



Mission

The African American Heritage Museum of Wilmington will tell the African American story in the greater context of the Cape Fear region in America's history.

It will be a repository for artifacts and memorabilia, a space for traveling exhibitions, and a center for education, cultural enrichment and entertainment for every age, retelling the stories that shaped our community's rich heritage.



2008 ANNUAL REPORT



African American Heritage Foundation of Wilmington, Inc.
PO Box 968 • Wilmington, NC 28402
(910) 262-8208 • www.aahfwilmington.org

Greetings,

The African American Heritage Foundation board of directors and I are passionate about the work we are engaged in to create an African American Heritage Museum. Each day as we embrace the local history of this region, we become more assured of the worthwhile journey we are going through to make this vision a reality.

Much of the local history is woven in the fabric of the individual families that have resided here and we have begun to capture the essence of this history through our "Living Treasures" project, by collecting oral histories of local senior citizens who have lived through the history of the region and who have witnessed historical events such as the Great Depression, World War II, the Civil Rights Movement and integration. We will continue to work on this project through 2009.

During 2008 we concentrated largely on the building on North 4th Street and web site content and development. We completed the engineering assessment of the building and hired a drafting firm to create existing plans of the second floor. New plans for the second floor have been completed. To that end, we removed the internal walls, and have received estimates for replacing the windows, which range from \$26,000 to \$35,000.

We plan to get the new windows installed as soon as possible; therefore, a campaign was launched last fall to obtain capital to start replacing the windows. Unfortunately, the campaign was initiated in the midst of the economic downturn and we were not as successful as we had hoped. We appreciate and thank the persons that contributed, and we will continue raising funds for this project by asking individuals and companies to sponsor the cost of a window, which will be dedicated in the donor's honor.

The new web site is up and virtual exhibits and tours of African American history are now available to the public largely through the support of UNCW's Public History Department, Dr. Tammy Stone-Gordon and her students. We are thankful to Tammy, the students for their many hours of work and inspiration in helping us with the web project.

In the beginning of each year, we seek new ways in which to support our programming and other activities. The 1898 Commission generously donated its inventory of the published book, "Moving Forward Together," to the African American Heritage Foundation of Wilmington (AAHF). The proceeds from this book, which tells the story of establishing the 1898 Memorial, will remain with AAHF at one hundred percent profit. By the end of 2008, we had sold several cases and will continue to sell the books to the public until the inventory is depleted. We will investigate the possibility of getting the book into the hands of major book retailers such as Barnes and Noble and Books-A-Million. We wish to thank the 1898 Commission for their contribution and support.

The coming year is projected to be full of activities consisting of educational outreach, a new and revised church tour, increased visibility for AAHF through greater

participation in community-wide events, building renovations, and other activities where we will need many volunteers. We will send out notices announcing the need for volunteers as we get more specific information on each event. We hope you will continue your support and invite friends, coworkers and neighbors to join us in our efforts.

In closing, I would like to thank all of our supporters and volunteers who continue to give of their time and resources, and please know that we remain committed to this project.

John L. Battle
President and CEO



*Left to right:
John Parker, John Battle,
Congressman Mc Intyre, and
Nick Rhodes tour the
second floor space of the
Richter Building.*

2008 Officers and Directors

John Battle, President
 Marilyn Cantarella, Vice President/Secretary
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 Jerome Bolton
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 Rosalind Mosley
 John B. Parker
 Charlon Turner
 Nick Rhodes, Jr.

Honorary Directors

Harper Peterson
 Philip Stine
 Naomi Swinton
 Theresa Walker



Financial Statement (undaudited)

2008 Income	Unrestricted	Restricted	
Public Support	5,892		
Program Related Revenue	0		
Product Sales	1,500		
Rental Income	2,600		
Other Revenue	83		
Total Income	10,075		
2008 Expenses	Unrestricted	Restricted	
Program Related Costs	1,313		
Management & General	15,848	2,000	
Fund Raising	486		
Total Expenses	17,647	2,000	19,647
Excess/Deficit Income vs. Expenses	(7,572)		(7,572)
Fund Balance 12/31/07	9,451	2,000	11,451
Fund Balance 12/31/08	3,879		3,879

Saying Thanks

“Everybody can be great because anybody can serve... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love. And you can be that servant.”
 —Martin Luther King, Jr.

The board of directors wishes to give a special thank you and recognition to the following individuals who are not only great but amazing for all they have done to make the dream of establishing an African American History Museum in Wilmington a reality and for their years of service on the board.

Jerome Belton
 Babette Boyd
 Marilyn Cantarella
 Dr. John Haley

Dr. Glen Harris
 Kim Hufham
 John B. Parker
 Charlon Turner

The Foundation Extends Special Thanks to:

The board of directors also wishes to thank individuals and organizations who supported the foundation and its projects through financial or in-kind contributions, or by volunteering their time and special talents.

