



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

PENN CENTER, INC

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ABOUT PENN CENTER

Introduction - *“Celebrating 160 Years of Preserving and Promoting the history and the culture of the Sea Island”*

The Historic Penn Center, (formerly Penn School) was founded in 1862 on St. Helena Island in SC to serve as one of the nation’s first schools in the South for former slaves from West Africa with classes originally held at the Oaks Plantation.

Penn Center, Inc. is one of the most significant and important African American historical and cultural institutions in existence today. Located in Beaufort County on St. Helena Island, it is an important marker for the heart of the Gullah culture and serves citizens on a local, regional, national, and global level. Penn Center was a vital component of the Port Royal Experiment.

Penn School was reorganized in 1901 as the Penn Normal, Agricultural and Industrial School and existed for eighty-six years. After the school was moved to the Beaufort County School District, it became Penn Community Services, taking on the mantle of social justice and ushering in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960’s with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conferences. Penn Center’s Reconstruction story is told and shared to the citizens of Beaufort County, the citizens throughout the state, the southeast region, nationally and on an international level. Through lectures, workshops, community outreach initiatives, Penn Center has, in the past and present, continued to embrace its vision for being a world-class organization that serves as a local, national, and international resource center and catalyst for the development of programs for community self-sufficiency, civil and human rights, and positive change. Penn Center’s initiatives encourage the development of critical thinking, creative skills, and social consciousness through preserving and documenting history, collecting and exhibiting, presenting and exploring ideas. In 1974, Penn Center was designated a National Landmark Historical District and is now part of the Reconstruction Era National Historic Park. The designation of Penn Center as National Historic Park is vitally important to Beaufort County, South Carolina and to Penn Center. The institution has always remained poised and ready to share its mission “to fulfill Penn’s legacy of education, community development, and social justice.”

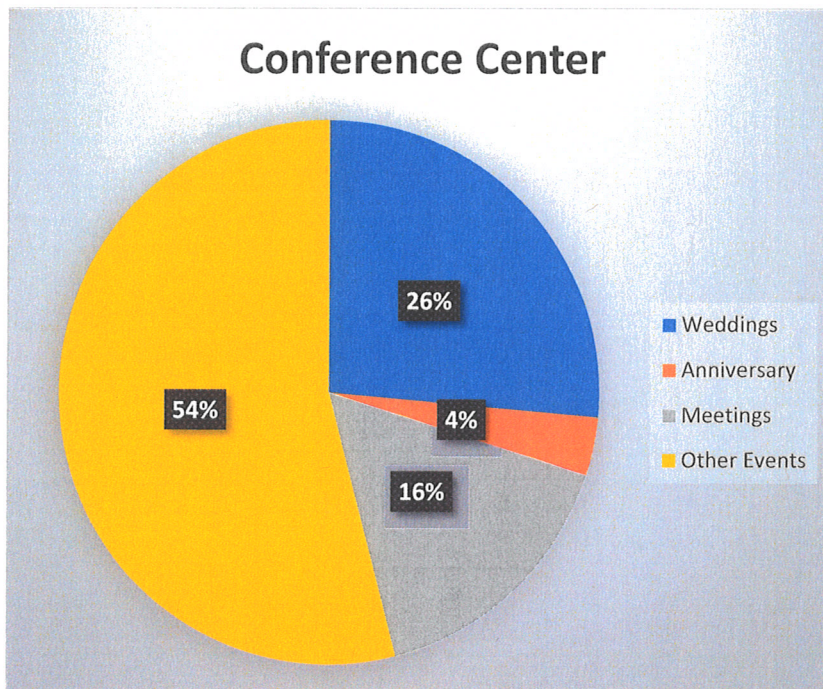
Today, Penn Center’s core work is achieved through cultural enrichment programs for children and youth, food distribution initiatives, and childcare for local children in the Gullah Geechee community. In addition, Penn Center provides Conference Center facilities, and educational programs for children, history and cultural programs, as well as preservation and conservation land assistance. The Welcome Center and the York W. Baily Museum house a trove of historical displays, oral histories and art and artifacts of the Reconstruction and Civil Rights Eras. Guided and self-guided walking tours allow and assist visitors to explore the site’s twenty-one buildings located among glorious live oak trees and hanging Spanish moss. In addition, the campus includes a large grape vineyard, a dock overlooking the surrounding marshes, and Gantt Cottage, where Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. penned his famous “I Have a Dream” speech.

