

Cemetery Work Plan 106 Coming Street

Project 205 New Construction

Charleston, Charleston County, South Carolina

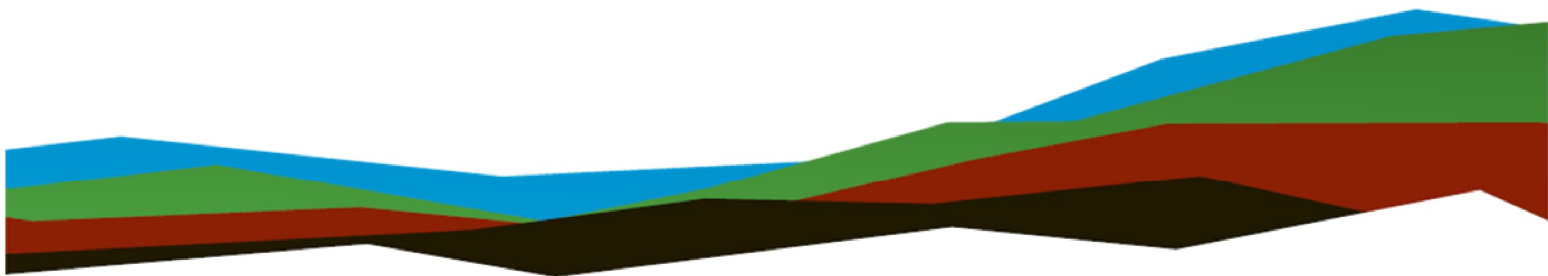
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SCDAH SHPO Project No. 25-JS0212

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Nationwide
Terracon.com

■ Facilities
■ Environmental
■ Geotechnical
■ Materials



Approximate Project Area Outlined in Red

CONTENTS

CEMETERY WORK PLAN.....	1
Public Notice and Public Consultation	2
Public Notice.....	4
Excavation Methodology.....	4
Site Security	4
General Grave Excavation and Documentation	6
Commingle Human Remains	7
Stacked and Mass Burials	7
Analysis and Reporting	8
Protocol for Unanticipated Discoveries	9
Additional Monitoring	9
APPENDIX A: PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS TO DATE	11
APPENDIX B: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COUNCIL	12

CEMETERY WORK PLAN

The following Cemetery Work Plan was drafted by Terracon for submittal to the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH) on behalf of the College of Charleston to satisfy requirements of the Coastal Zone Consistency (CZC) permit application. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) Bureau of Coastal Management (BCM) permit reference number for this project is HQE-MAZM-OBJ2E and SHPO Project Number 25-JS0212. The project requires a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Stormwater General Permit and a CZC Certification. The Clean Water Act (CWA) created the NPDES program, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has delegated the authority of issuing NPDES permits to the states. As such, the states are empowered to administer their own permitting program, as long as it complies with the requirements of the NPDES permit. Thus, State-issued NPDES permits are not considered a federal Undertaking. In South Carolina, DES issues and manages NPDES permits. The BCM issues the CZC certificates as part of the permitting process for ground disturbance in the coastal zone areas of South Carolina.

The College is an institution of higher education of the State, authorized by the Higher Education Act to issue higher education facilities revenue bonds for the purpose of financing or refinancing in whole or in part the cost of acquisition, construction, reconstruction, renovation and improvement of land, buildings, and other improvements to real property constituting Higher Education Facilities under the General Bond Resolution and the Higher Education Act. No federal funding is anticipated as part of this project and the College's land holdings are state-controlled.

This cemetery work plan outlines the methods and processes for the archaeological recovery of human remains and burial-related cultural materials related to the use of the site as a cemetery in the late eighteenth to early nineteenth centuries. Under South Carolina (SC) Code 27-43-10, *Removal of Abandoned Cemeteries*, an abandoned cemetery or burial ground may be removed and relocated to a suitable location if the governing body of the county or municipality in which the cemetery is located determines "it necessary and expedient" to remove the graves and 30 days' notice must be giving to known relatives or, if there are no known relatives, 30 days' notice of removal must be published in a local newspaper with general circulation. Terracon understands that the College of Charleston has reviewed alternatives to construction at 106 Coming Street and has drafted a Harm Avoidance Assessment and Alternatives Analysis (see *Archaeology Work Plan*; Appendix A). In the event that the current project development proceeds as planned, the following Cemetery Work Plan provides overarching procedures and details for work related to the potters field cemetery including: 1) Public Notice and Public Consultation, 2) Methodology for Excavating and Documenting Mortuary Features, and 3) Analyses and Reporting. This document was produced in conjunction with an overall Archaeology Work Plan, submitted as a separate document for South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) review and approval prior to the initiation of any field investigations.

