

# VICTORIA A. SMALLS

## SMALLS CULTURAL RESOURCES, St. Helena Island, SC

### President & CEO

November 2023—Present

Victoria A. Smalls serves as the President & CEO of Smalls Cultural Resources, an organization devoted to the advocacy and preservation of Gullah Geechee heritage across the southeastern United States. Her leadership emphasizes climate, land, and ocean justice, as well as the rich history, art, language, and culture of Gullah Geechee communities. Offers consultancy services to local, state, federal, and international agencies, and community organizations. Under her direction, Smalls Cultural Resources strives to build sustainable communities through strategic partnerships and comprehensive cultural initiatives.

### Key Responsibilities and Services:

- Project Consultation: Provide foundational guidance for clients, ensuring the successful implementation of heritage-related projects. Ensuring these projects accurately reflect and honor the rich heritage and history of the Gullah Geechee and African American communities.
- Certified Grant Writer: Offer essential grant writing services to secure funding for projects focused on heritage preservation and advocacy.
- Land Preservation Plans and Advocacy: Commitment to protecting land crucial to Gullah Geechee heritage, advocating for its preservation through cultural protection overlays and network partnerships.
- Climate and Ocean Justice: Engage in efforts to address the impacts of climate change and ocean degradation on cultural and natural environments.
- Heritage Travel Resources: Connect historical narratives to physical locations, offering immersive and educational travel experiences.
  - Executive Level Guided Tours: Lead immersive tours within the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor.
- Gullah Geechee Teachers Institute: Promote educational initiatives and symposia to pass on cultural knowledge to future generations.
- Prayer House Preservation Project: Actively participate in maintaining and preserving cultural and sacred landmarks.
- Cultural Center and Museum Consultation: Provide expertise in curatorial practices and the interpretation of Gullah Geechee culture.
- Heritage Festival, Program, and Event Consulting: Organize and consult on events to engage the community and raise awareness about Gullah Geechee culture.
- Presentations on History, Art, and Culture: Deliver informative presentations that reflect her extensive knowledge and expertise in Gullah Geechee heritage.
- Keynote Speaker: Share the rich heritage of Gullah Geechee culture through impactful speaking engagements.
- Gullah Language Consultant: Provide expertise in the Gullah language to preserve and promote its use within cultural and educational contexts.

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## GULLAH GEECHEE CULTURAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA, Beaufort, SC

### Executive Director

July 2021—November 2023

As the Executive Director of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor (GGCHC), Victoria Smalls oversaw the strategic and operational implementation of the Management Plan for this 12,000-square-mile National Heritage Area. Her leadership was pivotal in preserving, interpreting, and sharing the rich history, traditional cultural practices, heritage sites, and natural resources of Gullah Geechee communities in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

#### Management and Leadership:

- Designed and supervised the organization's operations to ensure cost-effective implementation of the Management Plan, maintaining federal National Heritage Area status.
- Recruited and managed staff and partner organizations, fostering a collaborative environment to achieve the GGCHC's mission.
- Ensured compliance with federal regulations and standards, securing the organization's good standing as a National Heritage Area.
- Developed and executed strategic plans to enhance organizational growth and community engagement.

#### Program Development and Implementation:

- Led the creation and direction of community-driven cultural heritage programs, highlighting the contributions of Gullah Geechee people to American culture and history.
- Developed educational programs and public outreach initiatives to increase awareness and appreciation of Gullah Geechee heritage.
- Assisted federal, state, and local governments, as well as public and private entities, in interpreting and sharing Gullah Geechee history.
- Collaborated with communities and partners to identify, preserve, and promote Gullah Geechee heritage sites, historical data, artifacts, and objects.

#### Community and Partnership Engagement:

- Fostered strong relationships with Gullah Geechee communities and external partners to support heritage preservation and educational efforts.
- Organized and participated in heritage festivals, workshops, and symposiums to promote cultural exchange and community engagement.
- Served as a key liaison between the GGCHC and various stakeholders, advocating for the preservation and recognition of Gullah Geechee culture.

#### Fundraising Development and Grant Writing:

- Spearheaded fundraising efforts, securing grants and donations to support the GGCHC's programs and initiatives.
- Authored and submitted successful grant proposals, obtaining crucial funding from federal, public, and private sources.
- Managed the allocation and reporting of federal, public, and private funding, ensuring compliance with funding requirements and optimal use of resources.

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## Executive Duties:

- Represented the GGCHC at national conferences, public events, and media engagements, raising the profile of Gullah Geechee heritage on a broader scale.
- Provided executive-level oversight for financial management, budgeting, and resource allocation, ensuring fiscal responsibility and sustainability.
- Authored and contributed to monthly publications, federal reports, and presentations on Gullah Geechee history and culture, furthering academic and public knowledge.

## RECONSTRUCTION ERA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, Beaufort, SC

National Park Service, Department of the Interior

### National Park Ranger

### Education Program Coordinator

### Property Receiving Officer

September 2020—July 23, 2021

Serves as a personable and well-informed ambassador for the Department of the Interior. Educates the public on the Reconstruction era, 1861-1900 the historic period in which the United States grappled with the question of how to integrate millions of newly freed African Americans into social, political, economic, and labor systems.

