

NC Office of Strategic Partnerships Monthly Connect
The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources: From (A)rts Council to (Z)oo
Relevant Resources

This is a follow-up to the [NC Office of Strategic Partnerships](#) (OSP) June 2023 Monthly Connect: *The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources: From (A)rts Council to (Z)oo* ([recording](#)).

OSP regularly shares information and resources after the Monthly Connect sessions. Typically, panelists or participants shared the information and resources in the virtual “chat.” This is not intended to be a comprehensive list. More about the Monthly Connect series [here](#).

Speakers at this Monthly Connect were:

Jeff Bell, Director, NC Arts Council, DNCR

Quinn Godwin, Associate Director, NC American Indian Heritage Commission, DNCR

Michelle Lanier, Director, Division of State Historic Sites and Properties, DNCR

Jenni Owen (moderator), Director, NC Office of Strategic Partnerships

Brian Strong, Acting Director, Division of Parks and Recreation, DNCR

Ansley Herring Wegner, Research Supervisor, Historical Research Office, Office of Archives and History, DNCR

Reid Wilson, Secretary, DNCR

Resources

Descriptions are in alphabetical order and paraphrased from active links as of July 5, 2023.

[North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources](#) (DNCR)

Oversees the state’s resources for the arts, history, libraries, and nature. Through its programs, the department enhances education, stimulates economic development, improves public health, expands accessibility, and strengthens community resiliency.

- [America 250 NC](#): Statewide commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States.
- [Grant Opportunities](#): DNCR awards grants to individuals and organizations to foster historical, cultural, recreational, and environmental pursuits.

[African American Heritage Commission](#) (AAHC)

Works across DNCR to preserve, protect, and promote NC’s African American history, art, and culture.

- [Africa to Carolina](#): Initiative to identify, acknowledge, and mark sites in NC where enslaved Africans disembarked directly from the African Continent.
- [Freedom Roads](#): Statewide trail system designed to recognize the roads, rivers, and ports in NC that were crucial to the efforts of enslaved African Americans seeking freedom, and to highlight the story of freedom-seeking via other avenues of liberation created during the Civil War.

[American Indian Heritage Commission](#) (AIHC)

Provides oversight and management of State-managed American Indian historic sites, promotes public awareness of the annual American Indian Heritage Month Celebration, and encourages American Indian cultural tourism throughout the state. NC is [home to](#) eight statutorily recognized tribes and four Urban Indian Organizations. (See [American Indian population projections](#), shared by the NC Demographer). Explore upcoming [AIHC events](#).

- [American Indian Heritage Month](#): Each year, NC proclaims November as American Indian Heritage Month to honor the rich cultural contributions of American Indians, primarily through the promotion of the NC Museum of History’s annual American Indian Heritage Celebration.
- [Indian School Markers](#): Record the location of historic schools intended for American Indians during segregation.

- [Oral History Recordings](#): AIHC is partnering with the Oral History Unit in the Division of State Archives to gather information on the collection of oral histories of individuals in NC's tribal communities.

Arts Council

Sustains and grows the arts in NC by delivering resources for arts development to all 100 counties. Follow the North Carolina Arts Council on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

- [2023 North Carolina Heritage Awards](#): Annual award ceremony honoring artists across the state for their contributions to the cultural life of their communities.
- [A+ Schools of NC](#): A program which incorporates the arts into state-mandated curriculum in schools. Operates in 70 schools in over 30 counties.
- [Come Hear NC](#): A program celebrating North Carolina's contributions to American music.
- [Cultural Tourism and Trails](#): Projects supported by the Arts Council documenting significant art assets across the state.
- [Grants and Resources](#): The Arts Council has numerous grant opportunities and resources available for organizations and artists across the state.
- [Support to Arts Organizations](#): The Arts Council provides grants and technical assistance to art organizations across the state.

Division of Parks & Recreation

Administers a diverse system of state parks, natural areas, trails, lakes, rivers, and recreation areas.

