



**McKissick Museum**

**College of Arts and Sciences**

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

# Under the Dome

McKissick Museum's Monthly Newsletter - July 2023

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**McKissick Museum will be closed Tuesday,  
July 4 in observance of Independence Day.**

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**McKissick Museum Presents Recent  
Acquisitions in New Exhibit**



McKissick's new exhibit, *Recent Acquisitions, 2019-2023*, is on view in the third-floor lobby through November 4, 2023. Organized to showcase newly acquired objects, this exhibit offers a glimpse of the areas in which the Museum collects. It also is our way of saying "thank you" to our donors, as their generosity helps us build the permanent collection and fulfill our mission of telling the story of Southern life.

The Museum's curatorial team is excited to highlight new additions of art, textiles, minerals, pottery, political memorabilia, housewares, and objects related to the history of the University of South Carolina. Over 50 objects, including a Revolutionary War sword and a grizzly bear claw necklace, are on display for the very first time.

**Thank you to our generous donors:**

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## **Folklife Program Director Amanda Malloy Moderates Panel at Folklife in the South (FITS) Conference**



Last month, Folklife Program Director Amanda Malloy represented McKissick at the Folklife in the South (FITS) conference in Guntersville, Alabama. FITS is a regional gathering hosted by **South Arts**, in partnership with the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the Alabama Folklife Association, and the American Folklore Society. The conference brought together community leaders, folklorists, artists, and other cultural workers from across the Southeast to celebrate traditional arts, discuss issues relevant to our region, and forge partnerships across disciplines, states, generations, and communities. This year's theme, "Folklife in a Textured World," evoked the role of folklore and traditional arts in the complex joys and challenges of contemporary Southern life.

On June 9, Malloy moderated a panel presentation entitled *Meet Me at the Fair: Building Community Through a Collaborative Festival*. This session focused on FOLKFabulous, a 12-day annual celebration of Southern folklife. Since 2017, McKissick Museum has partnered with the South Carolina State Fair, the Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois, and United Tribes of South Carolina, and the Wassamassaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians to host FOLKFabulous at the State Fair.

Partners in this project discussed the festival's origins and their collaboration's future. They also shared first-hand experiences of how this event has brought together communities and diverse audiences to promote folklife in the South. Panelists included:

- **Laura Marcus Green**, Folklife & Traditional Arts Director of the South Carolina Arts Commission
- **Nancy Smith**, General Manager of the South Carolina State Fair
- **Lisa Collins**, Chief of the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians
- **Peggie Hartwell**, Narrative quiltmaker and Educator

Stay tuned for this year's FOLKFabulous program dates!

**Collections Graduate Assistant Blake Bolen  
Lands Curator of Collections Position**



McKissick's Collections Graduate Assistant Blake Bolen will soon start a new position as Curator of Collections with New South Associates for Savannah River Site's Cold War Collection. In this role, Bolen will ensure the objects in the current collection—ranging from test tubes to time clocks, along with vintage nuclear items circa 1950-89—are well-preserved so that the histories they hold and the stories they tell are not lost to time. He will also ensure that new objects coming into the collection are relevant to this important period of American history that the SRS is dedicated to preserving.

Bolen's robust collections experience at McKissick Museum and the mentorship of our late Curator of Collections Christian Cicimurri were instrumental in preparing him for this exciting next step. Bolen states, "I would not have gotten this job if it were not for McKissick Museum, where I've been a Collections GA under Christian Cicimurri, the most dedicated curator and understanding friend I've ever had the pleasure of meeting. May she rest in peace. Under her, I've learned how to steward, preserve, and care for museum collections to the highest possible standards with the resources we have available. During my time at McKissick, I've learned what it means to be a curator and preserve the stories that deserve to be told."

Bolen will receive his Master's in Library and Information Science and Museum Management Certificate from USC this summer. In August, he'll dive into a new world of collections management that he's prepared to meet head-on. Congratulations!

