Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park preserves, promotes and honors Mitchelville, the first self-governed town of formerly enslaved people in the United States. HMFP is a 501(c)3 organization. All contributions are tax deductible.

843-255-7301  exploremitchelville.org

**Mitchelville Times**

**November 2019 Newsletter**

The Mitchelville Times is the official newsletter of Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park.

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**Lighting of Big Oak Tree & Lantern Parade Reprise**

The Lighting of the Big Oak Tree will be held in Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park, 229 Beach City Road, Hilton Head Island, SC on December 9, 2019 at 5:30pm.

We are inviting participants from the overwhelmingly successful Hilton Head Island Lantern Parade sponsored by Culture HHI, to bring your lantern’s and highlight the history, ecology, and family of our Community/Island.

Dr. Marlena Smalls and The Hallelujah Singers, and Historic First African Baptist Church, will sing and tell some amazing stories of Holiday celebrations in the Low-country.

The Lighting of the Big Oak Tree is apart of a weekend of Sea Island traditions, Historic Holidays on Hilton Head Island.

**REMINDERS:**

- Arrive by 5pm if you are bringing your lantern.
- Please park at the Historic St. James Baptist Church and Historic Cherry Hill School and walk down to the park. Lantern will be lit when the Big Tree is lit.
- Hot chocolate and soup will be available for purchase.
- For more information call (843)255-7301

**Admission is FREE.**

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**HHI Lantern Parade**

On November 9, we enjoyed a magical evening along with hundreds of others as we illuminated the night on South Forest Beach for the HHI Lantern Parade. This temporary art installation was created by and featured artist Chantelle Rytter. The inaugural event was hosted by Culture HHI.

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**Upcoming**

- **December 6-9, 2019**
  - Historic Holidays on Hilton Head Island
  - Various Locations

- **December 9, 2019**
  - Holiday Lighting in Historic Mitchelville
  - Freedom Park

- **February 1, 2020**
  - Freedom Day Celebration
  - Historic Mitchelville
  - Freedom Park
Annual Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

The Annual Mitchelville Preservation Project Board of Directors Meeting was held November 19. The board reviewed the successes, challenges, and changes within Mitchelville Preservation Project and set benchmarks for the upcoming year.

Listed are this year’s successes within Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park and Mitchelville Preservation Project:

- HMFP received $150,000 from the South Carolina State Budget to support development of the Park area. Special thanks to Senator Tom Davis and the South Carolina legislature for their support of Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park.

- HMFP has raised $182,450 through program revenue, fundraising, sponsorships, donations and pledges.

- Launched 2019 Griot’s Corner Literacy program on February 28 Connected with 400 school children and 500 people in total. This program was made possible through the generous support of the Breedlove Foundation.

- The Finding Freedom’s Home exhibition at the Westin Hotel and Spa has reached 25,000 people.

- 2019 public programs, presentations and outreach have reached 35,410 people.

- The 2019 Juneteenth Celebration took place on June 15 and featured Ruben Studdard, Alvin Garrett, Latrese Bush, Logan the Entertainer and Marlena Smalls. There were 1,200 people in attendance on Saturday and additional Juneteenth-related events and outreach brought our all-around attendance to 1,875 people.

- Launched M.A.G.I.C Youth Leadership program on March 12. The students were trained to give docent tours of the Park and connected with over 300 people this Summer. This program was made possible through the generous support of the Breedlove Foundation.

- Katie Seeber and archaeologists from the Masters of Arts Public Archaeology program at Binghamton University, worked at the Park from June 8 – July 18 to confirm the location of one of the historic churches on the Mitchelville property.

Holiday Fun On Hilton Head Island

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