Serves as a Ranger with the [Reconstruction Era National Historic Network](#).

The network facilitates and reviews Reconstruction Era related research and collaboration with affiliated sites and programs through agreements and partnerships. This network is nationwide and works to provide opportunities for visitors to connect to the stories of Reconstruction.

- Plans and conducts educational and interpretation to educate visitors of all ages and people of diverse backgrounds about historical and natural treasures.
  - Provides education at historic sites within REER Historical Park
    - Old Beaufort Firehouse, Beaufort National Historic Landmark District
    - Camp Saxton, Port Royal
    - Brick Baptist Church and Darrah Hall, Penn School National Historic Landmark District
  - Provide educational content via social media platforms
    - Facebook and website posts
    - Coordinate and present Ranger Chats via video interviews
- Conducts interpretive talks and/or tours
  - Conduct presentations to groups
  - Conduct presentations in-person and virtually to K-12 and collegiate audiences
- Conducts extensive archival research of images and primary resources for interpretive exhibits
  - Possess an in-depth knowledge of both the Reconstruction Era and Gullah Geechee Culture.
- Performs patrols to check conditions at various areas
- Gathers visitor use data
- Participates in certification training in education, ethics, and safety
- Conducts research on historic sites for consideration and admission into the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network
- Serves as a liaison between the Network, REER and affiliated sites

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## ZINN EDUCATION PROJECT (ZINN), Washington, D.C.

The Zinn Education Project promotes and supports the teaching of people's history in classrooms across the country. For more than ten years, the Zinn Education Project has introduced students to a more accurate, complex, and engaging understanding of history than is found in traditional textbooks and curricula.

### **Teach Reconstruction Campaign Organizer for South Carolina**

August 2018—April 2019 - Grant Funded Project. (Temporary Salaried Position – 40+ Hours/Week)

Promoted and supported the teaching of Reconstruction Era history to elementary fifth grade, middle and high school classrooms across South Carolina and Coastal Georgia.

- Promoted the *#TeachReconstruction* campaign and Make Reconstruction History Visible project to teachers and administrators
  - Promoted the Make Reconstruction History Visible project to teachers and administrators
  - Identified key events and opportunities for outreach
    - Utilized a combination of social media, in-person presentations, and email outreach to key contacts
  - Identified key contacts to add to Zinn contact list
- Provided teacher and student support
  - Maintained a list of public historians, scholars, and creatives with expertise in Reconstruction Era history
  - Researched, visited, and compiled list of Reconstruction Era Historical Sites in South Carolina and Georgia for field trips
- Researched and read books, journals, and writings on the Reconstruction Era to compile a resource listing for teachers
- Coordinated professional development opportunities for teachers
  - Presented at professional development workshops and teacher institutes

## CHARLES JOYNER INSTITUTE FOR GULLAH AND AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES, Conway, SC

Coastal Carolina University

The Joyner Institute for Gullah and African Diaspora Studies is the only interdisciplinary institute dedicated to a critical understanding of the experiences of Gullah Geechee people and other descendants within the global African diaspora.

### **Cultural Consultant and Researcher**

November 2020—June 2021

Serves as cultural consultant for Coastal Carolina University's \$270,000 National Historical Publications and Records Commission grant.

- Conducts research on documents and provides summary findings
  - Plantation records
  - Audio recordings
  - Interviews
  - Films and photographs
- Conducts interviews with community members
  - Organizes repatriation events

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## PENN CENTER, INC, St. Helena Island, SC

### PENN SCHOOL NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DISTRICT

Penn Center is one of the most significant African American historical and cultural institutions in existence today. Founded in 1862 as Penn School, one of the country's first schools for formerly enslaved people. It is the only African American National Historic Landmark District located in South Carolina. The mission of Penn Center is to promote and preserve Penn's true history and culture through its commitment to education, community development and social justice.

### Assistant to Executive Director

### Director of Program Development

### Director of the York W. Bailey Museum

### Grants Manager

April 2019—April 2020

Positions Held Simultaneously

Served as the cultural, historical, and creative diplomat for Penn Center, and provided leadership and strategic direction for the department, articulated positive impacts of the Penn Center's 158- year history to the public, to include educational, informational, and professional development for K-12 teachers, instructors, and students in higher education. Also served as the Assistant to the Interim Executive Director and Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

- Researched, authored, and managed programmatic and organizational grants from foundations, corporations, and local, state, and federal agencies
  - USDA Rural Development
  - Beaufort County Accommodations Tax
  - South Carolina Humanities
  - Boeing
- Developed and administered departmental quarterly and annual work-plans and financial reports
  - Assisted with agency audits
- Managed the Courtney P. Siceloff Welcome Center and Staff
  - Organized and conducted monthly and annual inventory reports
  - Compiled monthly, quarterly, and annual revenue reports
  - Trained team on point-of-sale software
- Prepared, summarized, and presented departmental reports for Executive Director and Board of Trustees quarterly meetings
  - Presented History and Culture Quarterly Reports to the Board of Trustees
  - Served on Planning Committee for the 1862 Circle Gala
    - Organized and managed the live and silent auctions
- Recruited, trained, supervised, and evaluated team members of the History, Art, and Culture Program
  - Managed a team of two staff members, ten museum docents, and 85 volunteers
- Managed the History, Art, and Culture program budget of \$250,000
- Curated permanent *Education for Freedom* exhibition and visiting history, art, and culture exhibitions
- Conducted guided-walking group tours of the 50-acre historic district
- Managed Penn Center's archives, *Penn School Papers*, in collaboration with University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill's Southern Historic Collection Department, and on-site art collection
  - Conducted historical research within the collection for internal and external clients
- Coordinated annual Heritage Days Celebration and monthly Community Sing programs
- Developed, coordinated, presented and secured grant funding for a new lectures series, *The Hastings Gantt Reconstruction Era Lecture Series*, with twelve presentations held monthly