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## Upcoming Events

All events are free & open to the public unless otherwise stated.

### **The Nature of Fall with Rudy Mancke**

**Tuesday, September 19, 12 - 1 pm**

**Historic Horseshoe In front of McKissick Museum**

Join University of South Carolina's Naturalist-in-Residence Rudy Mancke for an in-depth look into the natural changes that accompany the autumnal equinox. This free lunchtime lecture is fun for all ages, and visitors are encouraged to bring objects of interest for Rudy to examine. No live specimens, please.

### **Exploring Paths to Freedom with John Dowell**

**Tuesday, September 26, 5:30 - 7 pm**

**McKissick Museum 2nd Floor North Gallery**

Join master printmaker and photographer John E. Dowell, Professor Emeritus at Temple University, as he discusses the inspiration behind *Paths to Freedom* and the process he used to create his artwork.

[Visit Our Events Calendar](#)

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## Online Resources

### **Virtual Exhibitions**

McKissick Museum is proud to present several online exhibits for you to explore from the comfort of your own home. Learn more about the Southern story through our diverse and engaging digital content. The following exhibits are currently available digitally:

#### **Child's Play**

**A Laughing Matter? American Political Humor**

**A Woman's Right, Part 1**

**A Woman's Right, Part 2**

**Piece by Piece: Quilts from the Permanent Collection**

**Natural Treasures: Connecting to the Natural World**

**The Shell Game: Unraveling Molluscan Mysteries**

**The Bug House: The Lepidoptera of Dr. Richard B. Dominick**

## **Digital Traditions**

Established in 1985, the Folklife Resource Center (FRC) at McKissick Museum is a repository for photos, audio and video recordings, and archival print materials documenting South Carolina's traditional culture. The FRC's mission is to preserve and disseminate these materials. With the support of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities over the past twenty years, McKissick Museum has undertaken important documentation projects related to sweetgrass basketry, alkaline-glazed stoneware, quiltmaking, and African-American celebratory traditions. **Digital Traditions** affords unprecedented access to the FRC's extensive holdings.

## **Historic Southern Naturalists**

This online resource is the result of an Advanced Support for Innovative Research Excellence (ASPIRE) grant from the University of South Carolina and continued support through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). These archival collections not only document 19th-century investigations of the natural environment in South Carolina, but chronicle the establishment and advancement of the field of natural history. This project brings together collections and archives from A.C. Moore Herbarium, the Charleston Museum, McKissick Museum, and the South Caroliniana Library, all in one place. The material collections, including botanical, fossil, and mineral specimens, exemplify the natural world that existed two hundred years ago and are sometimes the only representatives of these specimens in existence due to extinction and loss of geologic localities.

## **PastPerfect Online**

McKissick Museum's online collections live here. This online database allows students, teachers, and museum fans the opportunity to explore McKissick's diverse collections without leaving their couches. Try different keyword searches, or explore via the random images tab. You'll find everything from fossils to textiles, silver to art glass, and more.

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## **Mission Statement**

The University of South Carolina's McKissick Museum fosters awareness and appreciation for the diversity of the region's culture, history, and natural environment. The museum fulfills the university's mission by engaging in campus educational and enrichment activities, acting as a repository for relevant collections, and through its graduate museum certificate program. It accomplishes these aims through original research about southern life, material culture, natural science, and

decorative and fine arts, holding exhibitions, issuing publications and offering public programming. It collaborates with the university community and outside constituents in documenting, collecting and interpreting the Southern experience.

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## **Become a Member!**

Annual membership will allow you to explore the history, art, folklife, and natural environment of the Southeast through McKissick Museum's diverse collections, exhibitions, and programs, while also supporting the museum.

McKissick has made becoming a member even easier with our online donation and memberships portal! Click the button below to explore and purchase memberships, and donate to the museum all in one convenient location.

