

MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 4 p.m. in the Lord Spencer Compton Conference Room at City Hall, 102 North Third Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401.

MEMBERSHIP

The application may be found on the City of Wilmington's official website, www.WilmingtonNC.gov, Boards & Commissions page.

The Commission on African-American History is made up of nine (9) members. Appointments are made by City Council to serve three-year, staggered terms.



WILLIAM B. GOULD
ORANGE STREET LANDING KIOSK

CURRENT MEMBERS

Glancy Thomas, Chairman
Willie Black
Audrey Clark
Margaret Harris
Michael Jenkins
Atiba Johnson
Todd McFadden
Joseph Sauvignon



AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY COMMISSION MEMBERS & CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTOR AT LOUISE WELLS CAMERON ART MUSEUM

CITY OF WILMINGTON
Commission on African-American History

STAFF LIAISON:

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CITY OF WILMINGTON
NORTH CAROLINA



CITY HALL

COMMISSION ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

PURPOSE: To plan, develop, and implement community projects that recognize and increase the awareness of the contributions of African Americans to Wilmington's history; to encourage and assist African-American history; to recognize sites in the community that are significant to African-American history.

**YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE YOU
ARE GOING UNLESS YOU KNOW
WHERE YOU COME FROM.**

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COMMISSION ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

JANUARY 2010 – Active participant of the program to unveil the “Underground Railroad Network to Freedom” Kiosk located at the foot of Orange and Water Streets. The Commission collaborated with the Housing Authority Youth Build Program which turned out over 50 high school students. Other partners were City of Wilmington, NHC, CVB and the African American Heritage Foundation.

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Kiosk at Orange Street Landing (Water and Orange Street) unveiling ceremony was held January 15. Mr. William B. Gould was one of the escapees of the underground which led 22 people to freedom from slavery through the Underground Railroad Network during the Civil War.

FEBRUARY 2010 – Planned and coordinated the unveiling ceremony of the Community Boys Club Marker. The Commission hosted a reception at the Boys Club new location.

SEPTEMBER 2010 – Co-sponsored the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the newly completed Althea Gibson Tennis Complex at Empie Park.

NOVEMBER 2010 – Members of the commission attended the commissioning of the USS Gravelly.

JANUARY 2011 – Planned and coordinated the ceremony of the renaming of Robert Strange Park facilities to the William Murphy facilities at the Martin Luther King Center.

JANUARY 2011 – Served as host in collaboration with Congressman Mike McIntyre for a reception at City Hall for Rep. John Lewis, guest speaker at the 15th Annual Black History Commemoration.

APRIL 2011 – Participated in a forum to discuss bridging the gap between the Bellamy Mansion and the Black Community.

APRIL 2011 – Informed the community of the free Tennis Clinic at the Althea Gibson Center at Empire Park for disadvantaged youth.

JUNE 2011 – Planned and coordinated the ceremony for the United States Colored Troops Marker which was placed in front of the



Wilmington National Cemetery on Market Street. Hosted reception at the Wise House on Market Street.

NOVEMBER 2011 – Collaborated with the Fort Fisher/UNCW representative to insert African American historical DVDs

and other historical facts as related with African Americans during the Civil War in a trunk that circulates throughout the New Hanover County Schools system.

DECEMBER 2011 – Collaborated with the Community Boys Club in the 70th Anniversary of the USO clubs. This event also recognized the Community Boys Club as the USO club for African American soldiers in the 1940s.

MARCH 2012 – Collaborated with the City and hosted a reception for the renowned Heath Brothers at Thalian Hall.

MAY 2012 – Distributed four African American historical DVDs to various community churches and civic groups. They are as follows: Anniversary program on the



JIMMY HEATH & ALBERT “TOOTIE”

WILMINGTON 10 at UNCW; 15th Annual Black History Month Commemoration; USCT Historic Marker at Wilmington National Cemetery; and USS Gravelly Commissioning.

JULY 2012 – Planned, Coordinated, and hosted a reception honoring the local Wilmington Chapter of the Montford Point Marines, part of the national recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal. The reception was held at Historic Wilmington City Hall.



MONTFORD POINT MARINES

DECEMBER 2012 – Co-sponsors of UNCW Upperman African American Cultural Center’s Annual Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration.

JANUARY 2013 – The Emancipation Proclamation 150th Anniversary was celebrated at noon January 1, 2013 in collaboration with St. Luke AMEZ Church, St. Stephen AME Church, and the City of Wilmington Commission on African American History.

The Commission participates in the Martin Luther King Parade annually.

The Commission co-sponsored UNCW Upperman African American Cultural Center’s Martin Luther King Celebration, “Portrait of a Dreamer.”