2009 Carolopolis Awards

Pictured Carolopolis Winner: The Marshlands House. Photography: Jay White

Preserving the Past for the Future
Letter from the President, Board of Directors

A few years ago, I wrote an article that appeared in Preservation Progress. It was written after my second term on the Society’s Board. Its title was “The Last Goodbye.” I was certain, having served as Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Committee, President and Immediate Past President that there was no way I would ever be back on the Board of this venerable organization. I took the time then to set out my thoughts on where the Society was and what it needed. While many years have passed and new challenges are before us, much of the opposition to historic preservation, in its true form, remains as strong and powerful as ever. Most of what I said then is still needed by the Society. Our good fortune is that there are still those who believe and are willing to fight for the Society’s guiding principles. Most of those people are members of the Preservation Society. The rest of you, I ask to join us. I started my first presidency when the Society was in its 75th year. You would hope that our job was done long ago. The principles are so basic - save the worthy from the past and insist that the best of the new be integrated properly with the old to maintain and expand one of the world’s most interesting and beautiful cities. Instead we need to re-tool, recruit and reunite the preservation community. The Society is now 90 years old and too many people still think we have to beg for scraps. We no longer have to take whatever corporate design is thrust upon us or accept third rate design and construction to save money for a few developers.

The collapse of the economy in 2008 has shown an over-dependence on development in our financial system. The shut down of most residential and commercial projects has hurt us all. This circumstance has resulted in the delay of some very unfortunate developments in Charleston. No one wishes the hardship of this economy to continue, however, during this time we hope many lessons will be learned. One such lesson is that the work to preserve historic Charleston was not begun - and should never be done - for any business purpose including tourism or as a stage for any number of festivals.

No community can remain festive all year round. The City cannot retain charm and beauty under the strain of too many people, cars, buses, carriages, rickshaws and noise. The Old City has reached its limit. Plan the City for its citizens and tourists will come. Limit the number of new hotels and those that are here will prosper. Maintain a restaurant of the quality that so when a visitor asks, “where do the locals eat,” it is a Four Star

President’s Letter continued on page 13
Exterior Preservation

The Award for Exterior Preservation is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity and materials of an historic property.

Exterior Rehabilitation

Exterior Rehabilitation is characterized as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alteration, and additions, while preserving those portions or features which convey its historic, cultural or architectural value.

New Construction

The award for New Construction is given to a new building that is architecturally and aesthetically an asset within the context of the existing streetscape and neighborhood.

Exterior Restoration

The award for Exterior Restoration is given for accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular time.

The Carolopolis award embodies the purpose of the Preservation Society to cultivate and encourage interest in the preservation of buildings, sites, and structures of historical and aesthetic significance. Since inception of the program in 1953, the Preservation Society has presented 1,323 awards in recognition of such achievement. Charleston Place Hotel’s Riviera Conference Theatre was the site of the Society’s 90th Annual Meeting and Carolopolis/Pro Merito Awards Ceremony recognizing outstanding achievement in exterior preservation, restoration, rehabilitation and new construction in the City of Charleston. The Preservation Society’s Acting Director, Robert Gurley, presented the 2009 awards to eight recipients.
**Pro Merito Exterior Rehabilitation**

**18 Lamboll Street**

Charleston Village • 1967 Charleston

This two-and-one-half story masonry single house was constructed circa 1807 by Josiah Taylor. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps indicate that an extensive renovation took place sometime between 1888 and 1902, altering the piazza to create a connector between the main house and the kitchen building. The most notable alteration was the abandonment of the original piazza screen entry, replaced by brick stairs that relocated the entrance to the west side of the house.

A significant part of the work plan undertaken by owners Bonnie and Edward Gilbreth was to return the piazza screen entry to its original location. Original footings were found during excavation of the foundation and a new piazza entry was constructed based on early 19th century examples found in the neighborhood. The badly deteriorated piazza was restored and columns, balustrades, ceilings, and floors were repaired or replaced. Original mortise and tenon joists were photographed and preserved, although they are no longer visible. Additional work included extensive masonry, stucco, roof, and window repair.

