

Media Contacts:

Marcie Gordon, Director, Community Engagement and Marketing
919-280-1888, marcie.gordon@ncdcr.gov
Alyson Vuley, Community Programs and Festivals Coordinator
919-814-7039, alyson.vuley@ncdcr.gov



Virtual Points of Interest to the Media

The 20th Annual African American Cultural Celebration



Images: [Dropbox link](#) for promotional images, courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

RALEIGH, N.C. — Join us online for the North Carolina Museum of History’s [20th annual African American Cultural Celebration](#) on Saturday, January 30! This free virtual statewide kickoff to Black History Month, named a Top 20 Event by the Southeast Tourism Society, will bring together community organizations, authors, artists, musicians, filmmakers, and scholars. The 2021 festival showcases the contributions that African Americans, past and present, have made to North Carolina’s history and culture.

Read on for just five of our “can’t miss” features—each will bring the AACC to life for audiences!

Celebrate, be inspired, see, and be uplifted by:

- **All the Songs We Sing: An Anthology Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Carolina African American Writers’ Collective (1 p.m., virtually)**

The Carolina African American Writers’ Collective was founded by poet and North Carolina native Lenard D. Moore 25 years ago and has cultivated nearly 70 writers whose genres include poetry, prose, essays, and dramatic works. The group has been featured at numerous readings, festivals, and conferences in North Carolina and beyond, and various members have received international recognition for their writings and literary performances.

- **Stories from the Underground Railroad in Halifax (1 p.m., virtually)**

Discover the tremendous number of freedom seekers who had connections to Halifax County, and hear their inspiring stories during this presentation by **Steven Green**, Halifax County Underground Railroad Trail; **Rodney Pierce**, historian; and **Jackie Ruffin-Pittman**, storyteller. Halifax County has three National Park Service–designated Network to Freedom sites: Historic Halifax, the Roanoke River, and the Roanoke Canal.

- **Community Activism in Wilmington with Support the Port (1:30 p.m., virtually)**

Cedric Harris is founder of the Support the Port foundation, a 501(c)(3) whose mission is to enhance, cultivate, and provide a renewed sense of community ownership and excellence for residents of Wilmington. In response to COVID-19, Support the Port is offering two coloring books, *Wilmington in Color* and *History in Action*, for free (donations appreciated) download online.

- **Woke! Cartoonist Keith Knight (3 p.m., virtually)**

Keith Knight is many things to many people—rapper, social activist, father, and educator among them. He’s also one of the funniest and most highly regarded cartoonists in America. Creator of popular comic strips “The Knight Life,” “(th)ink,” and “The K Chronicles,” Knight also illustrated the *Jake the Fake* book series for children and is also the writer—and inspiration—for the Hulu series *Woke*.

- **Black-Owned Farms and Healthy Foods That Boost Immunity (3:30 p.m., virtually)**

The daughter of Dr. Milton Quigless, a ground-breaking African American doctor in Tarboro, **Carol Quigless** has studied a variety of natural healing traditions, and her interest in nutritional cooking led her to open one of the first home-delivery meal services in Los Angeles. Now living in Virginia, Carol frequently leads workshops on holistic healing and vegan cuisine.

–
For a complete schedule and information about registering for all online sessions, visit [NC-AACC.com](https://www.nc-aacc.com).

For information about the NC Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate museum, call 919-814-7000 or access ncmuseumofhistory.org or follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [YouTube](#).

About the NC Museum of History

The North Carolina Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate, fosters a passion for North Carolina history. This museum collects and preserves artifacts of state history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. **Admission is free.** Last year, more than 465,000 people visited 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 NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

About the Smithsonian Affiliations Network

Since 2006, the North Carolina Museum of History has been a Smithsonian Affiliate, part of a select group of museums, cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share Smithsonian resources with the nation. The Smithsonian Affiliations network is a national outreach program that develops long-term collaborative partnerships with museums, educational, and cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. More information is available at affiliations.si.edu.

About the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The North Carolina 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 natural assets 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, as well as 39 state parks and recreation areas, the North Carolina Zoo, the nation's first state-supported symphonic orchestra, the State Library of North Carolina, the State Archives of North Carolina, the North Carolina Arts Council, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, and the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, along with the state Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, call 919-814-6800 or visit DNCR.nc.gov.

###