This cemetery work plan outlines the methods and processes for excavation, documentation, and handling of human remains. As part of this project, Terracon will submit a research design to the SHPO for review and approval prior to the initiation of subsurface archaeological excavations. This research design will include approved methodological approaches detailed in this work plan, present explicit research questions, and include a review of relevant gray literature and academic literature. This research design will help establish the context of the site, as well as define the criteria for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility for the site within that context. Although the site has not been previously documented within the proposed project area and the level of disturbance there is currently unknown, it is possible that intact portions of the cemetery/potter's field, if they exist, could be considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion D for exhibiting the potential to yield important information associated with the largely undocumented enslaved and disenfranchised population of Charleston at the turn of the nineteenth century.

Between 1794–1807, a portion of the proposed project area was established by the City of Charleston to be used as a public cemetery (also known as a potter's field) that was used for the burial of free white persons, strangers (foreigners), people of color, and the enslaved residents of Charleston. Within a few years of discontinuing operations as a cemetery, development began within the proposed project area as multiple structures were constructed. Over the next two centuries, the site was impacted by the construction and demolition of multiple structures within the proposed project boundaries. As a result of these impacts the subsurface has been impacted down to unknown depths. Given the history of ground disturbance and multiple historical construction episodes within the project area, there is a high potential for encountering displaced or disarticulated human skeletal remains.

In 2023, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) developed a policy statement to establish a minimum set of rules and principles to be implemented to provide consideration and protection to burial sites, human remains, and funerary objects¹. The policy statement stresses the need for coordination and consultation with communities that will be affected by development projects, particularly historically marginalized groups such the descendants of Africans and Indigenous people. Consultation should seek consensus with potential descendant communities regarding decision making (including what constitutes respectful treatment of human remains and burial sites), deferring to their preferences when feasible. Although the ACHP and SHPO prefer that burial sites be avoided and protected, if no suitable alternatives are selected/available, consultation with the descendant community is urged prior to ground disturbance, and extreme care and respect is expected when handling human remains and/or funerary objects.

Public Notice and Public Consultation

To assist with local community engagement, Terracon has partnered with the Asiko Group, based in Charleston, who specializes in authentic and meaningful community engagement.

¹ ACHP. 2023. *Policy Statement on Burial Sites, Human Remains, and Funerary Objects*.
<https://www.achp.gov/sites/default/files/policies/2023-07/PolicyStatementonBurialSitesHumanRemainsandFuneraryObjects30June2023.pdf>

The Asiko Group utilizes creative communication and public outreach to work with stakeholders to help develop strategies and results that can benefit the project and community. Asiko holds regular public meetings to engage stakeholders, and to ensure their thoughts and anxieties are receiving equitable concern. As an introduction for the project to the community, Appendix A provides community engagement events and groups to date, under the assistance of the Asiko Group. Public engagement and collaboration will be paramount to the overall success of this project.

Additionally, a Community Engagement Council (CEC), comprised of local volunteers, descendant community members, and other interested stakeholders, has been created to provide input on the proposed project. The CEC was created to provide advice on the respectful handling of human remains, selection of certified funeral director(s), selection of reinterment location, memorialization of the people and site, and to advise whether additional analysis, such as DNA testing or Isotope analysis, is warranted. Information about the CEC, including a roster and draft general mission statement prior to committee adoption can be found in Appendix B.

Since the state does not have codified protocols for the excavation and documentation of historical human burials, the methodology described in this work plan is written in general accordance with the *South Carolina Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations*². Since the CEC is still relatively new, they have not had an opportunity to weigh in on methodology, selection of a funeral director, reinterment location, or memorialization yet. The methodology described below reflects best practices as outlined by the state's guidelines for archaeological investigation, since there are no federal or state archaeological guidelines or standards guiding the relocation and documentation of human remains. It is anticipated that some aspects of the methodology below will be revised following input and feedback from the CEC.