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- Collaborated with local and national organizations, historians, authors, and scholars
  - Reconstruction Era National Historic Park, Andrew Johnson National Historic Site, and Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site
  - Reconstruction Beaufort and The Robert Smalls Family
  - South Carolina Humanities and South Carolina African American Heritage Commission
- Researched and presented history, art and culture educational tours, lectures, programs and outreach for the public, civic organizations, universities, K-12 schools, and educators, incorporating South Carolina Social Studies standards
- Conducted research and presented public programming on the following historic topics:
  - *Penn School During the Civil War*
  - *Penn School During the Reconstruction Era*
  - *Civil Rights Movement at Penn Center*
  - *Prayer Houses and the Spirituality of the Gullah Geechee People*
  - *Gullah Geechee Traditional and Contemporary Art Forms*
  - *Women in Reconstruction*
  - *The Life and Times of the Honorable Robert Smalls*
  - *The Life of the Honorable Hastings Gantt*
  - *Charlotte Forten: African American School Teacher in 1862*
  - *The History of Penn School—Penn Center: 158 Years*
- Coordinated and collaborated with the South Carolina Department of Education, under the leadership of the State Superintendent of Education to draft, edit and publish the 2020 SC African American History Calendar featuring Penn School
  - Conducted research and selected historical images from the Penn School Papers to be included in the calendar
  - Authored the Penn School historical narratives for the calendar
- Served as key point of contact, chief translator, and navigator for all major external relationships, and expanded marketing capacity for the organization
  - Authored and released Penn Center’s historical narrative
  - Authored all news releases for the organization
  - Developed and managed annual marketing campaign
  - Coordinated marketing opportunities with national and international media agencies
  - Maintained the organization’s website and social media platforms

## **RALPH APPELBAUM ASSOCIATES, New York, NY**

Ralph Appelbaum Associates is a multidisciplinary firm specializing in the planning and design of museums, exhibits, educational environments and visitor attractions. Founded in 1978, its portfolio includes many of the world’s most recognizable public learning institutions across 700 completed commissions in more than 50 countries.

### **Exhibition Content Advisor (Consultant Position)**

January 2019—December 2019

Reviewed and edited Gullah Geechee and Prayer House exhibition content for the International African American Museum.

- Reviewed and provided input on content strategies for exhibitions
- Edited exhibition content script drafts
- Consulted with project team in weekly conference calls

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- Provided input on image and artifact selections for exhibits
- Met review deadlines for development of exhibition script

## **THE SECOND FOUNDING OF AMERICA: RECONSTRUCTION BEAUFORT, Beaufort, SC**

The Second Founding of America: Reconstruction Beaufort is a not-for-profit corporation, working in collaboration with The Community Foundation of the Lowcountry. Its mission is to uncover the truth and to tell and teach missing parts of our nation's history.

### **Program Director (Consultant Position)**

September 2019—April 2019 – Grant Funded Position

Served as the lead organizer and coordinator for all initiatives of the organization in sharing the history of Beaufort's Reconstruction Era.

- Facilitated the collaboration of scholars, teachers, public officials, visual and performing artists, and community leaders, who serve on an 80-member National Advisory Board for the organization
- Provided educational opportunities for young people to discover the unknown stories of Reconstruction that relate directly to them, their community and to issues of today and tomorrow
- Authored and served as project manager for programmatic grants to create educational and creative programs for youth in grades 6<sup>th</sup>—12<sup>th</sup>
- Secured funding to support youth and public programs
- Reported all program progress to the Mayor of the City of Beaufort

## **SOUTH CAROLINA ARTS COMMISSION, Columbia, SC**

The mission of the South Carolina Arts Commission is to promote equitable access to the arts and support the cultivation of creativity in South Carolina.

May 2019—November 2019

### **Folk Life and Traditional Arts Panelist (Contractor)**

Served on an art grant panel, composed of individuals who represent a broad range of artistic and cultural viewpoints, to provide advice and guidance about the artistic excellence and artistic merit of proposals by individuals and organizations across the State of South Carolina.

- Reviewed grant applications submitted for funding
- Participated in panel meetings to discuss proposals
- Graded and rated applications based on rating criteria and program guidelines established by the SC Arts Commission
- Made recommendations to the Commission regarding the application and review process

## **GULLAH GEECHEE CULTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT, Hilton Head Island, SC**

### **Project Team Member, Walker Collaborative (Consultant Position)**

March 2018—February 2019

Consultant team appointed by the Town of Hilton Head Island and Gullah Geechee Task Force to research and provide potential approaches and plan to incorporate Gullah Geechee cultural and historical preservation in Hilton Head Island. Identifies potential revisions to the Land Management Ordinance and other land use and development-related policies to better accommodate the use and development of Gullah lands.

