gullah/Geechee people enhance their knowledge and appreciation of the culture, achievement and history of African American societies. For example, the heroic Ebo Landing is a part of African American history that should be shared by the Gullah/Geechee people with those who are connected with the African Diaspora. a) A textbook

with a historical account of people, art and artifacts, struggles, and survival. b) Perhaps a designated color(s) for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. c) Development of a society of the Gullah/Geechee people on the east coast as reflected in the Corridor map. The society will involve the concept and practice of self-determination where the Gullah/Geechee people will determine the basic aspects of democracy and security that would be most effective for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. d) Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Conference or Summit where people assemble to learn about, teach and understand the plight of a beautiful people, as well as how the Gullah/Geechee people evolve. e) Gullah/Geechee community center or satellite location where Gullah/Geechee seniors/elders will be apprised of future planning re the culture; encourage seniors/elders and teens to work on projects together, a project which closes the gap among the groups, as well as develop of wholesome community.

Correspondence Id: 50 Comment Id: 161618

Comment Text: Most all of the recommendations would be great in a perfect world, so I tried to prioritize to have a blend of B and C. There are elements of B and C that could be left to "the market" such as funding where research is needed: maybe a university or college or grad student should be doing that. Heritage tourism could be launched by states or entrepreneurs.

Correspondence Id: 53 Comment Id: 161630

Comment Text: Alternative seems best option because it builds on what exists. In comparison only seems to create a historical documentation of what was, and Alternative A would lead to continued loss of this important culture.

Correspondence Id: 57 Comment Id: 161652

Comment Text: A combination of Alternatives B and C is necessary to preserve the Gullah/Geechee culture. As written, Alternative C will be more effective, in my opinion, in preserving and enhancing the culture as it focuses on educating youth, working with partners to remove barriers to maintaining Gullah communities (e.g., addressing zoning issues, resolving heirs property issues), and promoting sustainable development. The single most important element listed in Alternative C is "Expand appropriate economic opportunities within the corridor to assist in empowering people and perpetuating and sustaining the culture."

Correspondence Id: AC-1 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: My esp. concern is Daufuskie Island. There are only approx. a dozen true natives who reside full-time and time is of the essence to protect and restore before it (Gullah/Geechee community) slips away to the dusty pages in a history book.

Correspondence Id: AC-2 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: I like 'C' more than 'B', but feel can't have 'C' without 'B'!

Correspondence Id: AC-3 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: I still have friends that are in denial of their own Gullah/Geechee culture, how do we reach them?

Correspondence Id: AC-4 Comment Id: XXXXXX

Comment Text: Blank

Correspondence Id: AC-5 **Comment Id:** XXXXXX

Comment Text: I would promote combining Alternatives B and C in some way – to do them separately would be too late for some sites, resources and heritage concerns that are at risk today.

Correspondence Id: AC-6 **Comment Id:** XXXXXX

Comment Text: Blank

Correspondence Id: AC-7 **Comment Id:** XXXXXX

Comment Text: Given the legislation that initiated the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission's existence, we are aware that the commission is to protect the lands and waterways in the Gullah/Geechee Nation. We want to insure that the Gullah/Geechee Fishing Association is listed as a partner in doing that work given that **"The Gullah/Geechee Fishing Association is open to traditional and commercial fishermen and women and seafood industry workers of African descent in the United States southeast and the Gullah/Geechee Nation. It is the official fishing association of the Gullah/Geechee Nation."** We look forward to being an active part of the process of partnership to insure that the Gullah/Geechee culture and traditions continue.

Organization: Gullah/Geechee Fishing Association

Correspondence Id: AC-8 **Comment Id:** XXXXXX

Comment Text: We at the South Carolina Lowcountry & Resort Islands Tourism Commission would like to express our full support of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission. We believe that the rich history of the Gullah/Geechee people is a Southern treasure that must be nurtured, protected and celebrated by all Americans.

We have read your vision, mission and purpose statements and applaud the tremendous effort and achievements that have been made towards your goals thus far. We understand the difficulties that such an endeavor presents and wish to assist in seeing the goals you have set forth come to fruition.

