Our 2024 theme, “From a Whisper to a Shout”, incorporates the impact and influences of literature and the arts in the significant history of Juneteenth and subsequent uplift of freed persons in South Carolina.

There will be two parts.

First, invited authors and artists will display works on Saturday, June 22, 2024 at the event at the Historic Harriet Barber House. Their works and performances will illustrate the historical significance of Juneteenth.

Secondly, four follow up workshops for youth ages 5-17 will be held focused on writing skills and other artistic expressions with the Juneteenth theme. Selected authors and artists will be invited back, virtually or in-person, to provide guidance for young historians with assistance from teachers.

**Goal: Provide youth with an opportunity to learn the history of Juneteenth through literature and the arts during an event and follow up workshops.**

Objectives:

1. Organize and present local authors, historians, artists and performers at the Juneteenth Event on Saturday, June 22, 2024 at the Historic Harriet Barber House, Hopkins, SC.
2. Recruit and register youth ages 5-17 for the follow up writing and diverse artistic expressions workshops to take place at the Harriet Barber House: Saturdays, July 20, July 27, August 10 and August 17. The time will be 10:00 – 1:00PM. Students will be recruited from Horrell Hill and Hopkins Elem., Southeast Middle and Lower Richland HS. The location will be The Historic Harriet Barber House. Youth will be introduced to the research and writing process, have access to professional writers and artists, practice creating and producing a creative project of their choosing.

1. **July 20, Session 1:**

Invited local historian and genealogist, **John Middleton**, will talk with youth on the importance of knowing their history. He will display his work and guide youth to selecting a project to be completed. John Middleton has completed extensive research on families in the Lower Richland County area from the days of slavery. He will inspire the participants to research their own family history starting with a family tree, so they understand the importance of family and community connections. Youth will be encouraged to return home and collect stories from their family members and bring them back in their journals.

1. **July 27, 2024, Session 2:**

**Wilma King,** renowned visual artist, will motivate youth with her work and provide an insight into the creative process. She will talk about how she gets ideas for painting through stories. Participants will be directed to think about their own stories from their family’s history to illustrate through visual arts or other form of creative expression. Teachers will continue writing lessons and provide materials for the students selected projects. Students will be required to keep a journal of activities. They will be expected to write in their journals daily. Incentives will be awarded for the daily writing.

1. **August 10, 2024, Session 3.**

**Joseph Berliner**, renowned local artist, will resent his body of work illustrating famous African American entertainers. From his wealth of knowledge as a former DJ and artist, he will demonstrate the connection between music and art. Participants will be immersed in the music of the periods his art represents. The children will be instructed to create their own masterpieces inspired by music or continue developing a project with the addition of music.

If weather permits and transportation is available, the students will be taken to The Congaree National Park for a nature walk and discussion of local history by the park rangers. This history will emphasize the importance of escaped slaves and settling in the area of freed slaves and their descendants. A member of the Lower Richland Genealogical Society will be invited to share local family histories. The students will record their experiences in their journals and interpret through visual arts.

1. **August 17, 2024. Session 4:**

**Katrina Garvin,** local actress and singer, will talk about her work as a creative performing artist. She will encourage the youth to write a play based on their stories developed in previous sessions or just learn how to speak up in front of an audience.

Teachers will monitor the completion of student’s projects. The projects will be videotaped and displayed at the Harriet Barber House. The entire project will be publicized in local media and displayed at the Congaree Swampfest in October. Parents and other community members will be invited to this last session for the display and recognizing students for work completed. Certificates of completion will be awarded.