

# MITCHELVILLE

Preserving, promoting and honoring Historic Mitchelville, the first self-governed town of formerly enslaved people in the United States



## AMERICAN IDOL WINNER IN MITCHELVILLE!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Griot's Corner

Thursdays

March - May

#### Drum Circle

Friday

June 14

#### Juneteenth Celebration

Saturday

June 15

We have confirmed an expansive entertainment for their annual Juneteenth Celebration. The food and music festival will include interactive experiences that are significant to the era of Mitchelville in the Reconstruction Era, plus a live performance by "Just A Few Cats" including Alvin Garrett, Latrese Bush, Logan the Entertainer and American Idol Winner Ruben Studdard, Marlena Smalls and the Hallelujah Singers and hosted by WSAV's Tina Tyus-Shaw. Tickets for the Juneteenth Celebration are \$15 for general admission, Free for children 12 and under. The 2019 Juneteenth Celebration will be Saturday, June 15, 2019 at Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park, 229 Beach City Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29226.

Like Mitchelville's freedom story, Juneteenth is a similar story. Also referred to as Emancipation Day or Freedom Day, Juneteenth is a holiday in the United States that commemorates the announcement of the abolition of slavery in June 1865 throughout the Confederate South. The immediate differences in the two stories end there, as the Juneteenth story embodies the perseverance of people who struggled to gain independence compared to Mitchelville, a thriving community on Hilton Head in Mitchelville.

Juneteenth Celebration is a family friendly event in the park. Food and beverages will be available for purchase, but only limited seating is available, so chairs are encouraged. In addition to the onstage artistic display, local artist will be on site selling art created to depict traditional Lowcountry life. All tickets and event details are available at [exploremitchelville.org](http://exploremitchelville.org).



Griot's Corner - March 2019  
Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park

## DO YOU BELIEVE IN M.A.G.I.C.?

### Meet MAGIC Youth Program Facilitator, Jazmin Sellars

Jazmin Sellars is a native Floridian who is also a recent graduate of the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. She holds a Bachelor of Science in International Studies with a concentration on Asia paired with a minor in Psychology. She is very excited to be the Facilitator for the MAGIC Youth Program and is looking forward to learning more through her experiences.

The Modeling our Ancestors to Grow and Influence our Community (MAGIC) Youth Program is designed to engage area high school students in discovering their own leadership abilities by exploring historical concepts and participating in a variety of learning experiences. MAGIC Youth is designed to engage area high school students of ALL BACKGROUNDS in discovering their own leadership abilities by exploring the lessons of Mitchelville and Reconstruction and participating in a variety of learning experiences. MAGIC seeks to build the self-worth of participants by instilling pride in their area, based on the events of Reconstruction and the history of Mitchelville; providing an opportunity for internal growth through interactive activities that encourage critical thinking and collaboration; and introducing the tools necessary for career advancement.

**"If there's a book you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it." -Toni Morrison**

## Students Learn About Mitchelville in Griot's Corner

Griot's Corner is a program tailored for K-through 3rd Grade students that uses storytellers and children activities to highlight freedom, acceptance, multiculturalism and citizenship. The "Griot" (grē'ō,grēō) is a West African storyteller, historian and/or musician. The griot's role was to preserve the genealogies and oral traditions of the respective tribe. Griot's Corner uses the spirit of storytelling to promote literacy and to help young students build strong character traits. This series is especially designed to engage young learners with interactive activities that include reading, creative dramatics, art and music.

