

Mitchelville Times

July 2019

Newsletter

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

Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park Receives \$150,000 to Support Master Plan Development

Friends,

These are exciting times for the Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park (HMFP) on Hilton Head Island. The mission of our organization is: To preserve, promote and honor Historic Mitchelville, the first self-governed town of formerly enslaved people in the United States. With the support of the community and elected officials, we are laying the groundwork to establish a cultural attraction, that will bring visitors from all over the country to learn about Mitchelville's history, and its lessons that continue to impact us today. Thanks to the generosity of the Beaufort County Council, HMFP is creating a Master Plan for the Park (located at 229 Beach City Road, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, 29926) which will serve as the blueprint for its transformation. This will expand the offerings of the Park to include: replicas of the historic homes, churches, stores and other structures. All of this will embody the core themes that guide our work: the importance of education, the desire for land ownership, laws and citizenship, the power of opportunity, everyday life before Reconstruction, and others. This plan will be completed in the Fall of this year.

Recently, the South Carolina Legislature, led by the efforts of Senator Tom Davis, approved \$150,000 in the State's budget, to assist in the development of the HMFP. This follows a \$165,000 appropriation that Senator Davis, Representative Jeff Bradley and members of the General Assembly were able to secure for our organization last Fall, to aid in development of the organization and Park site. This funding underscores the importance that the State of South Carolina has placed on Historic Preservation and Cultural Heritage Tourism. Mitchelville is an important part of South Carolina's rich history and the funding provided will help ensure that South Carolina's citizens and soon the rest of the country, will learn more about the impact that the Lowcountry has had on American Democracy and Citizenship.

Continued on next page

Archaeology Update



HMFP Archaeologists lead by Binghamton University MAPA PhD Candidate, Katie Seeber have found a medicinal glass bottle, a soldier's hat button, and are about 70% sure they have discovered where the Praise House was located.

Upcoming

July 15-31

M.A.G.I.C Youth Leadership
Program Tours

October 2019

Gullah Geechee Cultural
Heritage Corridor
Awareness Month


November 2, 2019

Mitchelville Preservation
Project Anniversary Forum

December 2, 2019

Holiday Lighting in
Historic Mitchelville
Freedom Park

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843-255-7301  exploremitchelville.org

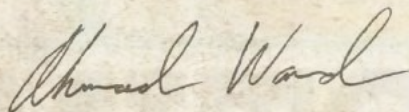


*Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park Receives
\$150,000 to Support
Master Plan Development (cont.)*

HMFP is thriving through feature exhibits, signature events and guided tours of Historic Mitchelville. In addition, it continues to enhance knowledge of Mitchelville through a series of learning opportunities including lectures, forums, and related cultural experiences. On June 15th, we welcomed 1,200 visitors from around the Southeast for our 5th annual Juneteenth Celebration at the Park. Currently, archaeologists from Binghamton University (New York) are on site working in hopes of confirming the location of one of the original historic churches from the Mitchelville community. The public can follow their progress on the Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park Facebook page. Additionally, local high school students from our M.A.G.I.C. Youth Leadership Program are available to provide tours of the park. M.A.G.I.C. (Modeling our Ancestors to Grow and Influence our Community) was created to engage a new generation in sharing this important history, now. These tours of the Park are available from July 15th -31st and can be booked by contacting our office at 843-255-7301 or by visiting our web site: www.exploremitchelville.org.

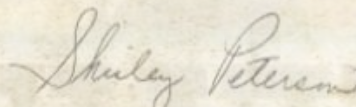
None of our success would be possible without the support of our community, generous private donors, and public officials at the local, county and State levels. Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park would like to show its sincere gratitude to Senator Davis and the South Carolina Legislature for its support of Mitchelville and the faith they have shown in the work that is being accomplished. Special thanks to the Town of Hilton Head Island, Beaufort County Council and the residents of the Lowcountry for continued support of our organization. Please go to www.exploremitchelville.org to learn how you can assist the ongoing work of Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park. Together we will tell the story of where freedom began, by building something that our state and country can take pride in.

Sincerely,



Ahmad Ward

Executive Director
Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park



Shirley "Peaches" Peterson

Chairperson of the Board of Directors
Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park

A Look Back at the 5th Annual Juneteenth Celebration

Thank you to all of our citizens, friends, volunteers, and sponsors that made our 5th Annual Juneteenth Celebration an unforgettable experience. We are grateful for your support as we continue to share our story of freedom with the world. Our 6th Annual Juneteenth Celebration is set for June 20, 2020, we can not wait to celebrate freedom with you!

Proudly Sponsored By:



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