Conference Center

Penn Center's Conference Center provides accommodations for residents at the county, national and international level. Most recently, the institution welcomed guests from Barbados and Sierra Leone, West Africa. During the 2021 calendar year, the Covid-19 pandemic forced administration and staff to generate new policies and procedures to safely accommodate its guests, while at the same time continuing to follow CDC guidelines. The institution remained persistent in exploring a multitude of avenues to generate revenue via updating marketing strategies, writing grants to fund events, and to explore ways to increase donations from private individuals and foundations.

Repairs were made to the exterior of buildings and cosmetic updates were made to the inside of rental properties. In 2021, the Conference Center welcomed approximately 87 groups and over 700 participants. In looking forward to 2022, further repairs to rental properties are scheduled, events are forthcoming that will maximize rental spaces, and the robust marketing plan is scheduled for implementation.

The Conference Center staff is also looking forward to the restoration of three additional buildings: Retreat House, Orchard Cottage and Jasmine Cottage.



PACE (Program for Academic and Cultural Enrichment)



Motto: Building life-long Learners, while making each moment a teachable one.

Penn Center's Education Department has a long-standing reputation for supporting Penn Center's mission of continuing education and providing important partnerships and services, which include offering enhanced and structured curriculum, providing nutritious meals and informational resources about the campus and the Gullah community.

Vision Statement

To build an educational foundation that supports all children and adults in their development as lifelong learners and contributing members of the community while connecting with the culture.

Belief Statement

To provide for the educational and social needs of all students while preparing them for success.

Purpose

The purpose is to provide a variety of services to families in the state of South Carolina, to build on individual, family and community strengths and to develop the individual's and families' capacity to thrive. Services shall include, but are not limited to mentoring adults, early childhood education, educational workshops, parent leadership programs, parenting support, and after-school programs for youth. The philosophy of Penn Center's P.A.C.E Enrichment Center shall be to link community members to existing services offered by community-based organizations, coordinate service delivery with existing organizations, and offer direct services that are non-duplicative in the community.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Childcare Center

The brain forms as many as seven hundred neural connections per second before the age of five. Students with early education are 29% more likely to graduate from high school. At Penn Center's PACE Enrichment Center the focus is on helping to nourish those connections and connect children to their culture.

PARTNERSHIPS

Beaufort County First Steps

Beaufort County First Steps supports childcare throughout the state: Early Childhood initiatives ensures that Beaufort County's children are ready for school. The program's teachers and students work close with Beaufort County's First Step's Childcare Quality Enhancement program to ensure that all students are where they need to be developmentally and that teachers are using best practices. Thirteen amazing young minds graduated from Penn Center's First Steps program to kindergarten. We held a Facebook Live event so parents could participate complete with pomp and circumstance. These children are now engaged in their first year of formal education, thriving and growing.

(ABC) Advocates for Better Childcare

We have also partnered with **(ABC) Advocates for Better Childcare**. ABC has been very instrumental in assisting our families with tuition assistance as well as providing developmentally appropriate materials for our classrooms as well as providing technical assistance for our teachers.

SC 4K

SC 4k program is now in partnership with Penn Center's PACE program. SC 4 K offers funding to eligible students for high quality four-year- old kindergarten through SC's public Child Early Reading Development and Education program.

Summer Camp

Our annual Summer Camp program offered twenty-five children a safe place to emerge from the COVID quarantines of the Spring. The biggest benefit was the ability for our children to reconnect and socialize with old friends and the opportunity to make new ones. PACE Enrichment Center Summer Camp program is structured to help children avoid the skills loss that many experiences over the summer.

In Their Words

"Thank you, Penn Center, and staff, for the lunch program on the behalf of my family and community. We thank you for the big help during this pandemic. Ya'll are heroes of our community. Thank you."

