



July 2, 2024

Ms. Tonisha James
SC Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism
1205 Pendleton St
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Ms. James,

Funding for our Explore Black Charleston projects has exceeded our hopes and goals for this cultural initiative! In addition to continued production of the Explore Black Charleston guide, we have overhauled our African American website to reflect the printed piece. Please see that work by following this link: exploreblackcharleston.com. We are honored to lift the Black culture in our region, and further, to provide economic opportunities to Black-owned businesses that might benefit from tourism.

Our Gullah People exhibit is in the works for the Charleston Visitor Center as well, with anticipated installation this summer. This exhibit will be multifaceted, with original baskets from over 30 local weavers, a sweetgrass basket stand replicating those along Highway 17 in Mount Pleasant, and both written and recorded presentations interpreting the Gullah impact. We look forward to sharing the important history and contributions of the Gullah people to our region and our nation with visitors from across the globe.

These projects provide a more robust experience for our visitors and most importantly, will continue to benefit the Black community into the future. Please call me with any questions at 843-805-3063. Many thanks for your support!

Sincerely,

Laurie Lynn A. Smith
Chief of Staff



CHARLESTON AREA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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