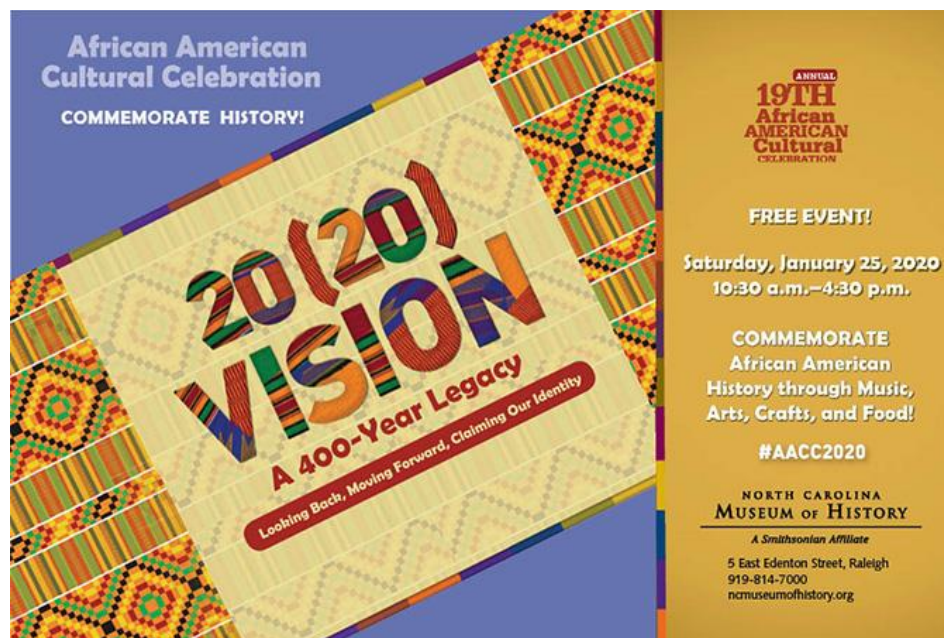


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Five "Can't Miss" Features at the 19th Annual African American Cultural Celebration!



RALEIGH, N.C. — Are you planning to attend the North Carolina Museum of History’s **19th Annual African American Cultural Celebration (AACC 2020)** this Saturday, January 25? To help you decide, read on for just five of our “can’t miss” features that will bring AACC 2020 to life for you and your audiences.

- **Procession (10:30–11 a.m., Bicentennial Plaza into Lobby)**
Follow this parade to kick off the celebration. You’ll hear the thunderous sound of the [Tryon Palace Jonkonnu Drummers](#) and of [Saint Augustine’s University Superior Sound Marching Band and Drumline](#) as they lead the opening ceremony. Actor/singer **Lynette Barber** concludes the opening kickoff with “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” (Later in the day, visitors may attend a session with Kelly Starling Lyons, author of *Sing a Song*, which celebrates that Black National Anthem and shows how it inspired five generations of a family.)

- Boricua Soul: Blending Puerto Rican and African American Flavors and Culture (12:45–1:30 p.m., Cardinal Classrom, SECU Education Center, Level R)**

Owners **Toriano and Serena Fredericks** have a loyal fan base for their food truck—recognizable by the African symbol Sankofa, which means “go back and get it.” Toriano creates soul food classics from his southern grandparent’s kitchen; Serena executes Latin dishes from her Puerto Rican heritage. In 2019 *IndyWeek* named Boricua Soul one of the best food trucks in the Triangle for its tasty empanadas, pork platters, collards, and mac-and-cheese. Hear them talk about their food and the opening of their brick-and-mortar spot at the American Tobacco Campus. Other similar sessions feature other African American entrepreneurs (like Teli Shabu, who helped start a tour company that focuses on Durham’s African American history) and food-related programs (like Eric Hurdle, who returned to his passion of 30 years and side hustle, Eric’s Cheesecakes, after being laid off his IT job several years ago).
- Louis Austin and the Carolina Times: A Life in the Long Black Struggle (2:45– 3:15 p.m., Dogwood Classroom, SECU Education Center, Level R)**

Jerry Gershenhorn, professor of history and director of graduate studies at North Carolina Central University, will discuss Austin, an influential leader and publisher, and the subject of his latest book, which won the 2018 Ragan Old North State Award for Nonfiction. *A book signing follows this presentation.* This is just one of the many amazing sessions featuring and assortment of storytellers, spoken word artists, and authors.
- Civil War Reenactors (10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., The Story of North Carolina gallery, Lobby Level)**

Glimpse what life was like for African American soldiers who served during the Civil War as reenactors portray members of Battery B, 2nd Regiment, US Colored Light Artillery; 18th Army Corps; and 37th US Colored Infantry. Other lobby-level performers include roaming musicians Dwight Hawkins, making music with a saw, some bones, and a guitar, and Freddy Greene on saxophone; and, be sure to search out the Majestic Angels (Daniels Auditorium, 11 a.m.)—a senior citizen dance troupe!
- Farms and Markets (10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Bicentennial Plaza)**

Visit with some of North Carolina’s black farmers and buy some of their produce and goods. Outdoor vendors will include **Sankofa Farms**; Julius Tillery, farmer and owner of **Black Cotton**; and third-generation farmers Stanley Hughes and Linda Leech, **Pine Knot Farms**. Plan to stay awhile: have lunch at the museum restaurant, Sweet Tea and Cornbread, operated in the legacy of Durham’s Mama Dip by her granddaughter, Tonya Council.

[Click here](#) for photos from last year’s event, see the full [schedule of events](#), find [directions and parking](#), and view our 2020 [promotional video](#).

About the N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian affiliate

The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 400,000 people visit the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

For information about the N.C. Museum of History, call 919-814-7000 or access ncmuseumofhistory.org or follow on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+ or YouTube.

About the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit www.ncdcr.gov.

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