HISTORY & CULTURE

“Celebrating 160 Years of Preserving and Promoting the History and Culture of the Sea Island”

YORK W. BAILEY MUSEUM



The COVID-19 pandemic touched the lives of everyone. The York W. Bailey Museum served as an invaluable repository for keeping and telling the stories and the history of Penn School and the Gullah people. The Museum’s collections include Fine Arts, artifacts, oral histories, photographs, and archival documents. These collections are used throughout the museum’s permanent exhibits.

Education

Education is an important component of Penn Center’s mission, as well as a key component of the museum’s goals. Tours of the museum connect with the Gullah community on many fronts and most importantly it connects the community to the museum and provides inspiration and knowledge for both children and adults.

The York W. Bailey Museum also provides opportunities for the more isolated, marginalized people in the surrounding areas to take part in activities and meaningful experiences. The Museum’s educational programs continues to flourish. Students are given the opportunity to participate in a scavenger hunt for artifacts, photos, and artwork.

Audience/Visitors

The museum welcomes a diverse population regarding ethnicity, age, gender, race, and religious beliefs. Visitors travelled from China, Africa, Germany, India, and United Kingdom to tour the museum. Our goal is to create ambassadors for our museum telling our history and stories worldwide.

Activities and Events

Book signings; Scavenger hunts; Heritage Harvest Day Tour; Artist’s demonstration;

Artists in Resident; Nativity Scene; MLK program; Volunteer Training; Book Give-Away
Newspaper reporters; Live interviews

Tours

Our docent's interpretation of the history and culture of Penn Center serves as the main catalyst for attracting visitors to its museum. The center now offers self-guided tours and docent guided tours. Since returning to a full opening of the campus, there has been an increase in scheduling tours for tour buses, schools, retirement communities, families, churches, book clubs, and all who want to learn about Penn Center's rich history.

Reviews

Visitors noted that the York W. Bailey Museum is a place where they felt they were being educated and made aware of the history & culture. The history of Penn School and the enslaved Gullah people was an awaken for some and hard to believe for others.

Visitors found themselves learning more about how the emancipated enslaved were treated and survived during their time at the schools through exhibits and lectures. Some were sad, ashamed, and shocked by what they learned. Some visitors were happy to see many positive aspects of the school through the creation and preservation of our history within the walls of the museum. Visitors were amazed by the exhibited artwork, especially the artwork of world renowned Gullah folk artist, Mr. Sam Doyle.

COURTNEY SICELOFF WELCOME CENTER



Penn Center's Welcome Center persevered through the COVID 19 Pandemic by continuing to reach out to patrons, booksellers, merchants and local consingers for ideas to enhance the stock and resources for the Welcome Center. As Penn Center moved to a modified opening, staff provided a safe environment. Guests were provided with a full array of information about the campus as well as a surplus of merchandise that connect to the Center's history and culture. The Welcome Center restocked its treasure trove of items for travelers to explore during their visit such as original pieces of art, note cards, T-shirts, children's books, puzzles, works of fiction, and scholarly works that bring to life the history and culture that serves as a cornerstone for Penn Center's rich story.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors

Penn Center, Inc.

Saint Helena Island, South Carolina

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Penn Center, Inc. as of December 31, 2021, and the related statements of activity, statement of functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to in the first paragraph present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Penn Center, Inc. as of December 31, 2021, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

April 28, 2022

Eric Saxx CPA

Eric Saxx, CPA

| |
|--|
| PENN CENTER, INC. Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2021 |
|--|

ASSETS

Current Assets

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| Cash | \$ 1,282,746 |
| Inventory | 4,706 |
| Other | 2,208 |
| | <u>1,289,660</u> |

Property, Plant & Equipment

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Land, building, furniture and equipment, net | 3,634,193 |
| | <u>3,634,193</u> |

Other Assets

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Investments | 1,243,006 |
| Other | 54,563 |
| Total other assets | <u>1,297,569</u> |

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u><u>\$ 6,221,422</u></u> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Accounts payable | \$ 15,365 |
| Credit cards payable | 50,119 |
| Accrued payroll and payroll taxes | 19,073 |
| Line of credit | 68,058 |
| EIDL Loan | 159,900 |
| Deferred revenues | 502,607 |
| Other | 2,781 |

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Total Liabilities | <u>817,903</u> |
|-------------------|----------------|

Net Assets

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Net assets with restrictions | 318,180 |
| Net assets without restrictions | 5,085,339 |
| Total Net Assets | <u>5,403,519</u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | <u><u>\$ 6,221,422</u></u> |

PENN CENTER, INC.

Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended December, 31 2021

Revenues

| | | |
|-------------------------|----|------------------|
| Non-Governmental grants | \$ | 213,117 |
| Contributions | | 2,166,084 |
| Total Grants | | <u>2,379,201</u> |

Fundraising Income

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|---------------|
| Other | | <u>34,058</u> |
| Total Fundraising Income | | <u>34,058</u> |

Program Income

| | | |
|----------------------|--|----------------|
| Conference center | | 37,872 |
| PACE | | 443,973 |
| History and culture | | <u>205,992</u> |
| Total Program Income | | <u>687,837</u> |

Other Income

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|----------------|
| Rental income | | 106,156 |
| Forgiveness of PPP Loan | | 190,496 |
| Investment income, net | | 19,953 |
| Other income | | <u>6,152</u> |
| Total Other Income | | <u>322,757</u> |

| | | |
|----------------|--|------------------|
| Total Revenues | | <u>3,423,853</u> |
|----------------|--|------------------|

EXPENSES**Program Services**

| | | |
|---------------------|--|----------------|
| History and Culture | | 95,339 |
| Land Program | | 6,767 |
| PACE | | 541,994 |
| Conference | | <u>120,947</u> |

| | | |
|------------------------|--|----------------|
| Total Program Services | | <u>765,047</u> |
|------------------------|--|----------------|

Supporting Services

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|----------------|
| Management and general | | 744,531 |
| Fundraising | | <u>82,164</u> |
| Total Supporting Services | | <u>826,695</u> |

| | | |
|----------------|--|------------------|
| Total Expenses | | <u>1,591,742</u> |
|----------------|--|------------------|

| | | |
|----------------------|--|-----------|
| Change in Net Assets | | 1,832,111 |
|----------------------|--|-----------|

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Net Assets, Beginning of Year | | <u>3,571,408</u> |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------|

| | | |
|-------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| Net assets, End of Year | \$ | <u><u>5,403,519</u></u> |
|-------------------------|----|-------------------------|

PENN CENTER, INC.
Statement of Functional Expenses
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

| | History and Culture | Land Program | Pace | Conference Center | Total | Management and General | Fund Raising | Total | Total |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries | \$ 28,492 | \$ - | \$ 127,765 | \$ 40,874 | \$ 197,131 | \$ 186,599 | \$ 45,769 | \$ 232,368 | \$ 429,499 |
| Payroll taxes | 2,864 | - | 10,953 | 3,493 | 17,310 | 7,312 | 3,828 | 11,140 | 28,450 |
| Subtotal | 31,356 | - | 138,718 | 44,367 | 214,441 | 193,911 | 49,597 | 243,508 | 457,949 |
| Advertising | - | - | - | - | - | 295 | - | 295 | 295 |
| Bad Debt | - | - | - | - | - | 18,000 | - | 18,000 | 18,000 |
| Bank charges | 3,365 | - | 46 | - | 3,411 | 916 | - | 916 | 4,327 |
| Board gifts | - | - | - | - | - | 40,000 | - | 40,000 | 40,000 |
| Consulting/contract labor | 4,265 | 1,000 | 128,636 | - | 133,901 | 43,210 | 13,595 | 56,805 | 190,706 |
| Depreciation | - | - | 11,187 | - | 11,187 | 249,600 | - | 249,600 | 260,787 |
| Equipment rental | - | - | 14,129 | - | 14,129 | 29,625 | - | 29,625 | 43,754 |
| Information technology | 2,750 | - | 500 | - | 3,250 | 6,517 | - | 6,517 | 9,767 |
| Insurance | - | - | 2,398 | 555 | 2,953 | 59,543 | - | 59,543 | 62,496 |
| Interest | - | - | - | - | - | 5,191 | - | 5,191 | 5,191 |
| Meals and entertainment | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other | 961 | - | - | 42 | 1,003 | 4,003 | 1,800 | 5,803 | 6,806 |
| Overhead allocation | 15,659 | - | 43,719 | 5,707 | 65,085 | (65,085) | - | (65,085) | - |
| Payroll processing fees | - | - | - | - | - | 5,689 | - | 5,689 | 5,689 |
| Postage | - | - | 385 | - | 385 | 862 | - | 862 | 1,247 |
| Printing/Publications/Advertisin | - | - | - | - | - | 2,878 | - | 2,878 | 2,878 |
| Professional fees | 30,262 | 5,000 | - | - | 35,262 | 51,187 | 10,000 | 61,187 | 96,449 |
| Repair & Maintenance | 156 | - | 5,068 | 37,831 | 43,055 | 21,275 | - | 21,275 | 64,330 |
| Security | 279 | - | 2,648 | 4,719 | 7,646 | - | - | - | 7,646 |
| Supplies-other | 191 | 767 | 173,483 | - | 174,441 | 1,815 | 7,172 | 8,987 | 183,428 |
| Taxes-Property | - | - | - | - | - | 34,937 | - | 34,937 | 34,937 |
| Taxes-Hospitality | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Taxes & licenses | - | - | 962 | - | 962 | 40 | - | 40 | 1,002 |
| Travel | - | - | 10,769 | - | 10,769 | 254 | - | 254 | 11,023 |
| Utilities | 6,095 | - | 9,346 | 27,726 | 43,167 | 39,868 | - | 39,868 | 83,035 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 95,339 | \$ 6,767 | \$ 541,994 | \$ 120,947 | \$ 765,047 | \$ 744,531 | \$ 82,164 | \$ 826,695 | \$ 1,591,742 |