Although there is not a federal nexus triggering the Section 106 process, because there is no federal agency involvement, funding, or permitting, there is a possibility of encountering historical Native American burials interred within the boundaries of the potter's field. The College of Charleston is in the process of reaching out federal and state recognized tribes to help establish Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) protocols in the event identifiable Native American human remains are encountered. Consultation with the tribes has not yet occurred, so these protocols are not included in this draft of the work plan, but these protocols will likely be included in the forthcoming research design.

The College will update the public on findings throughout the work performed through the project website at <https://coming-street-commons.charleston.edu/>, in accordance with SHPO request dated September 5, 2025. It should be noted that information concerning locational

² South Carolina Department of Archives and History, State Historic Preservation Office, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, and the Council of South Carolina Professional Archaeologists. 2000 (Updated 2024). *South Carolina Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations*. [https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/scdah/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20\(SHPO\)/Programs/Programs/Review%20and%20Compliance/Standards_Guidelines_2024.pdf](https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/scdah/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20(SHPO)/Programs/Programs/Review%20and%20Compliance/Standards_Guidelines_2024.pdf)

data of human remains will remain redacted until the completion of the project and sensitive information (such as photographs of skeletal remains) will not be made publicly available.

Public Notice

If no alternate location is selected for the 106 Coming Street Project and the proposed project moves forward at the current location, pursuant to SC Code 27-43-10, the College of Charleston is required to publish a legal notice for four consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county to inform the public of the intent to relocate any human remains and then another four-week period is given for public comment. The public announcement portion of this project is expected to take no less than eight weeks before the proposed initiation of subsurface archaeological field investigations. This announcement should include details such as the project location, including a brief description of the current conditions of the site; a summary of the proposed project; and a means for the public to respond to or comment on the proposed relocation of the human remains.

Excavation Methodology

The following methodology outlines the process for excavating, documenting, and handling mortuary features, including single graves, mass graves, and co-mingled/scattered human remains. It is important to note that there are no state or federal guidelines governing the archaeological removal and documentation of human remains, therefore, the methodology presented here represents a synthesis of best practices from various agencies and institutions, including the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland³, Institute of Field Archaeologists⁴, and Oxford Archaeology⁵ and follows the general methodology outlined in the South Carolina Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations, updated 2024.

In accordance with SC Code 27-43-30, *Supervision of Removal Work*, work associated with the removal of a grave shall be done under the supervision of the state-licensed funeral director. Prior to site excavation the project funeral director is responsible for obtaining a permit from the SC Department of Public Health authorizing the exhumation and transport of human remains. This professional will be procured in combination with CEC guidance and state procurement law. Additionally, no subsurface archaeological investigation will begin until SHPO approves the work plans for site excavation and the forthcoming research design. No construction is expected to take place onsite during the archaeological investigation.

Site Security

Establishing site security and privacy is a top priority and should be implemented prior to initiation of excavations. The project area should be enclosed with a fence that is 6–8 feet

³ Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland. 2006. *Code of Conduct for the Treatment of Human Remains*. First Edition–May 2006.

⁴ Institute of Field Archaeologists. 2004. *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*. IFA Paper No. 7. British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology.

⁵ Oxford Archaeology. Undated. *Policy Document: The Treatment of Human Remains in the Care of Oxford Archaeology*.

high, durable, and equipped with privacy screening. A lockable gate should be included to secure the site when crews are not present. Privacy screening serves two critical purposes:

- It prevents public exposure to human remains during excavation and removal, ensuring dignity for the deceased.
- It helps deter looters or vandals who might attempt to identify areas of interest by observing fieldwork.

During excavation of burials or mortuary features, shade tents or larger event tents should be used to provide additional privacy, particularly from aerial observation. Security cameras have been installed on site and will be monitored by 24-hour surveillance. The site fencing and security plan will be provided to SHPO for review in compliance with City of Charleston Technical Review Board (TRC) approved permit site plan.

Field Laboratory Requirements

The field laboratory will serve as a secure on-site facility for sensitive electronic equipment and temporary storage of human remains, if recovered. The proposed location for the field office is near the Vanderhorst Street entrance to the project area, subject to confirmation following the GPR survey.