- [North Carolina Trails Program](#)
Helps residents, organizations, and agencies plan, develop, and manage all types of trails. Staff provide technical assistance, offer grant opportunities, and develop partnerships with local conservation and recreation advocates.
 - [2023 North Carolina Year of the Trail](#): Celebrating NC's vast network of trails, greenways, and blueways that showcase the state's diverse landscapes.
 - [Recreational Trails Program](#): \$1.5-million federal grant program designed to help states provide and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail use.
- [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#): Provides matching grants to local governments to assist with public park and recreation projects.

Office of Archives and History

Works to collect, preserve, and provide public access to historically significant archival materials relating to all North Carolinians.

- [Division of Historical Resources](#)
 - [Office of State Archaeology \(OSA\)](#): Serves North Carolina's citizens through programs that identify archaeological resources on land and beneath state waters. OSA furnishes professional archaeology services to government agencies, museums, schools, and the general public.
 - [Highway Historical Marker Program](#): Operated jointly with the NC Department of Transportation sharing concise accounts of NC history. The system features over 1600 statewide markers.
 - [NC Historical Review](#): Published quarterly. Covers a variety of subjects and features articles that explore NC history from the colonial period to the present.
- [Division of State Historic Sites](#)
Preserves, operates, and interprets significant historic sites, enabling visitors to explore NC's rich and diverse heritage. The division is responsible for 27 historic sites across the state.
 - [Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum](#): Honors the life of Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown and the Palmer Memorial Institute.
 - [Fort Fisher](#): A former Confederate fort located in Wilmington during the Civil War.
 - [Golden Frinks Home](#): Home of Civil Rights activist Golden Frinks acquired by DNCR in 2020.
 - [Historic Bath](#): European settlement near the Pamlico River; NC's first town.

- [NC Transportation Museum](#): Once home to Southern Railway's largest steam locomotive repair facility in the southeast, and a museum dedicated to NC's transportation history.
 - [Fire Truck Festival](#): An annual event celebrating firefighters from across the state.
- [Singing on the Land](#): A virtual music project that celebrates the stories of historic sites across the state through the voices of NC musicians.
- [Office of Archives and History Collection](#): Collaboration with the University of North Carolina to distribute books that document NC history.

[State Library of North Carolina \(SLNC\)](#)

Provides North Carolinians with access to information resources and library services while promoting literacy and learning. NC residents and state agency employees can [apply for a library card](#) and borrow items from the SLNC Government & Heritage Library circulating collection.

Panelists shared the following ways to engage with DNCR:

- [HBCU/MIHE Summer Internship Program](#): The Historically Black Colleges/Universities (HBCU) & Minority Institutions of Higher Education (MIHE) Internship is a paid, ten-week program to expose, engage, and educate students by giving them tangible, real-world experience with divisions across DNCR.
- Volunteer opportunities are available with many of DNCR's divisions.
- Sign up for DNCR [Press Releases](#) and follow on social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)).

[North Carolina Office of Strategic Partnerships \(OSP\)](#)

Develops, launches, and enhances partnerships between state agencies and NC's research and philanthropic sectors. As part of this work, OSP has created numerous resources about cross-sector partnerships. Contact partnerships@osbm.nc.gov if you have questions.

- [Grant Opportunities with state agencies](#): OSP's Philanthropy Liaison and the NC Department of Information Technology developed this list of grant programs across NC state government.
- [Highlights e-news and resources](#): A monthly communication that includes information on events, partnership opportunities, resources, internship opportunities, and more. [Subscribe](#) to Highlights.
- [Monthly Connect](#): A series of virtual and in-person (pre-COVID-19) panel discussions on topics relevant to partnerships among state government, research institutions including colleges/universities, philanthropy, and others.
 - [NC Boards and Commissions: What they are and how to get involved](#): This June 2021 Monthly Connect on NC boards and commissions featured Libby Rodenbough, member of the NC Arts Council and fiddle player for Mipso.
- [North Carolina Project Portal](#): A tool for sharing state agency research needs and for people to express interest in partnering on those opportunities.
- [Philanthropy Liaison](#): The philanthropy liaison works to build, strengthen, and institutionalize relationships between state government and the philanthropic sector in NC.