

Fall 2020

Dear Prospective Advisory Council Member,

Thank you for taking an interest in possibly serving on the Advisory Council of McKissick Museum at the University of South Carolina.

We appreciate your willingness to consider joining us in the work of institution building. Together, the Museum staff and Advisory Council collaborate to strengthen McKissick's role as *the* midlands cultural institution dedicated to telling the story of southern life—community, culture and the environment. We understand this story to be complex, contested and dynamic—continually evolving in light of ongoing research, exhibitions and programs that mine the region's past, are mindful of its present, and imagine its future. That's what makes this work so meaningful.

Advisory Council members play a critical role as Museum ambassadors. Their ears to the ground in diverse communities, Council members advise staff of organizational partnership opportunities that will enhance program breadth, depth and impact. They also assist staff with the friend-building activities that are so key to successful fundraising efforts.

This packet is your introduction to the Museum—its mission, values, collections, exhibits and programs. It also outlines the roles, responsibilities and expectations of Advisory Council members, and will guide you through the process of becoming an Advisory Council member, should you decide that's a path you'd like to pursue.

We hope you find the enclosed information helpful in assessing whether the Museum's programs resonate with you to the extent that you'd be an effective Museum advocate.

If you have any questions about the Museum or what serving as an Advisory Council member entails, please contact us. We hope to soon welcome you as a new member of our team.

Sincerely,



Jane Przybysz, Ph.D.
Executive Director

McKissick Museum's Mission Statement

The University of South Carolina's McKissick Museum fosters awareness and appreciation of the diversity of the American South's culture and geography, attending particularly to the importance of enduring folkways and traditions. It accomplishes these aims through original research about southern life, material culture, natural science, and decorative and fine arts by holding exhibitions, issuing publications and by public programming. It collaborates with the university community and outside constituents in documenting, collecting and interpreting the region's culture, history, and natural environment. The museum also helps fulfill the university's mission by engaging in campus educational and enrichment activities, acting as a repository for relevant collections, and through its graduate museum certification program. (Revised and approved by the University Board of Trustees in 2011.)

McKissick Museum's Vision Statement

McKissick Museum seeks to be among the most dynamic, engaging and effective academic museums in the country.

McKissick Museum's Strategic Goals Strategic Plan 2020-2025

- GOAL I: McKissick's programs facilitate compelling educational experiences relevant to 21st century audiences.
- GOAL II: Everyone on campus and in the Southeast will know where we are and what we do.
- GOAL III: Increase financial resources to ensure high quality programs, recruit and retain professional staff who are or will become nationally recognized as leaders in their fields; fulfill collections stewardship responsibilities; and maintain a facility that meets American Alliance of Museums reaccreditation standards.
- GOAL IV: Build an internal culture of communication, collaboration, and planning among professional and student staff and the Advisory Council.
- GOAL V: Establish plan to address short- and long-term facility needs.

McKissick's Tag Line

"...Telling the story of southern life....community, culture and the environment."

McKissick Museum

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Fact Sheet

- » Established by the Board of Trustees in 1976 to bring existing museums and galleries scattered across campus into one centralized location.
- » Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.
- » Winner of South Carolina's two highest awards for cultural and artistic accomplishments: The Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award and the Governor's Award for the Humanities.
- » Serves as a "gateway" to the University for the community. Being located at the heart of the campus and open at no charge to, it provides access to many of USC's resources.
- » Collections date back to the beginning of the University and include art, natural science, decorative arts, history, folklife and material culture.
- » Collections consist of over 140,000 items making it one of the largest general university museums in the region.
- » A teaching museum, McKissick provides internships, classes, assistantships, and volunteer opportunities for University students.
- » Museum Management Program offers a graduate level certificate of study enabling USC students' academic study, training, and job preparation. Graduates work at museums and cultural organizations across the United States.
- » Student internships are offered to both undergraduates and graduate-level individuals. They provide intensive on-the-job training and research experience to students throughout the College of Arts and Sciences, and the University.
- » Produces approximately eight researched and original exhibitions each year.
- » Supports the local arts community through exhibits and programs.
- » Sponsors exhibitions and programs that travel to other universities and museums across the United States from Los Angeles to New York.
- » The Folklife Program fosters the preservation of traditional skills and knowledge throughout the state.
- » Folklife Resource Center on regional traditional culture contains thousands of images, documents, and sound recordings for use by faculty, students, and outside researchers.
- » Originated the South Carolina Folk Heritage Awards, now co-produced with the South Carolina Arts Commission and the South Carolina State Legislature.
- » Winner of over two dozen awards of excellence from national museum associations for outstanding programs, publications, and research initiatives.