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**Pro Merito Exterior Rehabilitation**

**42 Gadsden Street**

Harleston Village • 1967 Charleston

Constructed circa 1855 as the carriage house to Washington Jefferson Bennett’s house at 60 Montagu, 42 Gadsden features a pair of Gothic Revival carriage doors contained within an arch. Attic windows with decorative turned balustrades, set along the upper level of the façade, are reminiscent of those found on the 1844 Bennett Rice Mill believed to have been designed by Mr. Bennett’s father, Governor Bennett.

Property owners Steven and Mary Caroline Stewart engaged an exterior work plan to repair deteriorated windows, repoint masonry with lime mortar, and replace an asphalt shingle roof with a slate roof. New carriage doors were constructed with period detailing and the modern brick infill in the two spandrels was removed and replaced with wooden louvers.
Exterior Preservation

7ARREN3TREET
Radcliffeborough

Property owners Henry and Liza Cleveland developed the work plan for exterior preservation of their two-story frame house, constructed circa 1890. It features two interior Gothic hooded chimneys and a piazza screen entry with a bracketed hood and transomed door. The front facade is distinguished by brackets at the gable end with jigsaw cut gable trim. The plan involved repairing the standing seam metal roof and replacing deteriorated windows and exterior doors. The porch was completely rehabilitated by replacing the floor decking and structural floor joints and a compatible tongue and groove porch ceiling was installed. Foundation piers were repaired and reinforced. The plan was completed by removing all exterior plumbing, sewer, and HVAC lines, painting the exterior and installing a new garden and landscaping plan.

Pro Merito Exterior Rehabilitation

37 Hasell Street
Jones-Howell House • Ansonborough

In 1841, Eliza Jones ordered the construction of a three-story brick home with a large piazza, carriage house, and stables. The side hall double parlor plan of the interior was very much in vogue in Charleston during the mid-nineteenth century. The property passed to Eliza’s daughter, Mrs. Sidney Howell, and remained in the Howell family for nearly a century.

Now owned by Jim and Sue Scarborough, the exterior rehabilitation sought “to preserve the historic, cultural, and architectural value” of the house by restoring the front entry, refurbishing the original zinc pediment, and repairing deteriorated windows and cladding. Carriage house openings were reconfigured to resemble the originals, a 1980s parking court was removed and re-landscaped, and a compatible one-story garage was constructed.
Exterior Rehabilitation

217 Fort Johnson Rd.

Marshlands House • James Island

This two-and-one-half story clapboard structure, known as the Marshlands House, was built on the Ball family rice plantation circa 1810. It served as officers’ quarters until 1961 when the Navy declared plans for its demolition.

Preservation Society efforts to preserve the property were accomplished with support of the Historic Charleston Foundation and a $10,000 grant from the Richardson Foundation of New York. The grant allowed the house to be moved down the Ashley River to its present location on James Island. The property was later acquired by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and now serves as its Region 4 headquarters.

Non-historic porch screening was replaced with mahogany-framed, copper window screens to allow proper ventilation. Deteriorated siding, dentil molding and shutters were repaired or replaced. The standing seam metal roof was replaced in kind, using hand-seamed details appropriate to the structure. Caulk was removed from the siding lap joints and steel pipe handrails were replaced with wood handrails compatible to the structure.

Exterior Rehabilitation

434 King Street

Commercial District

Constructed as a frame, mixed use commercial/residential single house circa 1895, this King Street structure was built on the site of a shoe factory first operated by James Elder in the 1840s. In the mid-twentieth century, the structure was altered and a stucco-over-brick veneer was applied to the front façade.

Current owner Ted Stoney’s goal was to rehabilitate the property in such a way so that the building’s former single house character would once again be an integral part of the city’s streetscape. The first floor storefront was modified with wood trim and doors, the modern brick painted, and a large canopy added to create a more substantial, unified ground floor.

Physical evidence in the interior motivated enlarging the second floor windows to approximate their original size. A large, leaded glass window acknowledges the presence of the original piazza and serves to frame views of the interior stair.
New Construction

**One Cool Blow**

Located in the historic “Cool Blow Village” platted in 1857, One Cool Blow is a five-story, mixed use loft development owned by One Cool Blow, LLC. Industrial uses in the area had destroyed much of the area’s historic fabric and the goal was to create a new context for the neighborhood. Drawing inspiration from buildings that exemplify Charleston’s institutional and industrial architecture of the late 19th century, such as the Cigar Factory and the Murray Vocational School, the contemporary façades reinterpret the traditional architectural vocabulary of base, shaft, and capital.