[Purchase a Membership Online](#)

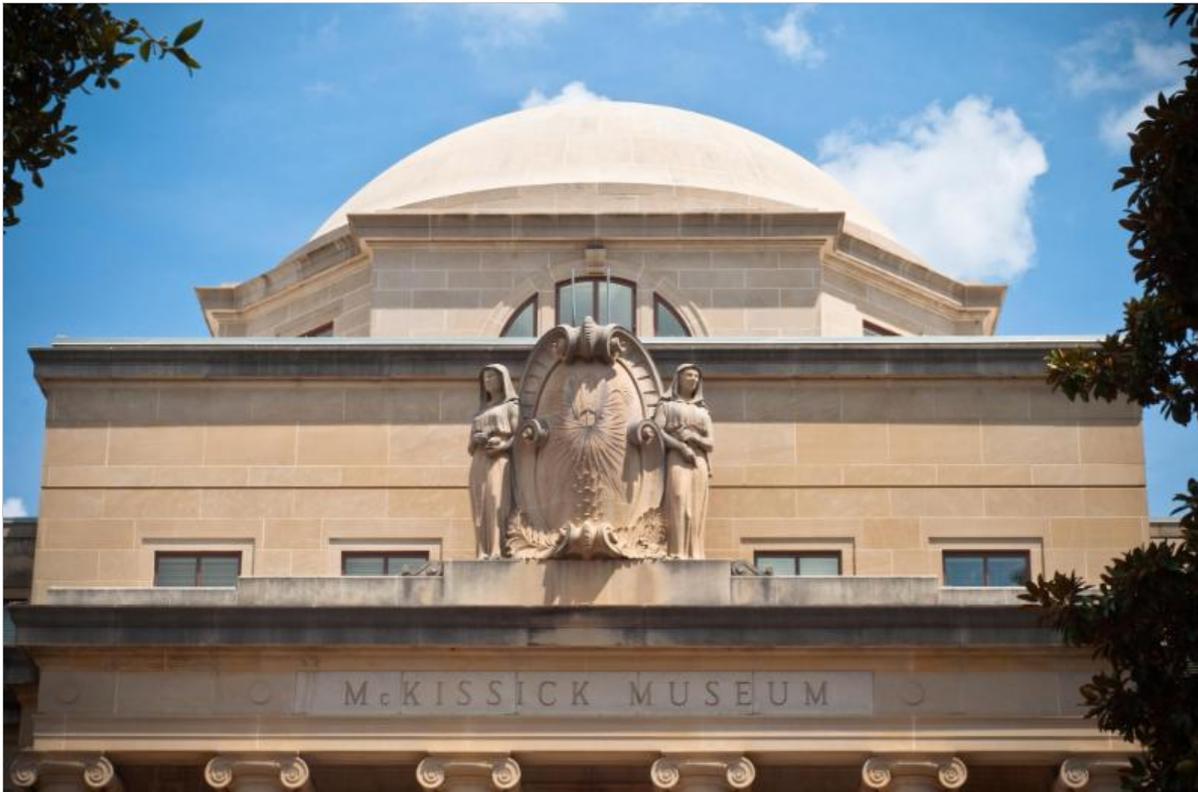
### **Membership levels**

- **\$40 Single**
- **\$75 Household**
- **\$150+ Supporter**
- **\$300+ Benefactor**

Benefits for all membership levels include:

- Monthly e-newsletters and mailed invitations to exhibit previews, receptions, and events;
- Free admission to quarterly McKissick Mixers and other members-only gatherings;
- Discounts on ticketed events and publications; and
- Free Admission to over 80 museums in the Southeast as a participating member of the Southeastern Reciprocal Membership Program. Click [here](#) for a current list of participating institutions.

Memberships can be purchased over the phone by calling 803-777-2876, and by visiting our online donation and memberships [portal](#).



McKissick Museum | University of South Carolina, 816 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29208

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