



June 25, 2025

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

Dear Ms. James,

We're thrilled to share that funding for our *Explore Black Charleston* initiatives has exceeded all expectations—thanks to your support and belief in the power of cultural storytelling.

With this momentum, we've not only continued production of the *Explore Black Charleston* guide, but also completed a full overhaul of our African American heritage website to align with the printed piece. We invite you to explore the updated site at www.exploreblackcharleston.com.

It is a true honor to uplift and celebrate Black culture in our region. These efforts also help create meaningful economic opportunities for Black-owned businesses that stand to benefit from increased cultural tourism.

We're also excited to announce that our *Gullah People* exhibit has been completed for the Charleston Visitor Center. This rich, immersive experience includes:

- Original sweetgrass baskets from over 30 local weavers
- A recreated Highway 17-style basket stand from Mount Pleasant
- Written and audio components interpreting the enduring influence of the Gullah people

If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at (843) 805-3063.

Sincerely,

Laurie Lynn A. Smith
Chief of Staff

CHARLESTON AREA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

375 Meeting Street | Charleston, South Carolina 29403 | 843.853.8000 | ExploreCharleston.com

@ExploreCharleston @ExploreCHS



State of South Carolina Contribution Expenditure Report

This form is designed to collect the quarterly and annual expenditure reports required by South Carolina in accordance with Proviso 117.21 of the appropriations act and Executive Order 2022-19. This form must be submitted to the state agency that is providing the contribution to the designation organization at the end of year quarter and by June 30, 2025.

Contribution Information

Amount	State Agency Providing the Contribution	Purpose
	P280 - Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism	Explore Black Charleston - \$100,000

Organization Information

Entity Name	Explore Charleston
Address	375 Meeting St
City/State/Zip	Charleston, SC 29403
Website	www.ExploreCharleston.com
Tax ID#	03-0386059
Entity Type	Nonprofit Organization

Organization Contact Information

Name	Laurie Lynn Smith
Position/Title	Chief of Staff
Telephone	(843) 805-3063
Email	lsmith@explorecharleston.com

Reporting Period

Reporting Period	Quarter 4: April 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025
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Accounting of how the funds have been spent:

Description (Attach additional detail for subgrantees and affiliated nonprofits)	Budget	Expenditures				Total	Balance
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4		
Explore Black Charleston publication	\$100,000.00					\$0.00	\$100,000.00
Publication edits			\$850.00			\$850.00	-\$850.00
Publication printing				\$36,965.16		\$36,965.16	-\$36,965.16
Gullah Exhibit costs					\$70,247.00	\$70,247.00	-\$70,247.00
						\$0.00	\$0.00
						\$0.00	\$0.00
						\$0.00	\$0.00
						\$0.00	\$0.00
						\$0.00	\$0.00
Grand Total	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$850.00	\$36,965.16	\$70,247.00	\$108,062.16	-\$8,062.16

Explanation of any unspent funds (to be provided only if unspent funds remain at the end of the fiscal year):

Expenditure Certification

The Organization certifies that the funds have been expended in accordance with the Plan provided to the Agency Providing the Distribution and for a public purpose.

Lauric Smith

Signature

Lauric Smith

Printed Name

Chief of Staff

Title

6.25.25

Date