

Over centuries, Charleston's story has been one of resilience. Through earthquakes, hurricanes, wars — civil and revolutionary — recessions, depressions and fires, the Holy City always returned, typically stronger than it was before. But that story has never included everyone's story of resilience.

Charleston's buildings and businesses were constructed, in large part, on the backs of enslaved people, and the city told a story of itself that wasn't wholly true, that wasn't nearly complete. That story often ignored the blood and the tears of the people whose Charleston story unjustly began on Gadsden's Wharf.

The groundbreaking for this museum is a powerful symbol, not of a new

chapter in the story, but of a moment in time. This is our time in this place. It's our time to come together as a community and a nation, to examine the past, to understand, to heal.

The support of businesses and community leaders in telling this story through this powerful symbol, a museum at the place where people traveled into America and into a life of pain, oppression, perseverance and courage, is not only gratifying, but also a legacy that adds these voices to the story of what it means to be an American.

— Charleston Regional Business Journal

One day, not long from now, residents here in the Lowcountry won't remember a time when we didn't have the International African American Museum. The building will be like the U.S.S. Yorktown or the Ravenel Bridge, like the pineapple fountain or cargo ships — an iconic element of Charleston's waterfront.

But for so long, for so many people, this museum was notably missing. This space marked a painful absence.

When my colleagues and I at Blackbaud learned that we could play a small role in changing that reality, we didn't see it as a call to action for a donation but rather an incomparable opportunity to help preserve history, fill a profound void, and make an indelible mark not only on our community, but around the world.

As the world's leading cloud software company powering social good, we're especially excited by the potential for this museum to build connections beyond Charleston — to create exhibits without walls, where technology offers each of us admission, regardless of location and without limitation.

What an incredible tribute to the lives and families forever changed. What a way to transform these grounds into a place of promise.

Cheers!

**Mike Gianoni**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Blackbaud  
International African  
American Museum  
Board Member



The International African American Museum (IAAM) is a dream nearly 20 years in the making, a vision soon to be made reality by individuals who understand that all people deserve a voice. By fully and completely illuminating the history of African Americans, the IAAM will facilitate understanding and dialogue that is essential if we are to build unity across all races and ethnicities.

Boeing supports the IAAM because we believe in the power of diversity and inclusion to positively impact communities and business alike. Diversity and inclusion are a part of our values at the highest level. We all have our own stories and experiences that make us who we are, and endow us with unique talents and perspectives. Those stories, experiences, talents and perspectives weave a complex and beautiful tapestry of capability when embraced and given the opportunity to thrive.

Before we can fully engage the potential of diversity and inclusion, we have to embrace those unique stories and experiences. Boeing is proud to support the IAAM, and we are excited to be a part of a project that will have a transformative effect on diversity and inclusion in our community and our nation. We salute those who have worked so hard to bring this vision to reality, and congratulate the IAAM leaders, board of directors and national advisory board on reaching this groundbreaking milestone.

**Boeing South Carolina team**

Greetings from Dominion Energy,

It has been an honor for Dominion Energy to support the International African American Museum. Reflecting on the announcement of our gift to IAAM in June, when some of our linemen and gas journeymen joined me on stage, it was indeed a proud moment. In fact, it was one of the largest single donations to a non-profit cause in the company's history.

Dominion Energy's relationship with IAAM is a natural fit, as it aligns perfectly with our areas of focus for community giving — which include education and community vitality — as well as our commitment to diversity and inclusion. It reflects Dominion Energy's commitment to the people of South Carolina.

While at the groundbreaking ceremony in October with a few other representatives of the Dominion Energy team, we all shared an immense sense of pride. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to the museum and to the "South Carolina: Power of Place gallery." One of the museum's most hands-on, interactive galleries, the exhibit will feature a Heritage Map — an interactive multimedia table featuring a large-scale map of South Carolina. Visitors can use the touch-screen installation to engage with the state's history through highlighted people, events, sites, themes and landscapes — illustrating the power of place and of African American experiences.

We are excited that the IAAM will provide invaluable learning opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds. We are pleased to support this uniquely rich learning and cultural environment that features technology-driven, engaging experiences that can be enjoyed by many locally, as well as visitors from across the country and around the world.

Sincerely,

**Rodney Blevins**  
President and CEO,  
Southeast Energy Group  
Dominion Energy