To ensure security, the field office would have double locks on all exterior doors, including a deadbolt. Inside the laboratory, a locking cabinet or closet with keyed locks will be provided for the temporary storage of human remains and/or grave goods until they are transferred to a larger secure facility, such as Terracon's dedicated archaeology laboratory in Charleston or a certified funeral director's facility.

With the funeral director's approval, Terracon plans to transport any recovered human remains daily to its Charleston office for documentation (e.g., measurements, photography). Storage of human remains will comply with 36 CFR 79, which requires:

- Placement in a locking cabinet or closet with keyed locks inside a locked office
- Fire detection and suppression systems
- Climate control to maintain appropriate temperature and humidity
- Protection against water damage, pests, and other environmental risks

Terracon will retain human remains only until they are collected by the project's funeral director. All transfers of cultural materials, including human remains, will be documented using chain-of-custody forms. These forms must be accurately maintained at all times, with the original retained by Terracon and submitted alongside curated cultural materials.

One or more bioarcheologists or forensic anthropologists will be present onsite during excavation within the project area. While mortuary features are being exposed, documented, and removed, teams will work under large shade tents or event tents to prevent onlookers from recording or photographing human remains from above. Due to the sensitive nature of this project and out of respect for the dead, people onsite will be strictly prohibited from photographing or recording human remains and from discussing or sharing information about

the project on social media. Dedicated photographers will be selected for documentation purposes only.

The proposed project area likely exhibits a complex tapestry of subsurface cultural features, including features intersecting other features. Therefore, there can be no timeline or time constraints regarding the excavation and documentation of such a complex web of features. Because it is unlikely this document can address every possible scenario that could potentially be encountered in the proposed project area, it will be imperative to maintain weekly consultation with SHPO to discuss changes to methodology if necessary.

General Grave Excavation and Documentation

Prior to excavations, a grid will be established across the project area to facilitate spatial control for burials, features, and excavation blocks. Each 5-x-5-meter grid block will be excavated from the ground surface down. Each block will be comprised of twenty-five 1-x-1-meter units which would be identified by the northing and easting of the southwest corner of the unit. Units will be excavated at arbitrary 10-cm levels within natural strata (clearly redeposited or modern fill may be excavated as a single stratum rather than by arbitrary 10-cm levels). Excavation will continue until the soil profile indicates a reasonable depth below disturbed subsoil and two culturally sterile, natural soil levels are encountered. Soil would be screened through a 1/4-inch mesh screen for standardized recovery of cultural material; however, soil from within a grave will be screened through 1/8-inch mesh screen.

Field notes will be recorded on standardized test unit, burial, and block unit forms and will include unit/block designators, depth, general conditions, amount of cultural material recovered and brief descriptions of the material, and other pertinent information such as presence of and relationships between features. A Munsell chart will be used to record soil colors, and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) soil texture classifications will be used to characterize soil textures.

If cultural material is encountered it will be placed into 4-mil plastic bags that will be labeled, written in black permanent marker, with pertinent project information including: field specimen number, project number, project name, block number, unit number, level, stratum, depth, crew initials, date, and number of bags associated with that field specimen number. Once a unit is completed, all associated field forms must be reviewed for consistency, readability, and errors, and then turned into the field office/laboratory with all cultural material recovered from that unit. Unit paperwork and artifact bags will be reviewed by the onsite field director for accuracy and consistency, and any errors or issues will be addressed immediately to ensure quality data recording.

If grave shafts are encountered, they will be excavated and screened separately from surrounding soil matrix. Once evidence of a human burial is evident, trowels will be used to excavate soil surrounding the remains (the trowel should not come in contact with bone), while wooden tools and brushes would be used to remove soil from and immediately around the remains. Grave soil will be screened through a 1/8-inch mesh screen to ensure proper collection of smaller human skeletal material and associated cultural materials. Encountered remains will be pedestalled, documented on a standardized burial form, photographed, and

mapped. The skeletal remains will be wrapped in muslin, placed in multiple paper bags, carefully arranged inside a bankers box, and immediately taken to the archaeology laboratory to start the analyses and chain of custody processes. Remains from a single interment or individual grave (including human skeletal remains and associated cultural remains [e.g., clothing, buttons, coffin nails and hardware]) will be given the same field specimen number to prevent commingling with other individuals.

