

NAS NEWS

www.nativeamericanstudies.org

Winter 2024 Edition Volume 14 Issue 4



Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.

Intertribal performers WarPaint presented a day of dancing, drumming, and storytelling as part of USC Lancaster's 19th Annual Native American Studies Celebration in November. Thank you to the City of Lancaster for sponsoring the WarPaint performance!



Native American Studies Center
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA LANCASTER

Season's Greetings!

Here at the Native American Studies Center, we are wrapping up an eventful Native American Heritage Month and preparing for 2025. The pages that follow, especially the photos, give a good sense of how busy our faculty and staff have been the past month celebrating Native American musical traditions. I want to especially thank the musicians and dancers who performed for our guests at the Center and for students at Great Falls Elementary School and Andrew Jackson Middle School. I also would like to thank our sponsors, the SC Arts Commission's Folklife and Traditional Arts grant program, the City of Lancaster, the USC Office of Research, and, of course, USC Lancaster. Also, thanks to the faculty and staff at GFE and AJMS for hosting the drum groups.

We were honored to have faculty from our fellow Palmetto College campuses—Union, Salkehatchie, Sumter, and Columbia—join us for one of the drum and dance performances. WarPaint Singers entertained and informed our colleagues and members of the public before heading down to Great Falls for a “Reading Under the Stars” program. We were also delighted to host USC Provost Dr. Donna Arnett and members of her office back in September. We never tire of showing off our Center to guests!

Our faculty and staff have also been busy out in the community. Our staff created our scarecrow “Lolly Coyote,” named for the Native American trickster figure Coyote, and one of the leaders of the band Redbone (of “Come and Get Your Love” fame), Lolly Vegas—in honor of our music-themed November events—for the City's downtown Halloween scarecrow contest. Elisabeth Avelar, with the help of staff and faculty, opened our first exhibit specifically for children. (So far, kids love it!) Several of us participated in the Catawba Nation's Yap Ye Iswa Festival; special thanks to Professor Claudia Heinemann-Priest for setting up our NASC table. Professor Heinemann-Priest will also be our final Lunch and Learn speaker in December. Professor and archivist Logan Cocklin continues to update the NASC archives and recently had a chapter proposal preliminarily accepted for inclusion in a collection titled “Shelf Life: Libraries, Archives, and Collective Grief” with co-author and colleague McKenzie Lemhouse. Professor Chris Judge gave talks in Columbia and Sumter. Dr. Evan Nooe spoke about his recent book and related topics in Florida, Kansas City, Fargo, and closer to home in Charleston. I was fortunate enough to be invited to talk about Catawba Nation pottery at Anderson University and the Pineville branch of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. I also participated in a panel at the Nickelodeon theater in Columbia following a screening of the powerful film “Sugarcane.” And congratulations to Professor Brittany Taylor-Driggers for the inclusion of her work in the publication “Kakalak.” Our Center is fortunate to have some of the best and hardest-working folks around!



Drummers and dancers from the Catawba Nation presented a program for 8th grade students at Andrew Jackson Middle School as part of Native American Heritage Month in correlation with 8th grade Social Studies standards. Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Look for more events in 2025. This edition includes a look ahead to upcoming Lunch and Learn lectures, which will be accompanied by additional events as we celebrate 2025 as the 20th anniversary of Native American Studies at USCL!

As always, come see us at the NAS Center, visit our [website](#), and check out our [YouTube](#) and other [social media](#).

Stephen Criswell



Center Program Assistant Beckee Garris (Catawba) tells stories at the Catawba Nation's Yap Ye Iswa Festival in November. Photo by Evan Nooe.



It was a pleasure to host Catawba potter and Center 2023 Artist-in-Residence Bill Harris for an artist talk during the reception for the exhibit, "What the Fire May Gift" in early September! Here, Harris discusses a case of artwork featuring one of his snake jars (raised on left), a small snake jar by Blue Heron Clay protégé Elizabeth Harris (foreground), and a larger snake jar by his grandmother Georgia Harris. Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.

Hours and Location:

Monday: Closed to the public
Tuesday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

119 South Main Street
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To visit our website [click here!](#)

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As part of Native American Heritage Month, intertribal performers WarPaint Singers presented a morning and evening of drumming, dancing, and storytelling for students at Great Falls Elementary. Here, WarPaint poses with Great Falls Elementary Principal Dr. Tamara Taylor. Photo by Stephen Criswell.

