

# The Charleston Museum in Charleston, SC, Has Expanded Its Permanent Gallery with Addition of an Exhibit Which Highlights SC History - Reconstruction to the 21st Century

The Charleston Museum is pleased to announce a major update to its permanent galleries entitled *Beyond the Ashes: The Lowcountry's New Beginnings*. The new exhibition will explore major events in South Carolina Lowcountry history, from the Reconstruction era immediately after the Civil War to the 21st century. The exhibit will cover topics including the political and social changes that took place in the wake of the Civil War, the Jim Crow era, the Earthquake of 1886, the Charleston Renaissance, the transformation of Charleston in the 20th century, the impact of the World Wars on the area, and the Civil Rights movement.

Notable objects from the Museum's collections to be showcased in this new gallery include: a church pew crafted by enslaved people and used by them when free; a red shirt and a dagger from the violence that took place in South Carolina during the Reconstruction era; the piano on which legendary American composer and pianist George Gershwin created his iconic opera, *Porgy & Bess*; uniforms and equipment from both of the World Wars; and important objects and images related to the local Civil Rights movement.

The Museum is pleased to collaborate with Dr. Millicent Brown, a living legend in her own right, in the curation of the Civil Rights exhibit. A trailblazer who played a pivotal role in the desegregation of South Carolina public schools in 1963 and was one of the first 11 students to integrate Charleston public schools, Dr. Brown's narrative adds an important layer of authenticity to this immersive experience. Dr. Brown is a retired Ph.D. in history, the author of *Another Sojourner Looking for Truth: My Journey from Civil Rights to Black Power and Beyond*, and she regularly consults with museums and historic sites concerning African American history.

"*Beyond the Ashes: The Lowcountry's New Beginning* is not just an exhibition;

it's an immersive journey, a fusion of artifacts and narratives that will transport visitors through the dark struggles and eventual triumphs of the Lowcountry's captivating history," said Carl Borick, Director of The Charleston Museum. "With the completion of the exhibit, we are pleased to offer a comprehensive story of the Lowcountry from Native Peoples to the present to local residents and travelers alike."

Funding for the new exhibition was provided, in part, by grants from the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation and the Joanna Foundation as well as generous individual donors. To make a donation or for more information and to purchase tickets to the Museum please visit our website.

The Charleston Museum, founded in 1773 and considered America's first museum, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located on Meeting Street in downtown Charleston. The Museum is home to the most extensive collection of South Carolina-related natural and cultural history materials known, two National Historic Landmark Houses and the Dill Sanctuary, a 580-acre wildlife preserve. The Museum's mission is to educate Charleston area residents and visitors about the natural and cultural history of the South Carolina Lowcountry through collections, exhibitions, preservation, conservation, research, and related programming. Museum exhibits provide a comprehensive overview of the South Carolina Lowcountry, while its historic houses offer insight into the families that owned the properties, the people they enslaved, and historic Charleston architecture. The Dill Sanctuary is only available for special scheduled programs.

For more information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 843/722-2996 or visit (<https://www.charlestonmuseum.org/>).

# The Charleston Museum in Charleston, SC, Offers Exhibition Focused on Fashions From the Collection

The Charleston Museum in Charleston, SC, is presenting *Lovely & Lethal: Killer Fashions from the Collection*, on view in the Textile Gallery through Apr. 20, 2025.

Are these pieces à la mode or just macabre? Discover the consequences of style, from clothing that could kill to accessories made out of endangered animals. These everyday objects can be part of some of the most exhilarating, intimate, or horrifying moments of our lives. Along with appreciating the outward appearance and the inherent beauty of these materials, it is crucial to question the deeper physical impact that fashion has on wearers' bodies, workers' lives, and the natural world, both animal and environmental.

The first section of this exhibition will demonstrate the negative impacts of unregulated materials, and how the bodies of consumers are adversely affected by trends in society.

The next section will address workers in the fashion and textile industries, including advances in labor protections and the backslide caused by fast fashion. Finally, the impact of fashion on the natural environment will be shown through paired examples of garments and accessories with specimens from the museum's Natural History Collections.

Based on the scholarship of Dr. Alison Mathews David, author of *Fashion Victims: The Dangers of Dress Past and Present*, this exhibition explores fearsome fashions,

sinister styles, and terrifying trends from the past, the present, and the future.

Founded in 1773 and commonly regarded as "America's First Museum," The Charleston Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. Inspired in part by the creation of the British Museum, the Museum was established by the Charleston Library Society on the eve of the American Revolution and its early history was characterized by association with distinguished South Carolinians and scientific figures including Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Thomas Heyward, Jr., Reverend John Bachman and John J. Audubon. The Museum continued to develop prominent collections of ethnological and zoological specimens, which Harvard scientist Louis Aggasiz declared in 1852 to be among the finest in America. Operations were temporarily suspended due to the Civil War, but began again shortly afterward. Progressively acquired since the late 18th century, the Museum's collections now represent the most comprehensive assemblage of South Carolina materials in the nation. Focusing on the South Carolina Lowcountry, modern collecting emphases include natural history, historical material culture and both documentary and photographic resources.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 843/722-2996 or visit ([www.charlestonmuseum.org](http://www.charlestonmuseum.org)).

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UNICEF USA  
International Medical Corps  
Heart to Heart International  
Mercy Corps  
World Vision

### Medical Supplies

Americares  
Project C.U.R.E. World Vision  
MAP International  
Heart to Heart International  
UNICEF USA  
MedShare  
Direct Relief  
Project HOPE  
Operation USA

### Non-Medical Supplies

Operation USA  
Mercy Corps  
Americares  
Matthew 25: Ministries  
MedShare  
International Relief Teams  
World Help  
Project HOPE  
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee  
Operation Blessing International  
GlobalGiving  
ActionAid USA  
UNICEF USA  
Save the Children  
Episcopal Relief & Development  
Catholic Relief Services  
World Hope International  
Good360

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Heart to Heart International  
Catholic Relief Services  
GlobalGiving  
World Hope International  
Convoy of Hope  
UNICEF USA  
ActionAid USA  
World Help  
Operation Blessing International  
International Relief Teams  
Water Mission  
World Vision

### Emergency Housing

World Vision  
UNICEF USA  
A Chance In Life  
World Help  
Islamic Relief USA  
GlobalGiving  
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee  
Catholic Relief Services

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Islamic Relief USA  
Heart to Heart International  
Church World Service  
ActionAid USA  
Americares  
Samaritan's Purse  
UNICEF USA

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