Commingled Human Remains

Due to likely subsurface impacts resulting from multiple historical construction episodes, there is a possibility of encountering disturbed, scattered or comingled human remains. To document scattered and/or comingled remains associated with a mass burial, Terracon will follow guidelines outlined in the book *Commingled Human Remains: Methods in Recovery, Analysis, and Identification*⁶ for documentation. Once documented and mapped, comingled or scattered human remains can be given field specimen numbers, collected, and analyzed in the archaeology laboratory.

For transport and temporary storage in the laboratory, skeletal remains will be wrapped in muslin, placed in individual, labeled paper bags (plastic bags trap moisture) to prevent further comingling, and taken immediately to the onsite archaeology laboratory. In the laboratory, a bioarcheologist or forensic anthropologist will analyze each bone and bone fragment, attempting to visually match to corresponding bones. Intact bones will be measured and documented, and analysis should include a minimum number of individuals (MNI) present based on the morphological and taphonomy traits.

Stacked and Mass Burials

Due to the socioeconomic circumstances associated with many of the people that may be buried within the project area, and the nature of the cemetery's history as a potter's field, there is a possibility of encountering stacked burials and/or mass graves.

Stacked burials are those where multiple interments are placed on top of the other, while mass graves are those that include multiple individuals generally lined up next to one another and sometimes stacked within a single grave shaft or excavation, with or without a coffin. In some instances, particularly in potter's fields, coffins or burials were stacked in a grave shaft to save space, sometimes with merely a thin lens of soil placed between the stacked coffins. If stacked burials are encountered, for the purposes of documentation, burials from the same shaft will receive the same burial number followed by a lowercase letter designating that individuals positioning within the shaft (e.g., the uppermost burial being designated 1a and each subsequent burial being 1b, 1c, etc.). Excavation documentation will follow the procedures outlined in the General Grave Excavation & Documentation section above, while analyses will be described below.

Mass burials will be fully exposed to document the association and context between the individual interments. If there are multiple layers of remains in a mass grave pit, the layers

⁶ Adams, Bradley, and John Byrd. 2014. *Commingled Human Remains: Methods in Recovery, Analysis, and Identification*, First edition. San Diego, CA.

will be removed and documented one layer at a time to preserve the relationships and circumstances between the deposits. Once documented with standardized unit notes and relevant burial forms, the remains will be photographed (to include close-up and overview shots) and mapped. Remains of the same individual will be given the same field specimen number, while commingled or scattered human remains will be given field specimen numbers, collected, and analyzed in the lab. For transport and temporary storage in the lab, skeletal remains will be wrapped in muslin, placed in individual labeled paper bags and boxes and taken immediately to the laboratory.

Remains will not be left exposed overnight. All efforts will be made to fully recover all exposed remains as quickly as possible. In situations where the remains of an entire individual cannot be removed during one workday, the in-situ remainder will be respectfully covered with a tarp, and the open grave shaft will be covered with plywood.

Analysis and Reporting

For intact individual burials, a bioarcheologist or forensic anthropologist will use dry brushes to remove sediment from human remains and then analyze each bone and bone fragment to document any taphonomic or morphological traits. The analysts will attempt to create a biological profile for the individual including determining sex, age, and stature, when possible. The long bones, skull, and pelvis will be recorded through a series of measurements using an osteometric board. The goal of this analysis is to determine information about the individuals interred at the cemetery, including age, sex, and stature. Pathology (dental wear, healed fractures, evidence of disease) can provide information about the population living at that time, including nutrition and disease. Following the documentation, the remains would then be wrapped back in muslin, placed in labeled paper bags, and carefully arranged inside lidded boxes for temporary storage at the Terracon Charleston office archaeology laboratory (a locked, climate-controlled room serving as a dedicated laboratory for this project). It is expected that human remains would be turned over to a certified funeral director within 24 hours following completion of the analysis.

Some members of the community have expressed interest in conducting DNA testing on recovered human remains. This process requires the removal and destruction of samples of bones or teeth to extract genetic material. While some community members may value the scientific and cultural insights such testing could provide, others have expressed that it amounts to desecration and strongly oppose such analysis. The Community Engagement Council (CEC) should determine whether DNA testing is warranted; however, this specialized analysis is not included as part of the current work plan. The College's commitment with the CEC will help direct the extent of this sensitive analyses with agreed upon review and updates to SHPO.