Each building qualifies for a LEED Silver rating. A green roof system has been installed that reduces heat, cleans and filters rainwater and, when coupled with the pervious concrete paving and cistern system, greatly reduces the amount of storm water runoff. Breaking the mass of the project into three buildings creates additional green space for the public realm and provides open vistas through the property.

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**Exterior Restoration**

**4 Carolina Street**

This American Foursquare residence was constructed in 1902 and exemplifies the popular house style of the Arts and Crafts era that spanned from the 1890s to the 1930s. Prized for the utility of its boxy shape, the house is characterized by a standing seam metal hip roof with deep overhang, a hipped dormer with fixed windows, a full width porch, and an off-set front door with transom and sidelights.

Owner Lauren and Irish Ryan Neville sought to return the property to single family use after its conversion to a duplex in the 1960s. The project involved removing the interior duplex doors, restoring the front door, and rehabilitating the collapsed front porch while retaining the original bead board ceiling. The standing seam metal roof was repaired, a rear addition was removed, foundation piers were repointed, and the exterior was repainted.
Since 1993, the Daniel M. Hundley Fund has provided summer internships at the Preservation Society of Charleston for college and graduate level students. The Hundley Fund was established at the Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina by Daniel Hundley’s parents, Mrs. Evelyn Richards and Mr. Walter R. Hundley in memory of their son, Daniel, following his death in 1993. Daniel was a gifted watercolor artist whose work as an intern at the Preservation Society was a passion.

To date, the Daniel M. Hundley Fund has provided fifteen students with real life experiences in preservation. One of the most important contributions is the compilation of house histories that improve upon the existing architectural and historical data shared with our Fall Tour guests. The Society boasts an extensive database of house histories as a result of this annual internship.

The 2009 summer intern was Ashton Mullins. Ashton is currently a student at the University of Georgia pursuing her Master of Science degree in Historic Preservation. A native of Atlanta, Ashton received her undergraduate degree from the University of Colorado in 2008. While working on her degree, she worked for Historic Boulder, Inc. and volunteered as a docent and house captain for their winter and spring historic home tours. In addition to her historical and architectural research, she has assisted Robert Gurley with the Halsey Map Project, the Society’s multi-layered preservation research and interactive website program. “I am so fortunate to have the opportunity to work for this organization. I’ve learned so much about Charleston from the staff and volunteers here at the Preservation Society, knowledge that I cannot wait to take back with me as I continue my last year in the graduate program.”

The Hundley Fund is a lasting legacy to our organization and fosters the goals of preservation in Charleston. To learn more about establishing a fund, contact the Preservation Society at 843-722-4630 or preserve@preservationsociety.org.
Please consider the Preservation Society of Charleston when planning your legacy by making provisions that will give a lasting gift toward the preservation of Charleston for future generations. With your gift, you will become a member of the Susan Frost Circle.

Susan Pringle Frost, or “Miss Sue” as she was affectionately known, was one of the founders of the Society for the Preservation of Old Dwellings. This organization was founded in 1920 and the name was changed in 1956 to the Preservation Society of Charleston. Miss Sue worked diligently to preserve and save whole neighborhoods and helped to establish Charleston’s first Historic Zoning Ordinance in 1931, which formed America’s first historic district. This ordinance served as a model for other cities nationwide.

Part of the Victorian generation of “new women” who blended traditional virtues with activist social roles, Miss Sue became one of Charleston’s first women to be a licensed real estate agent. Her uncle, William Bull Pringle, admonished her to “be content like other Victorian ladies who fill their natural mission in life.” We should all be very grateful that she refused his advice. The News and Courier once wrote: “If Charlestonians want to do full honor to Miss Frost, the best way to do so is by working with zeal against urban blight, ugliness and bad zoning which destroy a city. Not to be forgotten is the importance of investing in neighborhoods which need only a little interest and restoration to bloom again.” Although the challenges the Preservation Society faces today have changed, the issues are broader and more complex. It is rare in 2010 that the Society needs to stop wrecking balls as it did in Miss Sue’s time, although the threat of demolition remains a present danger. However, the Society now must educate and influence policymakers on zoning, land use, sustainability, and green architecture. This important work, however, comes with a cost.