Current Exhibitions

Due to COVID, the Museum has temporarily closed its major galleries to the public. The curatorial team has focused its energies on moving exhibit and program content online. Please see McKissick's website for links to *A Woman's Right, Parts 1 & 2*, created to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

Forth Coming:

A Laughing Matter: American Political Humor

Piece by Piece: Quilts from the Permanent Collection

McKissick Museum: *Invitation to Explore*

Ongoing exhibit, 1st floor gallery.

This exhibit serves as a "sampler" of the diversity of the museum's collections. Objects are changed out two-to-three times annually.

McKissick Museum

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Collections

McKissick Museum's collections in material culture, natural science, and decorative and fine arts support its mission of documenting and educating the public about the cultural heritage and natural environment of South Carolina and the Southeast.

History of the Collections

The beginnings of the Museum's rich and diverse holdings date to 1823 when the University purchased the extensive mineral collection of naturalist Thomas Cooper. Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, different colleges on campus continued to add significant objects in cultural history and natural sciences to these collections. As the only repository for cultural artifacts in the capital city, the University of South Carolina also became the home for many items associated with the history of the region and state.

By the 20th century, the scope of the collections had broadened to include fine and decorative arts such as the Baruch Silver Collection, and most important to today's Museum, material culture and folk art. In 1976, the University established McKissick Museum not only to centrally house these objects, but also to administer and interpret them. Since its establishment, the Museum has placed a strong emphasis on researching and interpreting its collections. Major productions that began as collections research projects include:

- the exhibition and catalog, *I Made This Jar... The Life and Works of the Enslaved African-American Potter Dave*, which represents pioneering research on the Edgefield potter;
- the traveling exhibition, *Grass Roots: African Origins of an American Art*, which was developed from McKissick's prior exhibition and catalog, *Row Upon Row: Sea Grass Baskets of the South Carolina Lowcountry*; and
- McKissick's permanent exhibition, *Natural Curiosity: The University of South Carolina and the Evolution of Scientific Inquiry in the Natural World*, which showcases the Museum's natural science collections within the context of the University's history.

As McKissick Museum approaches its 45th anniversary, it remains one of the largest general university museums in the Southeast. McKissick's emphasis on collecting and researching southern folklife traditions prompted the establishment of the **Folklife Resource Center** in 1985. The center is a repository for the documentation associated with objects made by the NEA Folk Heritage Award winners and South Carolina's **Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Award** winners. The Natural Science collections include the J. Harry Howard gemstone collection, and mineral specimens include those collected by Lawrence L. Smith and Burnham Colburn. The fine art collection includes works by past and present University of South Carolina art department faculty, as well as regional artists such as Eldridge Bagley and Jonathan Green. Material culture collections include quilts, dresses, uniforms, household linens, political memorabilia, art glass, and objects relating to University student life such as freshmen beanies, homecoming gowns, and part of the goalpost from Williams-Brice Stadium.

Mission of Advisory Council

The Council shall be responsible for developing programs and activities that promote the interests of the McKissick Museum and the mission of The University of South Carolina. It shall remain knowledgeable about the Museum, its collections and its programs. It shall advise the Director and assist in promoting the mission and objectives of the Museum to the University community and the public. It shall assist in raising funds and developing collections appropriate to the Museum. It shall work to enhance the image of the Museum at community, state, national and international levels.

Job Description

Requirements for membership on the Council shall be:

- Council members shall be a member of McKissick Museum;
- Council members must attend a minimum of 50% of regularly scheduled Council meetings;
- Council members must actively participate in at least one of the annual Museum events (e.g. Gala, McKissick Mixer, FOLKFabulous, exhibit openings, Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Awards Ceremony, etc.);
- Council members must serve on at least one of the Committees of Council as outlined in Section III of the By-laws. Members not meeting these requirements will be asked to resign pending a determination by the Executive Committee that an exception can be permitted.
- Each council member serves a three year term and may serve no more than two consecutive terms.
- Council meets every other month (see next page), while committees meet in alternate months.

Advisory Council 2020 Members

Officers

Chair, Daniel Ancrum

Vice Chairs, Missy Curls and Michele Dugar

Johnathan Abney
Chris Burnette
Missy Curls
Cliff Emery
Lander Hiott
Ronnie Hopkins
John Irion
Ashley R. C. Jones

Matt Kennell
Allison Marsh
Charlie McKissick
John Metts
Jane Przybysz, Executive Director
Sean Sims
Tracey Weldon-Stewart—liaison to CAS
Jim Williamson

2020 Full Council Meeting Calendar

Under the Dome, 4th Floor, 4pm

Tuesday, February 5

Tuesday, April 2

Tuesday, June 4

Tuesday, August 11

Tuesday, October 1

Tuesday, December 3

Full Council meetings are scheduled on a bi-monthly basis at 4 pm the first Tuesday of the designated month in the 4th floor conference room under the Dome, unless otherwise noted. During COVID, all Council meetings are being held virtually.

Free parking is available in the little horseshoe adjacent to the Museum's ground floor employee entrance.