Follow the Center on social media!



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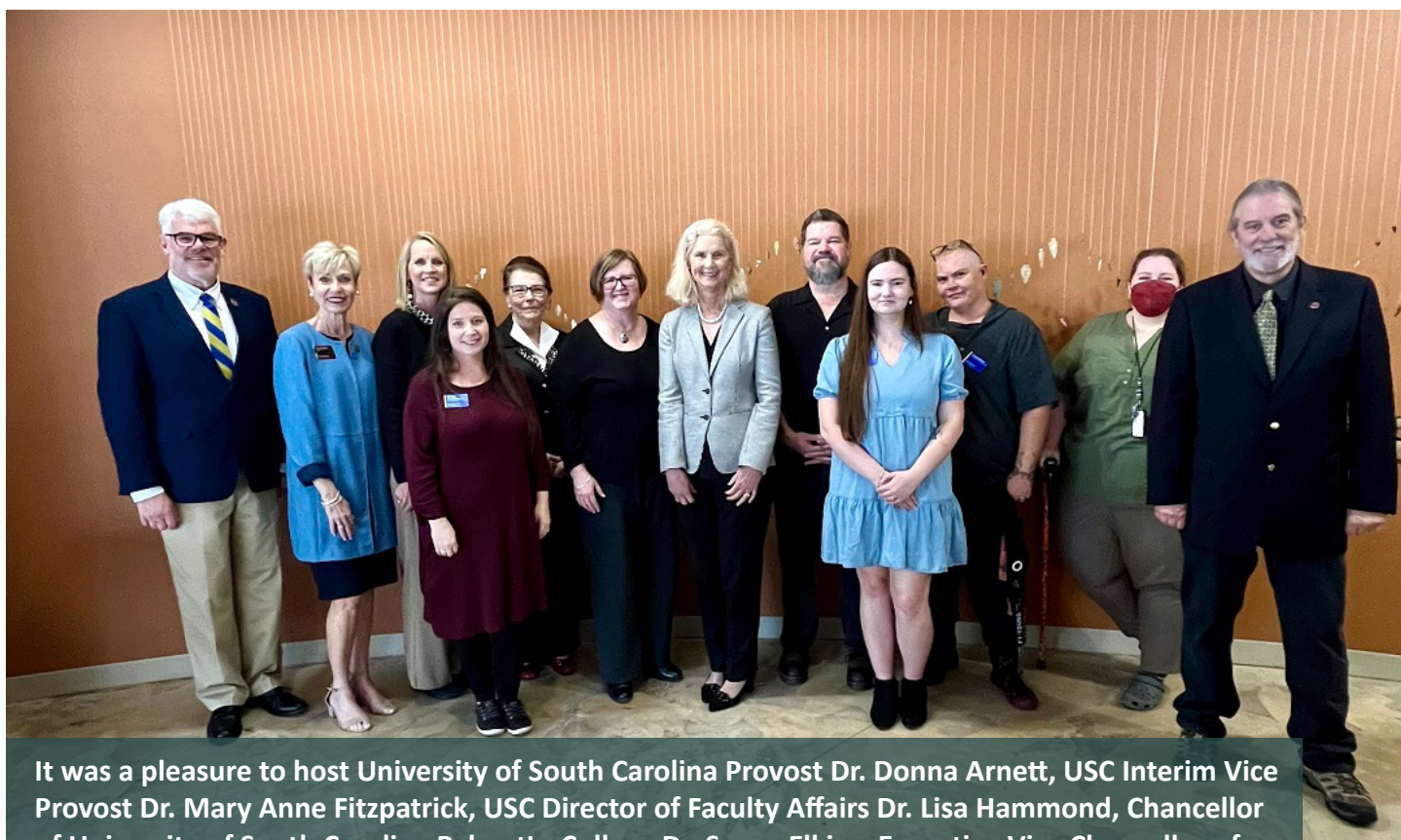
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It was a pleasure to host University of South Carolina Provost Dr. Donna Arnett, USC Interim Vice Provost Dr. Mary Anne Fitzpatrick, USC Director of Faculty Affairs Dr. Lisa Hammond, Chancellor of University of South Carolina Palmetto College Dr. Susan Elkins, Executive Vice Chancellor of USC Palmetto College Dr. Walt Collins, and USC Lancaster Interim Dean Dr. Courtney Catledge for a special tour with Center faculty in September! Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES CELEBRATION 2024



The 19th Annual Native American Studies Week, "Celebrating Native American Music," began Thursday, Nov. 7 with a special reception for the exhibits "Soul of the South" and "Celebrating Indigenous Identity and Culture in the Lowcountry," honoring Lowcountry music traditions, with a special performance by Keepers of the Word. Photo by Chris Judge.