PENN CENTER, INC.

Statement of Cash Flows

December 31, 2021

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Cash flows provided for (used for) operating activities | |
| Increase (decrease) in net assets | \$ 1,832,111 |
| Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by (used for) operating activities: | |
| Depreciation | 260,787 |
| (Increase) decrease in operating assets and liabilities | |
| Net accounts receivable | 11,046 |
| Inventory | 2,266 |
| Other assets | 78,570 |
| Accounts payable | (107,583) |
| Accrued payroll and payroll taxes | 19,073 |
| Deferred revenues | 85,645 |
| Line of Credit | (12,762) |
| Other liabilities | <u>180</u> |
| Net cash provided by(used for) operating activities | 2,169,333 |
| Cash provided by (used for) investing activities: | |
| Increase in investment | (1,326,816) |
| Acquisition of Fixed Assets | <u>(31,100)</u> |
| Cash provided by (used for) investment activities | <u>(1,357,916)</u> |
| Net increase(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | 811,417 |
| Cash and cash equivalents-beginning of year | <u>471,329</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents-end of year | <u>\$ 1,282,746</u> |

Non cash disclosure

STAFF



PENN SCHOOL National Historic Landmark District

First School in the South for Formerly Enslaved West Africans

PENN CENTER - STAFF

Interim Executive Director

Bernie L. Wright

Full Time Staff

Dr. Charlene Spearen, Public Relations and Special Project Coordinator

Dr. Tonya Allen-Jenkins, Director of Education & PACE

Kevin Green, Grounds Maintenance

Latwanna Rivers, Human Resources & Conference Center Manager

Victoria Hutchinson, Welcome Center Manager

Ronique Parker, Asst. Site Director, Childcare

Tauren Jefferson, Childcare Teacher

Stacey Fulton, Childcare Teacher

Lisa Warren, Childcare Teacher

N'Neka Payne, Childcare Teacher

Part Time Staff

Annette B. Sumpter, Executive Administrative Assistant

Dr. Marie Gibbs, Docent

Contractors/Consultants

Rick Kenyon, Chief Financial Officer

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AND

ADVISORY BOARD



PENN SCHOOL National Historic Landmark District

First School in the South for Formerly Enslaved West Africans

2021 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Deloris Pringle, Chair
Donellia Chives
Ruby Flateau-Fielding
John Glover, Community Relations Chair
Charles Johnson
Barbara McCaskill
Cynthia Porcher
Ethel Sumpter, Treasurer & Secretary
Vashti Washington

2021 ADVISORY BOARD

Jennie Chaplin
Dave Dennis
Ervena Faulkner
Sara June Goldstein
Tia Powell-Harris
Marie Leroy
Atiba Mbiwan
Queen Quet
Mary Sharp
Ned Tupper
Leslie Vaughan, Jr.
John Whittleton

LAND USE

Community Outreach

The Penn Center staff worked to ensure that despite the challenges thrust upon the organization via the COVID 19 pandemic, it still aggressively pursued the goals of its mission to achieve the community outreach component. Staff joined with community members to access, interpret, and promote Penn Center's powerful history and the heritage and culture of the Gullah Community.

