We thought you might be interested in sharing some of the accomplishments that Chamber board member and executive producer (Hilton Head Island – Bluffton Chamber of Commerce) Lola Campbell's documentary, *The Spirit We Move With,* has made since its film festival cycle debut this spring for your upcoming newsletter:

Our President and CEO, Bill Miles, recently mentioned it in a thought leadership piece he shared on LinkedIn titled, "Don't Tell Them About Culture. Show Them.", as well.

Awards and Recognition for *The Spirit We Move With* (2026)

The Spirit We Move With has received strong acclaim at multiple 2026 film festivals and award ceremonies, celebrating its cultural storytelling and community collaboration.

The Spirit We Move With Documentary Premier | Hilton Head Island

The Spirit We Move With - FilmFreeway

Festival & Award Highlights (2026)

- **Official Selections**:
    - Virginia Black Film Festival (Feb 19–22, 2026, Williamsburg, VA)
    - Rapport Black Film Festival (10th Anniversary, Mar 27–29, 2026, London, UK)
    - Black History Film Festival – Official Selection in multiple cities:
        - Atlanta, GA (Feb 27, 2026)
        - Washington, D.C. (Feb 20, 2026)
        - Oakland, CA (Feb 21, 2026)
        - Miami, FL (Feb 23, 2026)
    - American Stories Film Festival (Feb 20, 2026, Atlanta, GA)
    - Columbus International Film & Animation Festival (2026)
    - London Globe Festival (2026)
    - Journey Home Film Festival in Atlanta (June 2026)
    - The Walter and Linda Evans Center for African American Studies at Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD), showed the documentary in conjunction with "Savannah Women of Vision, Etched in History" on June 18.
    - Nominated for a 2026 Shorty Impact Award (November 2026)

- **2026 Shorty Awards Finalist – Best Documentary** (New York City)
    - Recognized for its mission to honor, preserve, and amplify the living history of the Gullah community on Hilton Head Island, with a focus on cultural memory, oral history, and authentic representation Shorty Awards.
- **2026 Winner – Best Documentary Short – Columbus International Film & Animation Festival**

About the Film

Directed by Andrew Maguire and executive produced by Omolola "Lola" Campbell, a sixth-generation Gullah descendant, the documentary explores the rich heritage and enduring traditions of the Gullah Geechee community. It blends nearly a year of immersive interviews with elders and community members to showcase their resilience, cultural survival, and vibrant present-day life.

The project was developed in partnership with the Hilton Head Island–Bluffton Chamber of Commerce, emphasizing trust, community ownership, and avoiding extractive storytelling. It reframes destination marketing as cultural stewardship, highlighting authenticity and emotional depth.