The Lowcountry & Resort Islands Tourism Commission is a major resource for tourism promotion in the counties of Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper. We assist travelers with information on points of interest and serve as a distribution point for a variety of publications including maps, guidebooks and leaflets advertising various attractions.

We feel the Gullah/Geechee presence in the South Carolina Lowcountry is a strong draw for both American and international tourists. The wonderful foods, the lilting language, the incorporation of faith, the compelling stories and allegories and the traditions in every day life paint the picture of a culture that lives harmoniously with nature and finds a way to explain the mysteries of the human character. This culture is a fascinating concept to this century's visitors who want to learn more.

This past April, in conjunction with South Carolina Parks, Recreation and Tourism, we hosted three consultants from Tourism Development International, based in Ireland, who were conducting a Tourism Product Development Assessment. Thank you again, Dr. Campbell for

giving us a personal tour of Hilton Head Island and pointing out the landmarks that used to be there. You told us of pockets of communities, of Gullah/Geechee arts and skills, of the history of Mitchellville, of pecan trees, of Marsh Tackies and of so many other pertinent traditions. After we left you, the gentlemen turned to me and asked “where are they now?” The same was evident as we toured Daufuskie Island. The tangible Gullah/Geechee community is shrinking almost past the vanishing point. We also were able to share some time with Rosalyn Browne at The Penn Center on St. Helena Island. The consultants and we agree that structurally, The Penn Center Historic District is the Crown Jewel of the Gullah/Geechee legacy in our region. The consultants left our area impressed with the tourism potential and with just enough knowledge of the culture that it created a desire for more of the experience.

Though the Lowcountry & Resort Islands Tourism Commission is not in a position to provide financial support, we most definitely are in the position to help the Gullah/Geechee Heritage Corridor Commission in promotion of economic development through tourism promotion. The Frampton Plantation House, our Lowcountry Visitors’ Center and Museum, is located at Exit 33 on I-95 and US Highway 17 (a critical gateway to the Trail). We guide travelers seven days a week at the Center and 24 hours a day on our website. We advertise in national magazines and partner with SC Parks, Recreation and Tourism and area chambers of commerce to tell the Lowcountry’s many stories. We already provide our guests with information, art and books on the Gullah/Geechee Culture and we would like to partner closely with the GGHCC.

We congratulate you on your work thus far and know that there is so much more yet to accomplish. Our Commission pledges our full support to your mission and look forward to working with you now and in the future.

Organization: South Carolina Lowcountry & Resort Islands Tourism Commission

Correspondence Id: AC-9 **Comment Id:** XXXXXX

Comment Text: We want to insure that your partnership list for the GGCHC General Management Plan includes the organizations and individuals that we have documented actually carrying out what this alternative has outlined. These people have done this work prior to the existence of the GGCHC and have evidenced that they will continue to do so and thereby will be critical partners in the success of the corridor.

- **Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition**
- **Gullah/Geechee Angel Network**
- **Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Committee of Northeast Florida**
- **Heirs Property Preservation Organization**
- **Heirs Property Law Center**
- **Gullah/Geechee Fishing Association** (formed to protect the sea work traditions)
- the Wisdom Circle Council of Elders and the Assembly of Representatives for the Gullah/Geechee Nation who focus on international and human rights issues

The number of educational and festival groups or entities that we partner with in regard to all of this are too numerous to list. However, the above groups are advocates that consistently focus on empowerment of the Gullah/Geechees themselves and are not tourist entities or simply research institutions. They are the people with the expertise needed for this alternative to embody its title.

The **Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition** has been a part of this process prior to a study on our culture beginning and we have been willing to work on this throughout as evidenced by hosting meetings for the public in the past. So, we look forward to receiving information on how to truly further a true partnership with this new entity that is the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. Please add us as partners and enter our letter into the official record of responses for the preliminary alternatives for the GGCHC General Management Plan. Thank you for your work and consideration.

Organization: Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition

Correspondence Id: AC-10 **Comment Id:** XXXXXX

Comment Text: And finally, the management plan should acknowledge and recognize, as the U.S. government has done, the tribal laws, leadership, embodied by our Chieftess, and self-governance of Gullah/Geechees as a Nation of people, upholding our international human right to self-determination.

