Honoring History & Culture
Charlotte’s West Side Neighborhoods
History and Culture - Then and Now
Connecting and Building on the Past

Overview of Neighborhoods along Key Corridors

**W. Trade Street**  -  Johnson C. Smith University and Biddleville

Historic Buildings and Community-wide Institutions and Services
Public Art as Integrated in Neighborhood Improvements

**Rozzelles Ferry Road**  -  Lakewood

**Tuckaseegee Road**  -  Seversville and Enderly Park

**Freedom Drive**  -  Camp Greene, Ashley Park and Wesley Heights

Questions for Participants

Cover Credits:  Hasaan Kirkland, Mural (L); Passing Through, Erwin Redl (C); Mosaic Village (R)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1762</td>
<td>Mecklenburg County established</td>
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<tr>
<td>1769</td>
<td>Charlottetown incorporated</td>
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<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Biddle Memorial Institute established</td>
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<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Renamed Johnson C. Smith University</td>
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<tr>
<td>1871</td>
<td>Biddleville Neighborhood established</td>
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<tr>
<td>1884</td>
<td>Biddle Hall dedicated</td>
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<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Placed on National Register of Historic Places</td>
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<tr>
<td>1891</td>
<td>Daniel Sanders Elected first African American President of Biddle Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>Carnegie Library constructed at Biddle Institute</td>
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History and Continuity

1885  Dr. George E. Davis – First African American Professor at Biddle Institute

2013  Home of Dr. Davis (1890) under restoration in Biddleville
      Future Headquarters of Foster Village Network Center, serving JCSU students

2015  New STEM Science Center under construction on JCSU campus
History and Continuity

Educational and Cultural Institutions Expand Local Boundaries

2008  Dr. Ronald Carter, new President of JCSU. Leads future vision

2010  JCSU Arts Factory opens on W. Trade St. expanding into community, spurring development

2012  Mosaic Village Opens

$25 million mixed-use redevelopment project: A Public – Private Partnership
History and Continuity

Educational and Cultural Institutions Expand Local Boundaries

2009  Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Art + Culture opens in Center City
History and Continuity
Public Art and Placemaking

2004 - Five Points – Biddleville

“Gather Together,” Tejuola Turner, Artist
Historic West End Garden
First Neighborhood Project in Charlotte

Tejuola Turner painting, above; Romare Bearden,
“The Blues, Mecklenburg,” The Mint Museum of Art
History and Continuity
Transportation Services & Choices

1891  First Electric Streetcars in Charlotte

1907  Streetcars reach Biddleville, connecting to downtown

2015  City considers funding design for new Streetcar line serving West End
1910  Constructed as a private residence
1944  Excelsior Club opened as a music & entertainment venue
1950’s  Renovated & continues as historic meeting place for political, social, fraternal & civic organizations

Owners of Excelsior Club:

- James Robert McKee (1944-1985)
- Ken Kootz and Paul Hatchett (assumed ownership in 1985)
- Representative William Pete Cunningham (? to 2005)
- Attorney James Ferguson, Jr. (2005 to present)
1955  Belvedere Theatre built and opened for African Americans

c.1996  Left vacant and fell into disrepair

2011  Full rehabilitation of the theatre building as part of the CMDC’s Greenway Business Center Development. Became Belvedere Family Dentistry

2012  Wins Charlotte Preservation Award
Public Art - Symbols of Community Values
Enhancing Public Safety

2010 Beatties Ford Road Police Station
“Protect & Lift Up the People”

LED Station Entry Lanterns
Chandra Cox Studio, Artist

Pattern design by Chandra Cox
History and Continuity
Rozzelles Ferry Road

Before 1920’s - Ferries used to cross the Catawba River

Rozzelles Ferry Bridge (L) and later bridges (R), replaced by Highway 16 – Brookshire Freeway
Rozzelles Ferry Road • Lakewood Neighborhood

1910 – 1933 Lakewood Amusement Park
built by Southern Power to cool electric transformers
Rozzelles Ferry Road   Lakewood Neighborhood
2010  Public Art Entry Sculpture

“Reflections of Community”
Jeff Hackney, Artist
Shadows reflect Neighborhood Streets
Tuckaseegee Road “The Tuck”
word of Cherokee origin, a river in western NC
Enderly Park and Seversville Neighborhoods

Bette Rae Thomas Recreation Center
Opened 2007 - Educational, Social and Recreational Programs

Wallace Pruitt Recreation Center
Dedicated 2009
Tuckaseegee Road “The Tuck”
word of Cherokee origin, a river in western NC

Enderly Park and Seversville Neighborhoods

Founded 2012-13
An Interactive Museum

Arts, Science, Music, Drama
Connecting to African-American
And African History

VISION:

To provide a place where an individual can experience the life and times in Black American history through the museum’s exhibits, installations, and interactive educational programs.
Freedom Drive and Tuckaseegee Road

1917-1919  Camp Greene established as a WWI Training Camp

- 2,400 acres, extending from Wilkinson Blvd. – Freedom Drive to Tuckaseegee
- 60,000 soldiers at its peak, with Charlotte’s population at 30,000
- The Dowd House (1879) served as headquarters (all that remains)
- Transformed the economy of Charlotte (lifted Charlotte out of Great Depression.)
- Camp Greene St, neighborhood, park and schools remain today.
Freedom Drive and Tuckaseegee Road

1920s  Charlotte’s first airfield, Cannon Field, opened near Freedom Drive and Ashley St.

- Built on the remnants of Camp Greene’s airfields
- Served as Charlotte’s main airport in 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s
- 3 runways and 4 hangars
- Used on weekends and later for mail service
- Inadequate for airlines due to gravel runways, lack of land for expansion, etc.
- Remained intact, but deteriorated in parts until the construction of Freedom Mall in 1978

1931 - City officials with Amelia Earhart (aviation pioneer) on her visit to Cannon Airport
Freedom Drive - New Places, New Identities, Honoring the Past
2010  Public Art Garden and Plaza integrated at Freedom Mall

“Tuckaseegee 12” Public Garden and Plaza
Laurel Holtzapple, Artist /Landscape Architect
Freedom Mall – Woodard Social Services Center
Freedom Drive at Ashley St.
Freedom Drive - New Places, New Identities

2007  Wesley Heights Neighborhood

“Faces of Freedom”  Portrait Mosaic Columns & Street Markers
Cheryl Foster, Artist.  Ashley to Morehead Sts. along Freedom Drive
Questions for Participants

- Do you know the History of your Street and your Neighborhood?
- What is One Thing that You Believe has Made a Positive Difference to Your Neighborhood?
- Where do you participate in Community Activities?
- What are your Symbols of Place and Why?
Natural Features & Connections

- Where is your special place to go that has positive memories, or where do you find rest?
- Where do you go to recharge?
- Are these places convenient and safe?