Planned giving—a process of designing an asset-management strategy to allow donors to achieve charitable giving goals—is one way the Society can meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. For more information, please visit our website or call 843-722-4630.
Above: Charleston Orphan House, circa 1853.

Right: The College of Charleston’s Joe. E. Berry Dormitory occupies the location today on St. Phillip Street.

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Today’s preservation issues regarding historic schools tend to focus on purpose-built structures of the twentieth century designed by professional architects and erected by commercial building contractors. Their architectural variety marks changing attitudes about efficient design and visual attractiveness. The educational character of earlier schools in Charleston, however, is not always so clear. By contrast, their private, residential character often obscures their historic use.

Until the Friend Street School (forerunner of the Crafts School) was organized as a free school for white children in 1859, city government limited its role in education to the College of Charleston. Churches and beneficial organizations supported a number of others. Parents who could afford higher tuition sent their children to distant boarding schools, or to private schools housed in dwellings all over the city. Legare Street hosted some of the most prestigious. Location and climate contributed to this status.

In terms of its location, Legare Street, which runs between South Battery and Queen Street, is unique in having been purely residential—no shops, no tanneries, no warehouses. This resulted from its location at the western edge of the planned city, relatively protected from the marshy inlet that regularly overwhelmed other streets. By the time lower Legare Street was reliably passable from South Battery to Tradd, other routes—King, Meeting, and Tradd—were permanently established as Charleston’s primary commercial and shopping arteries.

Climate and type of use also played a part. Legare Street’s clean air was refreshed twice daily by tidal breezes, and, opposite Gibbes Street, the “back garden” of the Miles Brewton House on King Street provided a broad green space into the late 1850s. Moreover, parcels remained undivided through several generations. Nevertheless, a surprising number of Legare Street houses were converted to rental: as residuary property in estates, they served as reliable income properties. The combination of a healthy setting, large houses with ample outbuildings, and rental-readiness made Legare Street houses obvious candidates for boarding and day schools.

Between 1819 and 1934, at least five schools operated on Legare. The first of these was Madame Talvande’s Select School for Young Ladies, followed by Miss Julia Datty’s School and Madame Petit’s School for Young Ladies. After the Civil War came the Misses Murden School for Children and Gaud School. Of these, only two earned lasting reputations, one because of a mythical elopement and one as a forerunner of Porter-Gaud School. Miss Datty’s heritage remains in the Catholic diocese’s school system; Madame Petit is forgotten except by music historians; and the Misses Murden School—later the Misses Sass School—survives in the recollections of middle-aged Charlestonians who recall where their grandparents learned to read and write.

Asked to name an earlier girls’ school than present-day Ashley Hall, many Charlestonians reply, “the Sword Gate House,” home to Madame Talvande. The reason is not the quality of Madame Talvande’s school, which was high, or her longevity on Legare Street, which was considerable, but the power of fable. The legend of a young boarder escaping her schoolmistress to be secretly married has been repeated endlessly, but never officially documented. Alice R.H. Smith (The Dwelling Houses of Charleston, 1917), recounted the yarn told by “an old lady who was a pupil at that school some eighty years ago,” adding the second component of the romance: Madame Talvande built the high wall around the grounds to prevent further getaways. The fact that the wall was in place before Talvande bought the property cannot stand.
in the way of a good story. Neither can it be killed by the implausibility of a school’s reputation surviving such a scandal in that era. The myth lives on, however, in the stories of many tour guides, but overshadows the story of one of Charleston’s immigrant communities.

Andre and Ann Marsan Talvande were refugees from revolutionary upheaval in Santo Domingo (Haiti). Beginning in 1793, hundreds of white Santo Domingans reached Charleston and needed to earn a living. Raised in a world of cultivated privilege, they suddenly found themselves with no land and only the few domestic slaves they had brought with them. Turning their education and accomplishments to profit, many became school teachers, music and dancing teachers, and even fencing instructors.