As part of the Center's Native American Heritage Day on Friday, Nov. 15, intertribal performers WarPaint Singers presented storytelling, drumming, and dancing demonstrations of the Smoke Dance, Mosquito Dance, and more. Catawba artist Beckee Garriss also presented pine needle basket demonstrations and spoke to guests about her weaving techniques. Photos by Ashley Lowrimore.

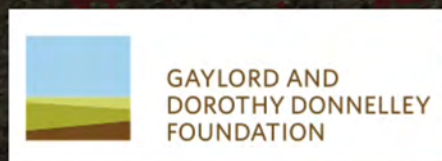


In the 4th Annual W. Brent Burgin Lecture and virtual November Lunch and Learn, Vincent Schilling (Akwesasne Mohawk), Founder and Editor of Native Viewpoint, CEO and President of Schilling Media, Inc., discussed the range of musical artists over Indian Country, including Redbone, whose song "Come and Get Your Love" was featured in "Guardians of the Galaxy," Wayne Newton, Shane Yellowbird, Nokie Edwards, Carlos Nakai, and more. Screen capture by Ashley Lowrimore.



Wrapping up the celebration of Native American music, (from left to right) Waccamaw Indian People guitarists Phil White and Tim Harwell and Edisto Natchez-Kusso guitarist David Creel (pictured with USCL Professors Chris Bundrick and Chris Judge) performed at the Center's 11th Annual Winter Native American Art & Craft Festival. Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.

Thank you to our Native American Studies Celebration 2024 sponsors:



- USC Office of Access and Opportunity
- USC Office of the Vice President for Research's Racial Justice and Equity Research Fund

Lunch and Learn 2025 Preview

The history of Native American tribal recognition in the state, Indigenous trickster tales, and the archaeology of regional Mississippian period mound sites are just a few topics being covered as part of the 2025 W. Brent Burgin Lunch and Learn Lecture Series!

Beginning Friday, Jan. 24, Joshua Shumak, Native American Affairs Program Coordinator for the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs and Vice Chief of the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians, presents "Revitalizing Heritage: Native American Affairs in South Carolina," exploring the history of Native American recognition in South Carolina and ongoing efforts to support Native communities.

On Friday, Feb. 28, Dr. Denise Bossy presents a lecture (untitled as of time of print) on the Yamasee Indians and on Friday, March 28, Winthrop University Professor Emeritus Terry Norton presents "Trickster Tales of Southeastern Native Americans: Creek, Catawba, and Cherokee Stories," discussing the trickster figure that appears in folklore from Indigenous people of the Southeastern United States. Following the next month (date and title to be announced), Director of the Museum of the Southeast American Indian Nancy Strickland Chavis will present the April lecture.

Rescheduled from last fall due to inclement weather associated with Hurricane Helene, USCL Instructor of Anthropology and Archaeology Chris Judge and Dr. James D. Scurry, NASC Research Affiliate, discuss geographic modeling of Mississippian period sites circa A.D. 1100-1670 in the Wateree and Congaree River drainages in the June 27 lecture, "Laser Beams and Old Maps: Searching Remotely for Archaeology Under Lake Wateree."

More great Lunch and Learn programming is being planned for the year, so keep up with the latest events by checking our [website!](#)



South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs Native American Affairs Program Coordinator Joshua Shumak presents the January Lunch and Learn both virtually and in person at the Native American Studies Center. Photo courtesy of Joshua Shumak.

"Clay & Play" Family Day!



On Saturday, Oct. 26, the Center held its first Family Day in conjunction with the children's exhibit "Clay and Play!" The event included corn husk doll demonstrations with Catawba artist and Center Assistant Curator Sharon Simmers-Norton, storytelling with Catawba artist and Center Program Assistant Beckee Garris, and drumming and dancing with Catawba citizens Quin Canty, Logan Canty, and Jonathan Thomas.

Special thanks to the City of Lancaster for sponsoring the drum circle performance! Photos by Ashley Lowrimore.



