2026 SC African American Heritage Commission Annual Conference

Saturday, February 28, 2026

SC ARCHIVES AND HISTORY CENTER
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223

Space is limited. Pre-registration is highly recommended.

Registration Fee Per Person:

- Regular: $40
- Senior: $20
- Student: $15

*Lunch is included in registration fee. GF/Vegetarian options available.

For additional conference information and questions, scan the QR code, visit scaahc.org **or** contact Ayanna Goines at: agoines@scdah.sc.gov

Schedule

8:30AM – 8:55AM **Check In**

9:00AM – 9:10AM **Opening Welcome**

9:15AM – 10:25AM **1st Session Block**

SC250: Black Involvement in the American Revolution

* At the beginning of American Revolution in the fall of 1775, Loyalists began to flee from the colonies, leaving behind their enslaved labor force. Patriot Committees of Safety saw these "masterless" Black men and women as potential instigators of revolts and set out to confiscate them. Learn about Patriot carceral politics, the Black carceral experience, and how freedom was denied to the Black population as America earned its independence.

Preservation of the Land

* Hear from various organizations across the state who have taken steps to preserve the history and legacy of schools with significant importance to the Black community. From Clarendon to Columbia, during Reconstruction and the Civil Rights era, these schools have rich stories that are told today in various ways.

10:30AM – 11:40AM **2nd Session Block**

Black Entrepreneurs & Entrepreneurship

* Hear about the significance of Black businesses in the late 19th and early 20th century. During this time of financial and political progress for Black Americans, businesses were formed, creating safety and community.

Black Artistic Expression

* This panel discusses the use of visual arts to portray Black history. Speakers will talk about the impact of using narrative images to tell stories whether they be genealogical, educational, or for entertainment.

11:45AM – 12:25PM **Lunch**

12:30PM – 12:55PM **SCAAHC Book Prize Author Talk**

1:00PM – 2:15PM **3rd Session Block**

Don't Wait, Do!

* Learn from individuals who took action to preserve Black South Carolina history. Whether it was a family story or requesting government records, these projects were initiated by people dedicated to protecting unknown and untold stories.

Student Research

* Undergraduate and Graduate students will discuss their current research topics pertaining to Black History in South Carolina. Topics range in subject matter, time period, and research methods.

2:20PM – 3:45PM **Keynote Address –**

Dr. Bobby Donaldson & Congressman James E. Clyburn

* Two major leaders, Dr. Donaldson and Congressman Clyburn will describe their experiences with preserving the Black stories that make South Carolina history. They will also discuss Congressman Clyburn's new book *The First Eight*.