Associated cultural remains may include personal effects (such as buttons, textile fragments, or jewelry) as well as materials associated with the burial (shroud pins/rings; coffin nails, thumbscrews, or hinges; coffin grip plates, handles, and coffin wood; and potentially grave markers). These materials would be cleaned, cataloged, and analyzed (see Archaeological

Work Plan). Artifacts associated with graves would be given the same field specimen number and would be stored and reinterred with the associated human remains.

Following completion of excavations and analyses, a technical report will be prepared detailing the results of the archaeological investigation (including both the non-burial features and the burials). Photographs of human skeletal remains will not be included in the final report but will be documented in an appendix that should be removed from the document prior to publication or distribution. The technical report will adhere to the requirements of the *South Carolina Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations*, updated 2024. Following review and acceptance of the final report, Terracon will provide hard copies and a digital PDF of the technical report to the SC SHPO and SCIAA. The results of the investigations may also be presented in a public information component, to be determined in consultation and collaboration with stakeholders.

Protocol for Unanticipated Discoveries

Following completion of the archaeological investigations, an Unanticipated Discovery Plan (UDP) will be provided to contractors working on site. This document will instruct on-site project contractors to be on the alert for evidence of the presence of archaeological resources and cultural materials, of how to identify these expected resources, and of the appropriate protocol in the event of apparent discovery of an archaeological resource or possible human remains. In the event that human remains (or likely human remains) are encountered by contractors during construction on the proposed project site, ground disturbing work will be stopped within 25 meters of the remains, and the Charleston County Coroner's Office will be contacted at the number provided below to confirm the remains are not modern. Although the Charleston County Coroner is aware of the proposed project, they will be informed of the nature of the work, given a description of the remains, and the project location address. The site superintendent will then contact the SHPO within 24 hours of the unexpected discovery. If the remains are determined to be historic aged, Terracon archaeologists can be mobilized to map, excavate, document, and transfer the remains per the protocols outlined above.

Contacts for notification of unanticipated human remains discoveries are:

- Charleston County Coroner: (843) 476-4030
- Primary SHPO Contact: Robert Larsen at (803) 896-6181 or rlarsen@scdah.sc.gov
- Secondary SHPO Contact: John Sylvest at (803) 896-6129 or jsylvest@scdah.sc.gov

Additional Monitoring

Following completion of archaeological excavations, analyses, and reporting, it is recommended that archaeological monitors be present on site until all subsurface disturbance related to construction on site is completed. In the event that potential human remains or cultural materials related to the historic cemetery are uncovered, procedures for unanticipated



discoveries (outlined above) should be followed. The onsite archaeological monitor will be responsible for initiating the “unanticipated discoveries” process. If possible human skeletal remains are encountered later during construction when archaeological monitors are not onsite the project site manager will be responsible for initiating the “unanticipated discoveries” process.

APPENDIX A: PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS TO DATE

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

Community Engagement Efforts

The College of Charleston understands the high level of public interest in the 106 Coming Street project and welcomes the opportunity to further engage with the community at large. Information continues to be shared widely via the Coming Street Commons website, the College's news website, on social media and with local media outlets. Interested community members can visit the project website to sign up for updates and meeting notifications on the Coming Street Commons Get Involved web page. Links are listed below. Additionally, three in person community engagement opportunities have been held between June 3rd and September 22nd, 2025. As a public university whose mission is education, the College of Charleston will continue to share project information and plans to document, preserve and commemorate the historical significance of the site.

The following pages include an outline of past and future planned community engagement touchstones.

College Information Website

<https://coming-street-commons.charleston.edu/>

Website established June 2025 to inform the community of the project and provide updates, history and notification opportunities.

- Meetings announcements, links to presentations and email sign-up: <https://coming-street-commons.charleston.edu/get-involved/>
- Project FAQs: <https://coming-street-commons.charleston.edu/faqs/>
- Dedicated project email address for comments and questions: coming-commons@charleston.edu

E-Alerts

Community members that sign up via email using the website above, have received the following community engagement summaries utilizing email e-alerts.