USCL CELEBRATES 65 YEARS!

Congratulations to USC Lancaster, celebrating its 65th Anniversary this academic year! To commemorate this special occasion, we invite you to consider donating a gift of \$65 to the Native American Studies Center. Every donation allows us to continue our mission, support new programs and exhibits, and ensure that we can keep making a difference for years to come.

"The Native American Studies Center is proud to be a part of the USC Lancaster 65th Anniversary celebration," said Native American Studies Director Dr. Stephen Criswell. "From humble beginnings, our campus, which began as a single building downtown, has grown beyond its parcel off the by-pass to include now a campus in Indian Land, a world-wide online presence, and, of course, the Center downtown. We are delighted to be a part of USCL's mission to provide educational opportunities to both students and the general public, support research and creative activities, and serve communities locally and beyond."

We're thankful for your gift that makes our mission possible! Here is more information about the Center's funds that you can support:

A31912 - Samantha Criswell Memorial Fund- Named in memory of the late wife of Native American Studies Director Dr. Stephen Criswell, this undesignated fund supports programs, exhibits, and activities designed to improve the visitor experience.

B12216 - Native American Studies Center Endowment- This fund supports the Center's programs, research, and other activities.

B12510 - W. Brent Burgin Archives Fund- This fund is designated for the archives.

A32521 - Fred "Henry" Shute Archaeology Lab Fund- Named for Archaeology Lab volunteer Henry Shute, this fund is designated for the archaeological lab.

Tax-deductible gifts to any of the Center's different funds may be given in person, online, by phone, or by mail to the Education Foundation of USC Lancaster. To learn more about supporting the Center and our mission, visit our website.



W. BRENT BURGIN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

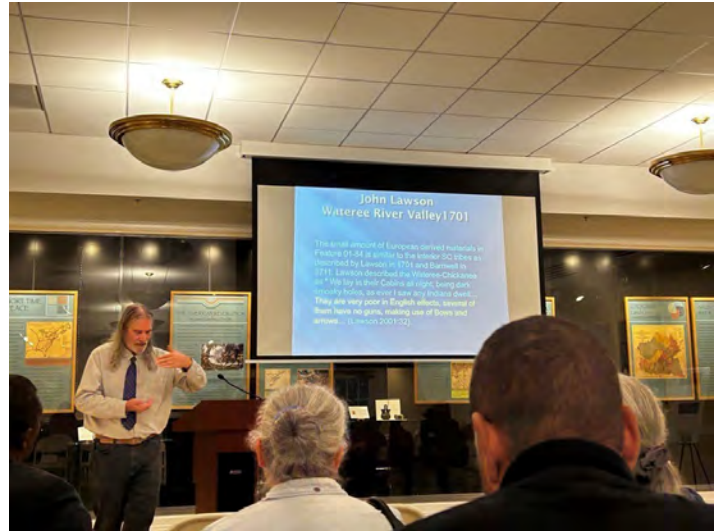
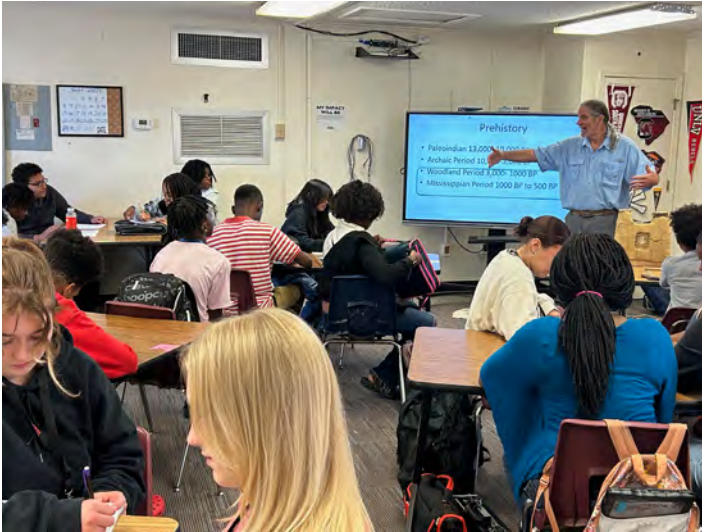
Want to make a difference in the life of a USCL student in financial need? Please consider a donation to the W. Brent Burgin Scholarship Fund, named in memory of Brent Burgin. Burgin's mother, Susan Kelly, started the fund as a way of saying thank you to those in Lancaster County who were so kind and welcoming to Burgin, who originally hailed from Spartanburg.