Organization: Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Committee of Northeast Florida

Correspondence Id: AC-11 **Comment Id:** XXXXXX

Comment Text: We appreciate the opportunity to provide commentary in support of Preliminary Alternative C, because of its focus on empowering the Gullah Geechee people to perpetuate and sustain their culture. Having worked with members of this community, and specifically Queen Quet since the mid-1990s, we are poignantly aware of the unique and priceless jewel that this living culture represents, and of their ability to inspire the nation and the world.

Our work nationwide focuses heavily on reconnecting African Americans and other people of color with the land. In many cases, this requires us to root out and bring to the surface prevailing attitudes of antipathy that may be the result of the legacy of enslavement and a brutal relationship with the land. We have found the Gullah Geechee Sea Island Coalition and the Gullah Geechee Angel Network to be our primary assets in this work, as they show what it means to have a centuries-old, unbroken connection with the land.

Recently, for example, we were able to share with our entire network of several hundred thousand people, the ethic of sustainability that the Gullah Geechee people still manifest. At a “fishermen’s exchange” organized by a prominent environmental organization, members of the newly formed (2010) Gullah Geechee Fishing Association stunned participants and organizers with their cultural practice of frugality and respect for the natural processes of life.

Playing a fishing game that illustrates how various practices of harvesting marine life can either serve to propagate species or decimate them, the Gullah Geechee people were the only participants who took only what they needed from the sea. Other players used tools that effectively trapped all the available sea life, without regard for the future. The message that came through loud and clear from this exercise was this: The Gullah Geechee people never speak about “sustainability,” yet they practice it as a way of life. Many in the majority community trumpet the word “sustainability,” but do not practice it.

While this is only one small aspect of many ways in which we have found that the Gullah Geechee live their culture and are continually, resolutely trying to preserve their history and their way of life, it emphasizes the amazing gift that they represent to our nation and to the world. Last Summer, Queen Quet and the Gullah Geechee people organized the Gullah Geechee Seminole Maroon Reunion that traveled down the East Coast to Florida and the Bahamas, and we witnessed the outpouring of love and support that they engendered. Recently, the First Annual Gullah Geechee Fishing Association Seafood Festival brought hundreds of people to St. Helena Island to celebrate long standing traditions, and people came from as far away as Washington State and California.

It is our hope that these examples will help illustrate that the optimum value of the Gullah Geechee people lies in their living culture, the valuable lessons that they are able to teach us and the sheer inspiration of their presence on these shores. Consequently, Alternative C which promotes these aspects will be the preferred action for anyone who has had the privilege of experiencing the Gullah Geechee Nation and culture.

Organization: Earthwise Productions, Inc.

Correspondence Id: AC-12 **Comment Id:** XXXXXX

Comment Text: I am writing this letter as the Director of the Coastal Georgia Historical Society to relay our support and appreciation for further development of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor and the vision, mission and purpose as stated in your management plan, Newsletter #2. We are very interested in your efforts to put together a regional approach to the collection of the Gullah/Geechee resources of the corridor and making these resources available to the communities as well as visitors. We agree that the raised profile that you are advocating will encourage organizations within the corridor to cooperate, collaborate and partner to preserve and share this unique history.

Locally, we have witnessed a growing interest in Gullah/Geechee culture. Recently, Harrington Grade School on St. Simons Island was listed as a 2011 Places in Peril by the Georgia Trust for Historical Preservation. Since January a new Friends group has been working with the St. Simons African American Heritage Coalition to raise awareness and funds to restore this historic structure which was donated to the County and the St. Simons Land Trust in 2005 by descendants of the persons interviewed by Lorenzo Dow Turner for his historic Gullah studies. Also, last week's fall meeting of the Georgia Society of Archaeologists brought over eighty professionals, amateurs and students to the Island to study the preservation of plantation artifacts and structures.

We believe that Glynn County has the historical resources to provide an overview of the Gullah/Geechee heritage from colonial times to the present and that its tourism infrastructure also provides a good place to connect with other tours to Gullah/Geechee communities on the Georgia and Florida coast. It is our view that the Corridor Management Plan will provide the leadership necessary to collect, preserve and interpret Gullah/Geechee history over the next ten years.

Organization: Coastal Georgia Historical Society