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- Organized and conducted project team meetings to discuss presentation and plan approaches
- Conducted large and small community consultative focus groups to gather insight and needs of the community
- Conducted a comprehensive inventory of cultural and historical resources and sites tied to the Gullah Geechee people, which includes the following
  - Mitchelville Preservation Project Historic Site
  - Gullah Museum
  - Gullah Heritage Tours
  - Historic Gullah Cemeteries
  - Historic Gullah Neighborhoods
- Promoted ways to utilize the Heritage Library Foundation's resources with Native Islanders to encourage them to research their history and genealogy
- Provided ideas to support and promote local educational programs that teach younger generations the traditional Gullah ways related to language, crafts, foodways, stories, and other cultural elements
- Adapted the interpretive themes from the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Management Plan as a framework for Gullah cultural interpretation on Hilton Head Island
- Provided a framework to establish an oral history program in which local students interview elders in Gullah communities to document their way of life in earlier years
- Advocated for Gullah historic sites to be listed on historic registers
- Redefined strategies to promote Gullah heritage tourism more effectively for Hilton Head Island

## **INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM (IAAM), Charleston, SC**

The museum's exhibitions will share untold stories using classic techniques as well as new approaches driven by innovation, technology and digital interactivity. Themes will include connections across the African diaspora, the spread of African American culture and influence, and the movements for justice and equality. IAAM's Center for Family History will enable visitors to trace their genealogy, while changing exhibitions and special events will keep the museum energized. Educational programs will provide life-long learning opportunities for visitors both young and old.

### **Program Manager**

June 2017—August 2018 (Salaried Position – 40+ Hours/Week).

Organized, coordinated, and supported essential functions for museum leadership and around IAAM's Gullah Geechee exhibition content development. Developed and coordinated the membership program and donor giving.

- Managed \$85 Million in operating, capital, and endowment revenue
  - Documented donations and pledges
  - Acknowledged all gifts appropriately
- Developed, implemented, and managed IAAM's Charter Membership program
  - Coordinated membership launch and quarterly campaigns
    - Mailings, email, and social media campaigns
    - Outreach at community events and programs
  - Raised \$350,000 in Organizational revenue from Charter Membership in five months
  - Compiled weekly, monthly, and quarterly donor and pledge reports
- Earned certification in Blackbaud's Altru fundraising platform
  - Attended and participated in weekly educational classes
  - Trained staff and volunteers to utilize the platform



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- Managed additional donation and giving platforms
  - Square, Network for Good, PayPal giving, YourCause, Amazon Smile, and Boeing Cyber Grants
- Served as the volunteer coordinator, and provided training and supervision
- Managed and coordinated office services, duties, and internal and external communications
  - Answered phones, and responded to voicemail and emails
  - Coordinated communications to IAAM stakeholders
  - Organized and maintained office files
    - Major donor files
    - Vendor files
    - Bank deposits
    - Account payables
- Compiled documents for Board of Director's meetings
- Developed, reviewed, and edited Gullah Geechee exhibition content briefs
- Developed, coordinated, and presented museum public programs
  - Gullah Geechee History and Culture
  - Prayer/Praise House Traditions
  - Bunce Island, Sierra Leone

## PENN CENTER, INC, St. Helena Island, SC

PENN SCHOOL NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DISTRICT

### **Director of History, Art, and Culture**

#### **Director of the York W. Bailey Museum**

March 2012—June 2017 (Salaried Position – 40+ Hours/Week).

Served in multiple positions simultaneously.

Served as the cultural, historical, and creative diplomat for Penn Center and provided leadership, articulated positive impacts of history, art, and culture to the public, to include informational and professional development for K-12 teachers, and strategic direction for the department.

- Managed the History, Art, and Culture program budget of \$250,000
- Curated permanent and visiting local, regional, and national exhibitions
  - *Civil War Sesquicentennial National Traveling Exhibition: "Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War"*
  - *The Life and Times of Robert Smalls*
  - *Slavery by Another Name*
- Managed the on-site archival collection within the *Education for Freedom* Exhibition and the Penn School Art Collection
- Managed Penn Center's archives, *Penn School Papers*, in collaboration with University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill's Southern Historic Collection Department
  - Coordinated Penn Center's archives to be moved off campus to the Southern Historic Collection
  - Met with Southern Historic Collection staff regarding Penn School Papers archival processes
  - Conducted historical research for internal and external clients
    - Historians and Scholars
    - Educators
    - Authors
    - Documentary Film Makers