Grants were written and funds were received to sustain three community outreach projects. A grant focused on feeding the hungry. These funds were used to generate an on-site nutritional food item at Penn Center's Emory Campbell Dining Hall. Over fifty St. Helena families benefited from this project.



A second grant award was received for the implementation of a Community Garden. The project had the commitment of local master gardeners as well as outside resources. "Poised to Plant and Grow," the title of the initiative, utilized partnerships with community resources. Harvested crops included okra, watermelon, cantaloupe, cucumbers, tomatoes, zucchini, and yellow squash was planted and harvested. Twenty-five baskets of harvested vegetables were created and delivered to needy or shut-in families residing in St. Helena Island.

A third grant was received to host a series of seven community outreach events that would have as its core the acclaimed Gullah translation of the New Testament, King James version of the bible. The project, titled *Atta Jedus Say Dis: Exploring the Gullah Bible, Christ's Parables, and the Arts to Enhance Prayer and Worship* began in December of 2021 with a theatre performance of the Nativity that included Gullah readings from the translated bible. This event had been a long-standing event for Penn Center, but the performance had not taken place for two years due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The event not only marked the beginning of the Christmas season, but it also marked the return to celebrating long-standing cultural markers for the Center.

Regarding further community outreach projects for 2021, Penn Center reopened its Saturday Farmers' Market. Local farmers and vendors host the sale of fresh produce and homemade breads and bouquets of wildflowers that are offered to local residents and visitors to the Center.

In August 2021, Penn Center's harvested grape from its vineyard.



Penn Center hosted a Back-to-School Supplies Give Away for local elementary school children. Books, pads, pens, pencils, and bookbags were some of the supplies offered to families.



Santa came to visit the children of St. Helena in 2021, which was the first visit by the St. Helena Fire Department since December of 2020. Furthermore, a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA seminar) that included key representatives from FEEMA who provided valuable information to the community and church leaders regarding recent changes in policy that would positively affect St. Helena property owners, and in particular those families living on what is termed heirs' property.

PARTNERS



PENN SCHOOL National Historic Landmark District
First School in the South for Formerly Enslaved West Africans

Partners

Penn Center, Inc's partners that are aligned strategically with our mission and vision. Listed below are Penn Center's partners and point of contact.

Beaufort County Government, Beaufort, SC

Beaufort County Library - St. Helena Branch, St Helena Island, SC

The Boeing Company, St. Louis, MO

Reconstruction Era National Park Service (NPS), Beaufort, SC

Regions Bank, Beaufort, SC

Wells Fargo, Beaufort, SC

UGA Willson Center for Humanities and Arts Mellon Foundation Project, GA

Zinn Education Project (Teach Reconstruction), Washington, D.C.

UNC Chapel Hill Southern Collection, Chapel Hill, NC

Beaufort County Black Chamber, Beaufort, SC

International Coalition Sites of Conscience

FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS



PENN SCHOOL National Historic Landmark District

First School in the South for Formerly Enslaved West Africans

Funders & Supporters

Penn Center, Inc's Funders & Supporters that are aligned strategically with our mission and vision. Listed below are Penn Center's Funders & Supporters and point of contact.

McKensie Scott, Seattle, WA

SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, SC

Simeon and Jean H Locke Charitable Foundation, Brooklyn, NY

The Boeing Company, St. Louis, MO

Reconstruction Era National Park Service (NPS), Beaufort, SC

UGA Willson Center for Humanities and Arts Mellon Foundation Project, GA

The Coastal Community Foundation/Beaufort Fund, North Charleston, SC

The South Carolina Humanities Council, SC

Beaufort County Government, Beaufort, SC

George Loening c/o Geller & Company, New York, NY