One of the first of these was Marc Datty, who taught French in his Hasell Street home. Aided by his daughter Julia, Mr. Datty expanded his operation into a boarding academy. In time, Julia Datty took over the school, employing several part-time teachers. Under Miss Datty’s careful eye, teenagers became charming companions in the drawing room and at the dining table, as familiar as their future husbands with art, literature, and foreign travel. Despite moving every few years, the small school flourished, and Datty’s wealthy clients endorsed it as the best of its type. As evidence of this devotion, Hannah Shubrick (Mrs. William) Heyward in 1829 bequeathed five hundred dollars to “my much esteemed friend Julia Datty.” She further directed that for five years her furnished house (31 Legare), across from Madame Talvande’s, should be rented to benefit her heirs. Miss Julia Datty immediately leased the property, moving her books, desks, slaves, and boarders into the Heyward home. This tenancy was brief. In 1831, Miss Datty closed her school, joined the convent of the Sisters of Mercy, and organized its School for Young Ladies.

During her tenure, Julia Datty educated Jane Amelia Postell. Later, as Mrs. James L. Petigru, Jane sent her own daughter, Susan, to Madame Talvande’s in the mid-1830s. Susan Petigru complained angrily about the high academic expectations, while her classmate, Mary Boykin Miller, was an enthusiastic pupil. Nevertheless, both were served as adults well by their education. Susan King’s novels and short stories made her a minor celebrity in the literary and social worlds of New York City and Washington, D.C. Mary Boykin Chesnut’s Civil War diary continues to be required reading for any student of South Carolina history.

One more house on Legare Street, the two-story residence at today’s 17 Legare Street, is also known to have housed an antebellum school. During the ownership of Dr. Amory Coffin between 1855 and 1857, the property was leased to Madame Victor Petit and her daughter, Hermina, for their School for Young Ladies. By 1855, control of Charleston’s private education had passed from Santo Domingans to other enterprising immigrants. The Belgian-born Petit family arrived in 1853 with significant advantages as female school proprietors: French was their
mother tongue, Victor Petit was a published composer, and Miss Hermina Petit had sung for European royalty. As teachers, they were immediately successful. Mrs. Petit and her daughter retrenched after Mr. Petit’s sudden death in 1856, renting 17 Legare Street and resuming the voice lessons he had started. Soon they opened a school that offered “all the branches . . . for a finished education. French will be exclusively spoken.” Upon the sale of their rented building on Legare Street, the Petits moved to other quarters. They were put out of business only by the Civil War, an event that temporarily halted the notion of teaching children on the lower peninsula. Too close to cannon fire, this area was effectively abandoned.

Eliza Crawley Murden, the wife of a ship’s broker and herself a published poet, had begun Mrs. Eliza Murden’s Seminary in the 1820s. Her three daughters joined her as teachers; one of her daughters, Octavia, remained involved even after marrying Jacob K. Sass. During Sass’s rise to the presidency of the Bank of Charleston, his wife and her sisters continued Misses Murden’s Female Seminary on Society Street, boarding a half-dozen girls each year, until war forced them to close.

Octavia Murden Sass died late in 1862 and a few months later, Jacob Sass bought today’s 23 Legare Street. Despite the Union siege, he, his children and their aunts, Malvina and Victoria Murden, moved into the new home. By the time the Civil War ended, Jacob Sass had died. When full-time residents returned to the lower peninsula after the Civil War, Malvina and Victoria Murden and the Sass daughters, Mary and Jane, worked in the new Misses Murden School for Children at 23 Legare, while his son, G. Herbert Sass, returned to class at the College of Charleston. When G. Herbert Sass began practicing law, his elderly aunts finally retired. A decade later, the academy was revived as the Misses Sass School, where Mary and Jane Sass worked into their sixties.

The Misses Sass School was in its heyday in 1908 when William S. Gaud, former headmaster of Lawrence Academy in Massachusetts, opened a new school next door. Gaud had married Isabel Williams of Charleston, and began the Gaud School for boys in a building behind their home at 29 Legare Street. Well-established by 1912 when the Gauds sold the property, Gaud School remained a respected college preparatory school. In 1964, the Gaud School merged with Porter Military Academy and the Watt School to become Porter-Gaud School.