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- Provided historical guided group tours of the Penn School National Historic Landmark District
- Conducted research, authored, and presented public lectures locally, regionally, and nationally on the 158-year history of Penn School—Penn Center
  - *Penn School During the Civil War*
  - *Penn School During the Reconstruction Era*
  - *The Gullah People and Their Culture*
  - *Civil Rights Movement at Penn Center*
  - *The Port Royal Experiment and Penn School*
  - Additional presentation listing below in History, Art, and Culture Presentations
- Presented history, art and culture outreach programs for public, civic organizations, universities and for regional and national K-12 schools and educators incorporating South Carolina Social Studies standards
- Developed and implemented the *Culture Keepers: Traditional and Contemporary Gullah Geechee Art Workshops for Youth*
- Developed and implemented youth oral history project to capture stories of former Penn School Alumni
- Developed and implemented the *Sam Doyle Folk and Gullah Cultural Arts Festival*
- Coordinated, planned, and managed the operations of the annual *Heritage Days Celebration*, a three-day festival to celebrate the history of Penn School and promote the Gullah Geechee culture
- Collaborated to present *Artist University* workshop intensive for regional artists
- Presented on Gullah Geechee artists and their art forms in curated museum exhibitions
- Presented on the Gullah Geechee Culture at local and national conferences
- Organized, managed, and presented institutes and symposia
  - Gullah Studies Summer Institute and Symposia
  - Reconstruction Era Symposium
  - Penn Center Civil Rights Symposium
  - Site coordinator and presenter for the Gullah Voices National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Teacher Institutes in 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2019
- Researched, authored, managed, and implemented programmatic grants and sponsorship proposals, and met with grant program officers
  - USDA Rural Development
  - National Endowment of the Humanities
  - Institute of Museum and Library Services
  - South Carolina Arts Commission
  - Boeing of South Carolina
  - South Carolina Electric & Gas
  - South Carolina Humanities
  - Coastal Community Foundation of SC
- Maintained public awareness of the Gullah Geechee art, history, and culture
  - Conducted presentations, workshops and guided tours of Gullah sites and communities; authored articles; conducted interviews
- Developed and administered departmental monthly and yearly work-plans and financial budget reports
- Collected, analyzed, summarized, and prepared departmental reports for Executive Director and presented at Board of Trustees' quarterly meetings
- Recruited, trained, supervised, and evaluated History, Art and Culture team of staff, docents

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and volunteers

- Developed and managed the Courtney P. Siceloff Welcome Center and Gift Shop
  - Trained and supervised staff
  - Received, welcomed, and assisted customers
  - Conducted monthly and yearly sales inventory
  - Purchased and ordered retail merchandise and selected consignment items
  - Conducted opening and closing procedures and sales transactions

## **Director of Development and Public Relations (2015-2017)**

Organized and managed fundraising campaigns and marketing initiatives for the non-profit organization. Managed and administered fiscal program budgets and prepared succinct and accurate program reports within deadline for leadership. Assisted with formation of strategic plan and implementation.

### **Fundraising and Annual Giving**

- Developed and managed Annual Giving campaign
- Cultivated long-term strategic partnerships and developed new collaborative relationships with local, state, and national organizations and institutions
- Coordinated 1862 Circle Gala, annual fundraising event

### **Grants Management**

- Worked with multiple departments to ensure an accurate, efficient, and transparent process for the life cycle of grants
- Authored and managed federal, state, local and private grants
- Researched, monitored, and evaluated programmatic grants

### **Public Relations**

- Served as key point of contact, chief translator, and navigator for all major external relationships
  - Authored and released Penn Center's historical narrative
  - Authored all news releases for the organization
  - Developed and managed annual marketing campaign
  - Secured advertising/media sponsorships
  - Coordinated major marketing opportunities with national and international media agencies
  - Collaborated with partners and interns to redesign organization's website and social media platforms

### **Volunteer Coordinator**

- Developed Penn Center 101 Docent & Volunteer Training Program
  - Coordinated and provided instructional classes
  - Prepared materials
  - Authored and presented historical presentations and handbook for volunteers
  - Developed evaluation tool
- Managed, trained and maintained relationships with over 100 volunteers and docents
- Collaborated with United Way of Beaufort to develop staff presentation: *Valuing Our Volunteers*

## **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Coordinator (2012—2014)**

- Organized and managed the planning committee

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- Planned and managed a budget
- Researched and presented on Penn Center's 150-year history
- Presented on Founding of Penn School, Civil War, Reconstruction Era, Civil Rights Movement
- Scheduled and convened regular meetings with members of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee
- Implemented approved tasks associated with the planning of the celebration
- Wrote and developed press releases, ad development, marketing, and promotional material
- Checked email and voicemail daily and responded appropriately
- Recorded minutes of the planning committee and forwarded to committee members, staff, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees
- Prepared committee report and presented to the Board of Trustees at quarterly meetings

## ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

### BEAUFORT COUNTY LIBRARY, Beaufort, S.C.

January—December 2017

#### **Strategic Planning Committee Member**

- Developed the Strategic Plan for the Beaufort County Library System
- Conducted focus groups, surveys, community discussions
- Compiled and organized input and data collected
- Provided a complete plan to library staff for integration

### ARTS COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY, Beaufort, S.C.

January—December 2009

#### **Studio Artist and Art Instructor**

- Coordinated and taught K-12 after-school pastel art classes
- Prepared class materials and learning activities
- Provided safe and effective learning environment for students
- Organized community art showcase, featuring the art of students

