

BRING HARRIET HOME: JOURNEY TO FREEDOM" A MONUMENTAL EVENT

Access Electronic Press Packet with program details, photos and biographies at:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ckrWyTX8QvF3uZTdwv5Pshz2ImRKxAGK?usp=sharing>

SYNOPSIS:

During the summer of 2022, Marilyn Hemingway, Kent C. Hermes and Steve Williams, organizers of the 2019 Harriet Tubman/James Bowley historic marker weekend hosted by the Gullah Geechee Chamber of Commerce, lunched with Wesley Wofford, renowned sculptor of Harriet Tubman monuments throughout the United States. From this meeting, an idea was born to bring the “Journey to Freedom” monument to Georgetown, SC.

It was decided the purpose of the event would be to commemorate Harriet Tubman’s legacy, heroism, and courage; her love for her great-nephew James A Bowley and his accomplishments in Georgetown and the state of South Carolina, and to celebrate Gullah Geechee Culture Heritage through education and Tourism.

Recognizing the tremendous task before them, the now co-chairs Hermes and Williams along with Hemingway, staff representative moved to organize a Planning Committee comprised of the City and County governments and the major Tourism and Marketing organizations in Georgetown County. We are very appreciative of their valuable experience and knowledge this event would not happen.

It was also decided during the three-month visit of the “Journey to Freedom” monument, that events would be hosted and sponsored throughout the county of Georgetown allowing for engagement of the entire community in this momentous event.

All previous meetings in 2022 and beginning of 2023, have led to a press conference on Monday, January 23, 2023 to introduce the event to the broader community, plans, programming and fundraising efforts.

Event Details as of January 23, 2023

Dates:

- August 1 – October 31, 2023
- Various dates listed on Calendar of Events; final version will be available after May 15, 2023



Gullah Geechee Chamber
FOUNDATION

Locations:

- Joseph Hayne Rainey Park – Monument Location
- Various County Sites – Three-month Calendar of Events TBA

WEBSITE and SOCIAL MEDIA

- Website: www.BringHarrietHome.org Launch date: February 2023
- Social Media – There will be social media accounts: Instagram, Facebook launched in February 2023.

MAJOR EVENTS:

- August 1, 2023 – Arrival of “Journey to Freedom” monument with stops throughout the county (TBD) and ending at Joseph Hayne Rainey Park to be greeted by local officials
- August 5, 2023 – Unveiling of “Journey to Freedom” monument.
- August 26, 2023 – Gullah Kinfolk Traveling Theater, musical production celebrating Gullah History and Heritage, TBD
- September 16, 2023 - Harriet Tubman, a one-woman show featuring Natalie Daise, actress and artist, Winyah Auditorium,
- October 7, 2023 – Artisan Village – showcasing local, regional and Gullah Geechee artisans and vendors, Joseph Hayne Rainey Park, Front Street, Georgetown, SC

Planning Committee:

- Gullah Geechee Chamber Foundation, Inc
- Gullah Geechee Chamber of Commerce
- Brookgreen Gardens
- City of Georgetown
- County of Georgetown
- Georgetown Business Association
- Georgetown County School District
- Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce
- Georgetown County Museum
- Georgetown County Library System
- Pawleys Island – Litchfield Beach Business Association

Meets once a month at the Beck Administration building of the Georgetown County School District



The Stakeholder committee is comprised of more than 60 organizations and individuals across Georgetown County. Their responsibilities include planning county-wide events across the county, volunteering, and fundraising support. This committee meets every third Tuesday of the month 6:00pm at the Main Library branch, 405 Cleland Street.

The Education Committee is lead by Steve Williams with representation from the Georgetown County School District, Georgetown County Library System and community members. Their responsible or planning educational activities for school children and the general public incorporating the Tubman legacy, Bowley story and Gullah Geechee Heritage.

Additional committees include:

- Marketing
- Volunteers
- Programming

We are seeking volunteers for all committee work.

FUNDRAISING:

The fundraising goal is to raise \$105,000. This will be achieved through ATax funds, Sponsorships, and donations.

Sponsorship packet can be obtained by contacting Marilyn Hemingway at 843-318-8644 or Marilyn@GullahGeecheeChamber.org

Donations can be made at: <https://gofund.me/eba49ead>