Gifts to the fund may be given either by check or online to the **W. Brent Burgin Endowed Scholarship Fund (B12459)**.

To give to the scholarship fund by mail, checks may be written for the fund to the Educational Foundation of USCL and mailed to Shana Dry, USC Lancaster's Director of Public Information, at 476 Hubbard Dr. Lancaster, SC 29720. Online donations may be made at <https://donate.sc.edu/direct-your-gift>, where visitors may complete all information, typing the fund number (**B12459**) in the search bar to complete the online donation.

Recent Events

JUDGE TALKS ARCHAEOLOGY IN COLUMBIA, SUMTER



In early September, Center Archaeologist Chris Judge spoke to three of Bethany Barnett's 8th grade classes studying engineering and technology of building Indigenous Woodland and Mississippi Period houses at Summit Parkway Middle School in Columbia, SC (pictured left). Later in October, the Sumter Museum hosted Judge for his presentation, "The Elusive Cheraw Indians of South Carolina" (pictured right). Photo at Summit Parkway Middle School by Bethany Barnett. Photo at Sumter Museum by Annie Rivers.

Visit [NASCA](#) to learn more about South Carolina's Native communities and access letters, images, videos, timeline, an interactive map, and more!

Watch our previous virtual programming on the Center's [YouTube Channel](#)! Be sure to like, subscribe, and ring the bell for the notifications!

NOOE PRESENTS FALL AUTHOR TALKS, SYMPOSIUM



Thanks to the Charleston Library Society for hosting Center Historian Dr. Evan Nooe in September (pictured left) for an author talk discussing his newest book, "Aggression and Sufferings: Settler Violence, Native Resistance, and the Coalescence of the Old South." The book, awarded the 2022 Anne B. and James B. McMillan Prize in Southern History, is available for purchase through the University of Alabama Press website. Among his author talks, Nooe has presented at other conferences this fall, including being a commentator for the panel, "Gods, Guns, and Gender: the Unexpected and the Unexplained in the Native South during the 17th, 18th, and Early 19th Centuries" at the American Society for Ethnohistory hosted by North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND. In October, Nooe also presented "Semi-Military Colonies and the Perpetual Peril of Settler Memory in the Native South" at the Western Historical Association annual meeting in Kansas City, MO, and "Re-Making Florida's Past: History, Memory, and Tourism at Disney Springs" at the Florida Historical Society 2024 Annual Meeting and Symposium in Orlando (pictured right), hosted by the University of Central Florida's Department of History. Photo of Nooe in Charleston by Meena Nooe. Photo of Nooe in Orlando by Andrew Frank.



TAYLOR-DRIGGERS ARTWORK FEATURED IN KAKALAK

Congratulations to the Center's Curator of Collections and Galleries Brittany Taylor-Driggers! Her mixed media piece, "Fixing My Broken Pieces," was selected for publication in Kakalak 2024, a national juried poetry and art publication by Main Street Rag Publishing Company. The piece is part of a series Taylor-Driggers created after the passing of her father; one piece from that same series, "One or Two a Day," is pictured left. "During that first year my work shifted slightly into these fragmented images and pieces—memories and the processing of those memories and experiences," said Taylor-Driggers. Image courtesy of Brittany Taylor-Driggers.

UPDATES TO TASI



Thanks to Abbey Hunter and Joanna Lothers from the Lancaster County Council of the Arts for coming by the Center in October to update Tasi with new accessibility features! A newly installed plaque includes a Braille description of the artwork, as well as a QR code guests can scan to learn more about the program and to hear an audio description of all the pets on display. Photo by Ashley Lowrimore.

SERVICE PROJECT HELPER



USC Union student Diajah Moore has been assisting Center faculty and staff this fall as part of a service learning project. Here, Moore assists USCL Instructor of Anthropology and Archaeology Christopher Judge with cleaning pottery sherds in the Archaeology Lab. Photo by Chris Judge.

View current and upcoming exhibits from the Special Collections and galleries [here!](#)

Lolly Coyote, Scarecrow on Main



In October, the Center Visitor Coordinator Katelyn Shull-McManus (left) and Visitor and Project Coordinator Assistant Crystal Angel-Melton (right) created Lolly Coyote, the Center's entry for See Lancaster's annual Scarecrows on Main! The scarecrow, located in a pumpkin patch at the corner of Main and Gay Streets, paid homage to this year's musical theme for the 19th Annual Native American Studies Celebration. Photos by Katelyn Shull-McManus.