### RED PIANO TOO ART GALLERY, St. Helena Island, S.C.

June 2006—March 2012

#### **Gallery Manager, Exhibit Curator, Certified Custom Picture Framer**

- Conducted guided tours of the gallery, shared local history, art, and culture to groups
- Selected and managed the artwork of over 100 artists
- Maintained bookkeeping, retail, and consignment sales records
- Served as a public relations officer executing marketing plans through a variety of initiatives
- Curated and installed the gallery's exhibits
- Researched, documented, and appraised artwork for insurance purposes
- Completed custom picture framing orders

### BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, SC

August 1999—December 2004

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## Educator

Para-Professional for Grades Pre-K—3<sup>rd</sup>, Lady's Island Elementary School and St. Helena Elementary School

- Provided supervision and effective learning environment for students
- Organized and conducted small and large group educational learning activities
  - Reading, writing, math, art, and creative thinking
- Assisted lead teacher in all learning activities

## EDUCATION, CERTIFICATION, AND TRAINING

- Bachelor of Arts, University of South Carolina-Beaufort, SC, 2021
  - Interdisciplinary Studies
    - Areas of Focus: Humanities, Health and Physical Education, and Early Childhood Education
- Associates in Arts, Technical College of the Lowcountry, Beaufort, SC, 2020
  - Liberal Studies
    - Area of Focus: American History
- Fellow, [Riley Institute Diversity Leadership Institute, Class of 2019](#), Furman University
  - Fellowship Areas of Focus
    - Socioeconomic Diversity
    - Intent vs. Impact
    - Equity, Diversity and Accountabilities
    - Mission-Driven Decision Making
    - Race and Gender
    - Diversity and Humor
    - Capstone Project: Community Blessing Boxes
- Scholar, Leo Twiggs Arts Leadership Scholar, 2019
- Certified Grant Writer, Continuing and Professional Education, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, 2016
  - Introduction to Grant Writing
  - Needs-Based Assessment & Research
- Ethics Training, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

## COMMISSION AND BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

### State Commissioner

[South Carolina African American Heritage Commission](#)

(2014—2021)

### Maven

[Art of Community—Rural SC, South Carolina Arts Commission](#)

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(2019—2021)

## Federal Commissioner

[Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor](#)

(2016—2020)

## Board Member

[Beaufort History Museum](#)

(2020-2021)

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- The President's Lifetime Achievement Award, 2022
- 50 Most Influential Leaders to Know in Charleston, SC 2024
- 12 Black Leaders to Know in South Carolina, 2022
- [Presidential Citation Award, African American Heritage Advocate, South Carolina State Conference NAACP](#), 2019

## HISTORY, ART, AND CULTURE PRESENTATIONS AND CONSULTANT SERVICES

Consultant, [The Black Church: This is Our Story, This is Our Song](#)," Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), 2021

Panel Presenter, [I Am the First and I Am the Last: Exploring the Daughters of the Dust](#). Fitchburg State University. March 2021

Presenter, The Perpetuation of Rice Heritage through the Arts, presentation on the connections of visual arts in Sierra Leone and Gullah Geechee communities. Brookgreen Gardens. March 2021

Presenter, The Prayer House and the Spiritual Practices of the Gullah Geechee People. [Philos Project's Gathering for the Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Charleston, SC](#). February 2021

Presenter, [Explore Gullah Culture In Beaufort's South Carolina's Low Country](#), By Kimberly Wilson. Essence Magazine. September 2020

Consultant, Cultural Study Trip to Sierra Leone, West Africa. [Gullah Roots. SCETV Produced Film Documentary](#), December 27, 2019—January 8, 2020

Consultant and Feature Guest, [The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess: Rise Up Signing](#), Produced by the Aria Code, WQXR New York Public Radio, January 15, 2020

Presenter, Gullah Geechee Virtual Bike Tour, Triangle Bikes. [Who Are the Gullah Geechee People](#), July 2020

Gullah Culture Educational Consultant, Charleston County School of the Arts -Teacher Patrick Martin, May—August 2020

Gullah Culture Content and Sensitivity Editor, *The Marsh Bird*, Manuscript by Anne Ray, December 2020

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Gullah Culture Content Editor, *JAGGED EDGES: A Black Family during Civil War & Reconstruction*, Manuscript by Elise A. Guyette, April 2020

Panel Moderator, Plenary Discussion: *Reimagining African American Heritage*, [International Gullah Geechee African Diaspora Conference, Coastal Carolina University](#), Conway, SC March 2020

Panel Presenter and Gullah Geechee Art Exhibition Curator, [International Gullah Geechee African Diaspora Conference, Coastal Carolina University](#), Conway, SC, March 2020

Panel Presenter, [The History of Penn School—Penn Center, Pat Conroy Literary Center's Forth Annual March Forth Program](#), St. Helena Island, SC, March 2020

Panel Presenter, Spoleto Festival Discussion Series: Exploring Omar: ["Cultural Ties Between Futa Toro \(Senegal\) and the Lowcountry in Exploring Omar Ibn Said"](#), Spoleto Festival USA, College of Charleston, SC February 2020

Panel Presenter, ["Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Penn Center, MLK: An Evening of Reflection"](#), Lander University, Greenwood, SC, January, 2020

Coordinator and Presenter, ["Hastings Gantt Reconstruction Era Lecture Series"](#), Penn Center, December 2019-December 2020