Maxwell Allen
 Kawan Allen
 John Battle
 Rudolph Becton
 Ronald Bell
 Mr. and Mrs. Milton Branch
 Marilyn Cantarella
 Sterling Cheatham
 David Cheek
 Lisa Colwell
 George Edwards
 Lee Edwards
 Maureen Enstice
 Tammy Stone-Gordon
 Willie L. Gore
 John Haley
 Jean Harris
 Herschel Howie
 Kim Hufham
 Rev. Susan Karlson

Carlo Laurore
 Deborah Maxwell
 Lynn McIntyre
 Veronica McLaurin-Brown
 Ferne Mosley
 Rosalind Mosley
 Lee Nettles
 Maggie O'Connor
 Laura Padgett
 John B. Parker
 David Padykula
 James Pender
 Herman Ray
 Anthony Rivenbark
 Sam's Club Foundation
 Bertha Todd
 Mamie Wade
 Lillie B. Williams
 1898 Memorial Foundation
 UNCW Public History Department

Program Highlights

Virtual Exhibits The foundation recognizes that today's world has become increasingly influenced by technology. As we patiently wait for the process of raising capital to establish a museum at the site, a web museum can offer a gateway to bridge the gap between physical exhibits and virtual or interactive exhibits. Our vision for the future includes providing access to exhibits and research to people near and far interested in African American history and culture. The world-wide-web provides that vehicle and over the past year we focused on the redesign of our web site and the development of virtual tours.



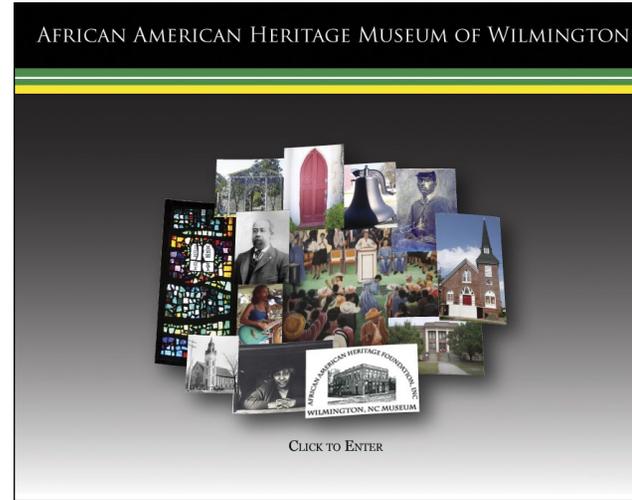
DAVID PADYKULA

From the virtual tour "Wilmington's African American Churches"

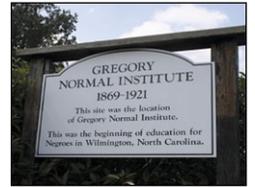
The museum on the web concept came from the new National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), which is the first museum to offer web exhibits prior to having a physical building. The foundation launched its inaugural virtual tour in December through a working collaboration with the Public History Department at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. The first in a series of three virtual tours is on Wilmington's African American Churches. In addition to the virtual tour the viewer can print a physical map and visit each of the 15 churches included in the tour, most of which are concentrated in the oldest part of the city. A second tour of notable sites around the city where African American history played a role is in the final development stages.

The **Living Treasures Program** is a collection of oral histories of local African Americans and their experiences during and after the Civil Rights Movement. In 2008 five individuals were interviewed as part of the creation of oral history archives in an effort to document African American history in

southeastern North Carolina for future generations. Excerpts from their personal stories will be featured on the web site by the middle of 2009. Community members, researchers, teachers and students will have access to their insights into discrimination, segregation and the integration of African Americans in the lower Cape Fear Region. When the museum is open to the public, visitors will be able to listen to the full audio tapes from the oral histories collection.



Relaunched in the fall of 2008, our redesigned web site can be found at aahfwilmington.org.



UNCW Website Team



Tammy S. Gordon, former exhibits curator at the Michigan State University Museum, is Assistant Professor of History at the University of North Carolina Wilmington where she specializes in museum education and exhibition.

Dr. Gordon worked with the African American Heritage Foundation of Wilmington on creating the museum web site. Graduate students Maureen Enstice, Jo-el Smith, Shannon Walker, Kawan Allen worked on various portions of the site, including research, development, and design. Undergraduate history major David Padykula designed the virtual exhibits "Heart and Soul" and "Walking Through History" as well as the final site design. The AAHF/UNCW Public History Program collaboration provides students with important opportunities to develop skills in digital history.



David Padykula is a sophomore at the University of North Carolina Wilmington majoring in history, but particularly enjoys colonial America. He currently lives in the international house among foreign exchange students and loves the experience.

"Being a part of the Wilmington community and contributing to the mission of the AAHF has been an absolutely amazing experience for me. I have had a fantastic time working with Marilyn Cantarella, Lee Nettles, and everyone else and I hope to be able to continue to do so in the future."