- **August 22, 2025:** Community Meeting Thank You
- **July 11, 2025:** Community Meeting Thank You
- **September 19, 2025:** Scheduled Community Meeting Notice
- **September 26, 2025:** Community Meeting Thank You
- **October 3, 2026:** CEC Application Extension Notice
- **December 2, 2025:** CEC 2nd Meeting Announcement

College of Charleston Community Meeting Dates

Direct Link: <https://coming-street-commons.charleston.edu/get-involved/>

- June 3, 2025
- August 4, 2025
 - September 22, 2025 Additional dates to be determined.

The College Today (CofC news site) articles announcing project, meetings, etc.

May 29, 2025:

<https://today.charleston.edu/2025/05/29/coming-street-commons/>

July 21, 2025:

<https://today.charleston.edu/2025/07/21/college-of-charleston-holds-community-meetings-on-student-housing-project/>

September 17, 2025:

<https://today.charleston.edu/2025/09/17/cofc-shares-coming-street-commons-project-updates/>

November 11, 2025:

<https://today.charleston.edu/2025/11/11/coming-st-project-community-engagement-council-to-commence/>

December 2, 2025:

<https://today.charleston.edu/2025/12/02/coming-st-project-community-engagement-council-to-meet/>

CofC Event Calendar

July 23, 2025:

<https://calendar.charleston.edu/event/coming-street-commons-community-meeting-8295>

September 15, 2025:

<https://calendar.charleston.edu/event/coming-street-commons-community-meeting-3151>

September 17, 2025:

<https://calendar.charleston.edu/event/panel-discussion-on-106-coming-street>

November 11, 2025:

<https://calendar.charleston.edu/event/106-coming-street-projects-community-engagement-council-meeting>

December 2, 2025:

<http://calendar.charleston.edu/event/community-engagement-council-to-discuss-106-coming-street-project>

Post and Courier Article

P&C Opinion Article Link:

https://www.postandcourier.com/education-lab/tensions-college-of-charleston-new-dorm-historic-cemetery/article_4bc24899-9be6-4cb6-ba7d-fe0df30715fa.html

CofC President Hsu and City of Charleston Mayor Cogswell Response:

https://www.postandcourier.com/opinion/commentary/burial-ground-charleston-college-dorm/article_56d75e36-387c-4d37-bb80-0bd0bce3d8aa.html

Community Outreach

The College of Charleston, through Terracon Consultants, engaged the Asiko Group to lead community engagement and outreach at the initiation of the project. Through their services, the list below of local agencies, community groups, organizations, preservation groups, congregations, and others on behalf of the College for community were engaged for feedback on an individual basis. Not all entities responded or chose to engage the College.

1	Lightbright, LLC / Humane and Friendly Society Cemetery
2	City of Charleston Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission
3	Charleston Area Justice Ministry (CAJM)
4	Black Lives Matter
5	Heritage Community Development Corporation
6	Emancipation Proclamation Association, Inc.
7	International African American Museum (IAAM)
8	SC Historical Society
9	Anson Street African Burial Ground Project
10	The Preservation Society of Charleston (PSC)
11	Historic Charleston Foundation (HCF)
12	Avery Research Center
13	Anson Street African Burial Ground Project
14	Radcliffeborough Neighborhood Association
15	Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor
16	City of Charleston - Mayor's Office of Resilience & Sustainability
17	City of Charleston - Planning, Preservation & Sustainability
18	City of Charleston - Gullah Geechee Heritage Preservation Project
19	International African American Museum (IAAM)
20	Association for the Study of African American Life and History
21	Everyday People
22	YWCA Board of Directors
23	Charleston Housing Authority
24	Joseph Floyd Manor
25	Gadsden Green Homes
26	North Central Apartments

27	Burke High School Alumni
28	Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities
29	CofC English Dept.
30	CofC History Dept.
31	CofC Archaeology Dept.
32	CofC Classics Dept.
33	CofC Historic Preservation Dept.
34	Clemson Design School/Connection to Burke High School/Charleston native
35	College of Charleston
36	Historic Preservation - Clemson Design Center
37	Society of Africanist Archaeologists
38	Charleston Good
39	Historic Preservation - Clemson Design Center
40	Charleston Museum
41	Mother Emanuel AME Church
42	Morris Brown AME Church
43	Mount Zion AME Church
44	Ebenezer AME Church
45	Greater St. Luke AME Church
46	Francis Brown AME Church
47	Greater Beard Chapel AME Church
48	Nichols Chapel AME Church
49	Mt. Carmel AME Church
50	Greater Middleton Chapel AME Church
51	Greater Trinity AME Church
52	Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church
53	Mt. Moriah Baptist Church
54	Royal Baptist Church

CofC Student Engagement Meetings

September 24, 2025

Panel Discussion on 106 Coming Street for College of Charleston students co-sponsored by the Center for Historical Landscapes and moderated by Classics Professor Jim Newhard (archaeologist and director for the Center for Historical Landscapes).