Keynote Speaker, *"Gullah Geechee Culture in the Reconstruction Era"* [Aiken's Celebration of African American Excellence, Center for African American History and Culture](#), Aiken, SC, September, 2019

Presenter, *"Penn School and Gullah Geechee Teaching Resources"*, Gullah Voice-National Endowment for the Humanities Teacher's Institute University of Connecticut, Penn Center, St. Helena Island, SC and Savannah, GA, July 2019

Presenter and Site Coordinator, *"History of Penn School"*, Project Change Teacher's Institute", University of South Carolina, Penn Center, SC, June 2019

Keynote Speaker, *"Penn School and St. Helena Island during the Reconstruction Era"*, [South Carolina Historical Association's Annual Meeting](#), University of South Carolina—Aiken, March 9, 2019

Panel Presenter, *"Praying, Singing and Catching Sense: Praise House Traditions in Gullah Geechee Communities"*, [Inaugural Gullah Geechee and African Diaspora Conference](#), Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC, March 7, 2019

Guest Curator and Presenter, *"The Art of Diane Britton Dunham"*, Heritage Days Celebration, York W. Bailey Museum, Penn Center, St. Helena Island, SC, November 9, 2018

Panel Presenter, *"Our Story: Reconstructing Freedom Symposium"*, Heritage Days Celebration, Penn Center, St. Helena Island, SC, November 8, 2018

# VICTORIA A. SMALLS

Art Juror, [MOJA Arts Festival, Juried Art Exhibition](#) Historic Dock Street Theater, Charleston, South Carolina, September 27—October 7, 2018

Presenter, *“Gullah Geechee Heritage and Spirituals”*, [Pat Conroy Literary Festival](#), Beaufort, SC, November 4, 2018,

Panel Presenter, *“Public Programming on Slavery and African American History in the South Carolina Lowcountry”*, [Slave Dwelling Project Conference](#), Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, October 26, 2018

Presenter, *The History of Prayer/Praise Houses in the Lowcountry of SC*, The Bluffton Historical Preservation Society, Bluffton, SC, January 2018

Panel Presenter, *Penn School During the Reconstruction Era; Reconstructing Freedom*, African American History Month, University of South Carolina—Beaufort, SC, February 2017

Site Coordinator and Presenter, [Gullah Voices National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Teacher Institute](#), for the University of Connecticut at Penn Center, St. Helena Island, SC, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017

Program Developer, *“Culture Keepers: Traditional and Contemporary Gullah Art Workshops for Youth”*, Penn Center, St. Helena Island, SC, 2015-2016, 2016-2017

Coordinator and Presenter, *“Sam Doyle Folk & Gullah Cultural Arts Festival”*, Penn Center, St. Helena Island, SC 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017

Presenter, *“The Women of Penn School in the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries”*, National Underground Railroad Conference, National Park Service, Hilton Head Island, SC, 2016

Presenter, *“The Hallowed & Historic Grounds of Penn Center National Historic Landmark District”*, 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Carter G. Woodson Black History Program, Association for the Study of African American Life & History, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, SC 2016

Presenter, *“The History of Penn School—Penn Center”*, Black History Program, Ithaca College, New York, 2016

Presenter, *“The America’s South Connection to West Africa”*, The Hilton Head Island Gullah Celebration, Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, Hilton Head Island, SC 2016

Presenter, *“The Effects of the Civil War on African Americans in the South Carolina Lowcountry”*, African American Studies, University of South Carolina—Hilton Head Gateway Campus, SC, 2016

Program Developer, *St. Helena Island Community Health Fair*, Penn Center, St. Helena Island, SC 2016, 2017

Panel Presenter, *The Life of Charlotte Forten Grimke; Segregation, Education and Self Determination*, African American History Month, University of South Carolina—Beaufort, SC, February 2016



# VICTORIA A. SMALLS

Presenter, [\*Penn Center: A History Preserved\*](#), Book Sandwiched In, University of South Carolina-Beaufort Center for the Arts, SC, 2016

Panel Presenter, [\*Commemorating the Reconstruction & Civil Rights Eras: The National Park Service's Call to Action in its Second Century, Penn Center during the Reconstruction and Civil Rights Era\*](#), Association for the Study of African American Life & History Centennial Celebration Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, 2015

Consultant, Presenter, Site Coordinator, [\*South Carolina: Rights to Ancestral Land\*](#); International Decade of People of African Descent (2015-2024), United Nations TV, 2015

Contributing Author, [\*A Teacher's Guide to African American Historic Places in South Carolina 2015\*](#), SC African American Heritage Commission, Columbia, SC, 2015

Presenter, "What Is Gullah-N-Geechee?" Campbell Chapel AME Church, Bluffton, SC, 2015

Presenter, "Gullah Geechee Culture in Beaufort County", Gullah Geechee Cultural Tourism Expo, Hilton Head Island, SC, 2015

Panel Presenter, "Community Resiliency—Coastal Heritage", South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium National Site Visit, Charleston, SC, 2015

Presenter, [\*"Penn Center's Role in Promoting & Preserving Contemporary Visual Arts"\*](#), Rice Forum 2015, Georgetown, SC, September 2015