Yap Ye Iswa Festival



In November, the Center had the pleasure of staffing an information table at the Catawba Nation's Yap Ye Iswa Festival in Rock Hill, S.C. Above, Center Historian and USCL Assistant Professor of History Dr. Evan Nooe sits at the Center's table. Below, Catawba musician Cody Parks (left) stands with USCL Director of Native American Studies Dr. Stephen Criswell, who holds a framed copy of the Native American Heritage Month proclamation given by South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster. Photo of Nooe by Stephen Criswell. Photo of Parks and Criswell by Evan Nooe.



Upcoming Events

Jan. 25, Noon

Lunch and Learn: "Revitalizing Heritage: Native American Affairs in South Carolina"

Lecture by Joshua Shumak, S.C. Commission for Minority Affairs Native American Affairs Program Coordinator.

Jan. 28, 7-8 p.m.

Author Talk

Center Historian Dr. Evan Nooe presents a talk about his book "Aggression and Sufferings: Settler Violence, Native Resistance, and the Coalescence of the Old South" at the Mount Holly Historical Society in Mount Holly, S.C.

Feb. 7-9

Catawba Powwow

Join the Catawba Nation for the Catawba Powwow in Rock Hill, S.C. [Click here](#) for more information.

Feb. 15

Exhibit Closing

Last day to see the exhibit, "Celebrating Indigenous Identity and Culture in the Lowcountry."

Feb. 28, Noon

Lunch and Learn: TBD

Lecture by Dr. Denise Bossy, University of North Florida Professor of History.

March 28, Noon

Lunch and Learn: "Trickster Tales of Southeastern Native Americans: Creek, Catawba, and Cherokee Stories"

Lecture by Terry Norton, Winthrop University Professor Emeritus.

May 3, Time TBD

Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois, and United Tribes of South Carolina, Inc. Powwow

Join ECSIUT for their powwow at Haygood Mill in Pickens, S.C. [Click here](#) for more information.

May 3

Exhibit Closing

Last day to see the exhibit, "What the Fire May Gift."

June 27, Noon

Lunch and Learn: "Laser Beams and Old Maps: Searching Remotely for Archaeology Under Lake Wateree"

Lecture by James Scurry, NASC Research Affiliate, and Professor Chris Judge, USC Lancaster Instructor of Anthropology and Archaeology. Rescheduled from September 2024.



Stay up to date on all our upcoming events from our [website!](#)

Center Exhibitions

D. Lindsay Pettus Gallery: The Story of Catawba Pottery. This National Endowment for the Arts funded exhibit traces the art, culture and history of Catawba pottery, the oldest Native American pottery tradition in the United States. Permanent Exhibit.

North Gallery: Celebrating Indigenous Identity and Culture in the Lowcountry. This exhibit, funded in part by the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation and the USC Racial Justice and Equity Research Fund, highlights the state-recognized tribes of the South Carolina Lowcountry, their history, cultural traditions, and celebrations. Through Feb. 15, 2025.

Red Rose Gallery: What the Fire May Gift. Artwork by USCL's 2023 Artist-in-Resident Bill Harris. This exhibit will highlight work by Bill Harris during and after his residency at the Center, and work by his proteges. Through May 3, 2025.

Five Points Gallery: Soul of the South. Curated by the Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage, "Soul of the South" takes visitors on a musical journey highlighting the influences that Native Americans, enslaved Africans, and the European colonizers in the Lowcountry had on various genres of music: gospel, jazz, blues, musical theater and rock and roll. Largely sponsored by Gretsch, the renowned drum and musical instrument maker, the exhibit also showcases local musicians and groups whose notoriety reached beyond the Lowcountry. Through Aug. 30, 2025.

Duke Energy Gallery: Clay and Play! This educational children's exhibit includes traditional Native American folktales, colorful displays and wall murals, pottery displays, an interactive Three Sisters Garden where guests can "pick" corn, beans, and squash, and other props for immersive play. Through Aug. 5, 2026.

Back Gallery: Growing Through Donations. This exhibit highlights donations from our Special Collections. Semi-permanent Exhibit.

