

Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission named

Jeanne Cyriaque, the African American programs coordinator for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division has just been appointed to the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission.

The Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor was designated by Congress in September, 2006, to recognize the important contributions made to American culture and history by Africans and African-Americans who settled in coastal areas of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. The Gullah Geechee people represent the descendents of enslaved Africans from west and central Africa who were brought to these coastal areas to work plantations. The Heritage Corridor will preserve and interpret their unique language, arts and crafts, religious beliefs, folklore, rituals and foods.

The Secretary of Interior was charged with establishing the Commission to oversee development and management of the new Heritage Corridor. This Commission includes four individuals nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) of South Carolina and two individuals each nominated by the SHPOs for Florida, Georgia and North Carolina.

Two individuals from South Carolina and one individual each from Florida, Georgia and North Carolina who are recognized experts in historic preservation, anthropology, and folklore were nominated by the National Park Service.

Jeanne has been named Georgia's recognized expert. Georgia's other commissioners are: Charles H. Hall and Althea Natalga Sumpter; alternates are Amir Jamal Touré and Deborah L. Mack.

More information on [Low Country Gullah Geechee Culture](#)

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