Panel Presenter, "Promoting Gullah Art", South Carolina Arts Commission Regional Workshop, Port Royal Maritime Center, Lemon Island, SC, 2015

Coordinator, [\*Heritage Days Celebration, Penn Center\*](#), 2012—2019

Facilitator of Dialogue, [\*An Evening with Dr. Lonnie G. Bunch, III, Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture\*](#), University of South Carolina—Beaufort, November 2014

Presenter, "Gullah Geechee Culture in South Carolina", Leadership South Carolina, Penn Center, 2014 & 2015

Coordinator and Presenter, [\*Penn Center Civil Rights Symposium\*](#), Penn Center, 2014

Instructor, *The Life and Times of Congressman Robert Smalls*, USC-Beaufort's Osher Life Learning Institute Course, July 2014

Instructor, *The Port Royal Experiment and Penn School*, USC-Beaufort's Osher Life Learning Institute Course, July 2014

Researcher, [\*Penn Center—A History Preserved\*](#) by Orville Vernon Burton, 2014

Presenter, "Gullah Geechee Culture in South Carolina & the History of Penn School", Minority Landowner Magazine Annual Conference, Greensboro, NC, 2013

# VICTORIA A. SMALLS

Consultant, [The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross](#), Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), 2013

Consultant and Presenter, [Carolina Stories: Uncommon Folk, Documentary](#), Presented on Artists: Sam Doyle and Rev. Johnnie Simmons, SCETV, 2011

Coordinator and Moderator, Heritage Days Celebration Symposium: *Slavery by Another Name*, Penn Center, 2012

Instructor, *The History of Penn Center*, USC-Beaufort's Osher Life Learning Institute Course, October, 2012

Instructor, *An Overview of Indigenous Art (Gullah Geechee)*, USC-Beaufort's Osher Life Learning Institute Course, October 2010

## DOCUMENTARIES AND MEDIA

Consultant and Featured Guest, [The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess: Rise Up Signing](#), Produced by the Aria Code, WQXR New York Public Radio, January 15, 2020

Featured Guest, [Gullah Geechee Fight to Protect Their Land and Culture](#), NPR Here & Now, WBUR 90.0 FM Radio, November 4, 2019

Featured Guest, [Protecting Gullah Culture](#) by Victoria Hansen, SC Public Radio, September 27, 2019

Op—Ed Article, [Heritage Days, a link to Penn Center's place in history by Victoria Smalls](#), The Island News, November 2018

Featured Article, [Reconstruction Era comes to life in new initiative for SC History Classes](#), Post and Courier Newspaper, October 2018

Consultant and Presenter, CNN's [United Shades of America, The Gullah Culture](#), May 2018

Consultant and Presenter, AMC's [Riding with Norman Reedus, Lowcountry of SC with Dave Chappelle](#), *The History and Culture of the Gullah People*, June 2017

Featured Story, [Let the Circle Be Unbroken](#), *The Bluffton Breeze Magazine*, February 2017

Featured Guest, [Gullah Culture in South Carolina](#), Victoria Smalls and Phylicia Rashad, *African Ancestry Radio*, SiriusXM Urban View Channel, Washington, DC, 2016

Featured Story, [Collected Wisdom-Victoria Smalls](#), *Living Well Magazine*, Spring 2016

Consultant, Presenter, Site Coordinator, [South Carolina: Rights to Ancestral Land](#); International Decade of People of African Descent (2015-2024), United Nations TV, 2015

Featured Guest, [Saving Culture at a Cost](#), *The Stream*, Aljazeera America TV, 2015

# VICTORIA A. SMALLS

Presenter, [Gullah Traditions in the South Carolina Lowcountry](#), Discover South Carolina, 2014

Featured Guest, [Victoria Smalls, Growing Up Gullah](#), GullahTV.com, 2014

Featured Story, [Victoria Smalls—A Heart for History](#), Beaufort Lifestyle Magazine, Winter Issue 2014-2015

Featured Story, *Growing Up Gullah*, Amelia Magazine, Germany, 2014

Featured Story, [A Place in Time—Victoria Smalls](#), Pink Magazine, 2013

Consultant and Presenter, [Carolina Stories: Uncommon Folk, Documentary](#), Presented on Artists: Sam Doyle and Rev. Johnnie Simmons, SCETV, 2011

## ART EXHIBITIONS

- Curator and Collector, [The Victoria A. Smalls Gullah Geechee and African Art Collection](#). Exhibited at Hampton County Arts Center and Arts Clayton, Georgia
- Curator, Curated 17 - History, Art and Culture Exhibitions at the York W. Bailey Museum, Penn Center, 2012-2019
- Art Juror, MOJA Arts Festival Juried Art Exhibition, City of Charleston, SC, August 2018—October 2018

Professional Artist, Exhibited in 15 Art Exhibitions, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia, 2004-2016

- Art Exhibition, [Visions of Home: A Celebration of Gullah Art and Culture](#), Museum of Anthropology, Wake Forest University, NC, 2016-2017
- Solo Exhibit, *Celebrate Love*, Red Piano Too Art Gallery, South Carolina, 2011
- [The Art Collection of Victoria A. Smalls](#), The Stanley Arts Building, Hampton County Arts Council, SC, December 2019—February 2020