No active schools remain on Legare Street today. The school founded by Julia Datty has become part of the Charleston Catholic School. The Crafts School was converted into condominiums in the mid-1980s. On lower Legare Street, the classroom outbuildings have mostly been demolished, and the houses and gardens no longer ring with the clamor of dozens of pupils. They serve as visible reminders, though, of the young scholars who once roamed the neighborhood on the way to their lessons.
restaurant - or a corner store with a dynamite sandwich - so the recently acquired reputation of Charleston as a food destination will flourish. Always helpful is the use of as many local crops and fresh seafood to grow and sustain our economy.

Plan quiet, safe rail travel and a comprehensive bus system to feed off of so Charleston and visitors alike will use it. Continue the effort to rehabilitate empty or decaying areas with well designed, human scale projects that only add to the City. When the economy comes back, we should have workable plans for a growing city that will produce good-paying jobs plus be the only place we want to live. If the many projects and plans pick up where they left off, the skyline of the City will be less noticeable as Charleston. If massive buildings are wedged side by side with earlier structures, their size will darken the streets of the City. According to studies, the number one draw to the City is its history but in the planning for growth it appears to be the last consideration. Archeology is inadequate. Respect for cemeteries, and those who were placed in them with a promise to let them rest in peace, is ignored. Historic sites above Calhoun Street and on the waterfront are almost always dismissed as irrelevant. This entire area is layered with the remnants of the two defining wars which formed this country and the culture that fueled them. These, like all places which concern preservationists, must be saved for future generations because recycling is one very important reason preservationists do what they do.

My plea is to those who love this City and the Lowcountry, whether you live here now or visit when you can, whether you moved here last week or were born in the house your great-great-grandparents built within the sound of St. Michael’s chimes, to come together, to come home, to come to be active in the ongoing movement to preserve our City. As stewards of our unique City, it is up to us to discourage momentary profit for a few, thereby reducing the risk of demeaning or destroying any of the history, culture or beauty of this community. This is difficult if you are raising children, have a job that does not end at 5:00 pm, or are taking classes in the evening, but this can be done. Many of the decisions that change the city are made when most of us are tending to our daily work. If we want to leave the City’s remaining creeks, and grand landscapes to the next generation of Charlestonians to love as much as we do, you must all find a role, whether as a volunteer, a financial supporter, a voice at public meetings or a writer of letters and articles. The only real power a membership-based organization has is its people. If the preservationist, the people of Charleston and the surrounding community do not find one united reasoned voice, and find it soon, we will lose out to commercial interests the greatest joys of living here.

- Rick Corrigan, President
The field of entomology may never be the same. At Charleston Collegiate School, we know that success in this century requires a learning environment that values intellectual risks… a community that nurtures individuality… a faculty that encourages the collaboration of young minds… and the knowledge that an encounter with *Dissosteira carolina* can be “way cool.”

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**IN MEMORIAM**

The Preservation Society of Charleston was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Terri Glenn who, for many of us at the Society, exemplified the spirit of volunteerism at its very best. Terri Lee Maynard Glenn of Charleston, who died September 13, 2009, had been an active volunteer for the Preservation Society of Charleston for close to 20 years. In particular, she enjoyed helping with the Society’s annual Fall Tours of Homes & Gardens as a Street Chairman. “It was always a joy to work with Terri, whose wonderful spirit and love of Charleston was evident in all she did,” said Ginger Scully, Director of Programs and Operations. “She gave so much to the Society and to others, always with a smile on her face.” The Society’s condolences are extended to her family and loved ones. Terri is missed by her many friends and acquaintances in Charleston, her adopted home.

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**At 9:44 on a Tuesday morning, Lucy used the words “bugs” and “way cool” together in a sentence for the very first time.**

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**The Preservation Society of Charleston**
Mission of the Preservation Society of Charleston

F O U N D E D  I N  1 9 2 0

To inspire the involvement of all who dwell in the Lowcountry
to honor and respect our material and cultural heritage.