



Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities (LAMC)

Hear Our Voices Project Narrative

Summary

The Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities (LAMC) represents seven of the poorest communities in North Charleston, SC. These communities are Accabee, Chicora/Cherokee, Five Mile, Liberty Hill, and Union Heights (which includes Howard Heights and Windsor). Since 2007, LAMC has worked with each community to address common concerns. LAMC's goal is to ***Build Healthy Families***. We will achieve our goal by focusing on the following four core areas: **Affordable Housing, Economic Development, Education, and Environmental Justice**.

The Hear Our Voices project is part of LAMC's Economic Development strategy and is included in LAMC's Revitalization Plan. Because of under-documented historical and cultural sites by local, state, and federal organizations, LAMC is taking on the effort to research and document the historical and cultural assets of the LAMC communities to build on the cultural attractions and heritage of the Charleston Region.

Goal and Expected Outcomes:

1. Asset mapping of the LAMC communities to identify the following themes and resources:
 - a. Origins and Early Development
 - b. Pursuit of freedom, equality, education
 - c. Connection to the Land
 - d. Cultural and Spiritual Expression
 - e. Gullah Language
 - f. Historic Structures
 - g. Cultural Landscape
 - h. Ethnographic resources

2. Development of a strategic tourism plan, which highlights the historic and cultural characteristics of the LAMC communities.

3. Generate real economic benefits to the LAMC communities by developing a local heritage center and provide training to local residents interested in story telling and tourism.
4. Development of a marketing plan for the sites in partnership with state and local tourism authorities, local attractions, and tourism-related businesses.