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News Release

Civil Rights Grant Project Kick-Off Meeting

Oral History Project Kick-Off Meeting scheduled for September 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Charleston County Zoning and Planning Department will begin a new project recording the oral histories of students that attended W. Gresham Meggett School with a community meeting on **September 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the W. Gresham Meggett School (currently the Septima P. Clark Corporate Academy) located at 1929 Grimball Road, Charleston, SC 29412.**

Funding for the project comes from an African American Civil Rights Grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service. Members of the community and former students and staff are invited to attend the meeting to learn more about the project, get information about how they can participate and speak directly with the consultant who will work on the project.

This oral history project, A Journey to Equal Education: Stories from Historic African-American Communities, will share the experiences of students on the cusp of de-segregation of public schools in the 1950s and 1960s. New South Associates, LLC has been awarded a contract to carry out the project, which will include interviewing alumni from W. Gresham Meggett School, a South Carolina Equalization school that was recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The grant work will begin immediately and will conclude in April 2020. If you have questions about this project, contact the Planning Department at planning@charlestoncounty.org or 843-202-7203.

For project updates: <https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/zoning-planning/projects-npscrg.php>.

What was the South Carolina Equalization School Program?

South Carolina lawmakers passed a general sales tax in 1951 to fund a statewide school construction program. The intent of the program was to demonstrate schools were “separate but equal” by constructing new African American elementary and high schools across the state. For more information: <http://www.scequalizationschools.org/equalization-schools.html>

Disclaimer: This project is funded by the African American Civil Rights program of the Historic Preservation Fund, National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material do not constitute endorsement or necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior or U.S. Government.

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