Community Engagement Council

The College of Charleston established the Community Engagement Council (CEC) in its efforts to partner with a diverse group of community members to help guide the commemoration and reinternment efforts of Coming Street Commons, a planned student residence hall at 106 Coming St. in downtown Charleston. Additional information can be found in a separate document outlining the establishment and ongoing efforts of the Council.

City of Charleston and City Council

The College of Charleston is in direct active contact with the City and Mayoral Staff concerning a future hosted City Council Community Hearing concerning the project.

Date and Location to be determined.

CofC Faculty Engagement Meetings

- February 18, 2025
- April 28, 2025
- September 5, 2025

Ongoing internal information meetings to be scheduled throughout project.

The College's ad hoc committee of faculty experts (in the areas of African American studies, archaeology, historic preservation, history, Southern studies and urban planning) serve in an advisory capacity to the president regarding different aspects of project. The College has also tasked the Committee on Commemoration and Landscapes (comprised of faculty and staff) to begin collecting stories around the property for inclusion in a larger commemoration project.

Tribal Outreach

The College is actively exploring and continuing outreach and engagement with Federal, State, and Local Tribes. More information and outreach can be found in a separate document outlining the ongoing efforts.

In addition, the following NAGPRA and Section 106 governmental agencies have been contacted.

- Nina Schreiner, PhD, RPA
Associate Director
NAGPRA Coordinator
South Carolina Institute for Archaeology and Anthropology
- Melanie O'Brien
Manager, National NAGPRA Program
Acting Deputy Associate Director, Administration and Financial Assistance Programs
Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science Directorate, National Park Service
- Ashley Fry
Director, Office of External Engagement (OEE)
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

APPENDIX B: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COUNCIL

Community Engagement Council

Mission

The Community Engagement Council was established by the College of Charleston to strengthen the relationship between the College, City of Charleston and the broader community. The College of Charleston is committed to working with descendant representatives, neighborhood leaders and preservation partners to develop an on-site memorial and interpretation plan. The establishment of this council is based on a “Call to Action” for transparency regarding the 106 Coming St. Project. The mayor of the city and president of the university shared the importance that a “Path Forward for the Coming Street Project” must be carried out with care, respect, transparency and public input.

Objectives

The advisory group will serve as both a facilitator for public discussion and as a guiding light on the details for next steps on the 106 Coming St. Project. Its primary objectives are centered on supporting meaningful dialogue, fostering active involvement and advancing initiatives that respect the past, place and people. Council members will work collaboratively to ensure these objectives are met through ongoing participation, dedication to the council’s mission and alignment with its goals.

- **Support Meaningful Dialogue:** Create opportunities for open and constructive discussions that address community needs and priorities.
- **Promote Active Community Involvement:** Encourage and facilitate the participation of community members in council activities, ensuring diverse voices are heard and valued.
- **Advance Council Mission:** Align all activities and initiatives with the overarching mission of the council, ensuring that the work undertaken contributes to the respect of the past, place and people.

By focusing on these objectives, the Community Engagement Council aims to create a positive impact and foster a sense of shared purpose among its members and the community at large.

Goals

- To collaborate with College leadership and city officials to ensure all procedures uphold the utmost respect for those interred and thoughtfully address community concerns.
- To utilize archaeological findings and community input to shape the path forward for the 106 Coming St. Project.
- To honor and memorialize both the potter’s field and the former site of the YWCA with dignity.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COUNCIL

Liaison: Dr. Courtney Howard
Vice President of Community Engagement

Facilitators

- Joanna Gilmore - Anson Street African Burial Ground
- LaSheia Oubre - Anson Street African Burial Ground

City of Charleston	College of Charleston	Community		Religious	Consultants	Advisors
Harlan Greene City of Charleston Historic Commission	Jim Newhard Faculty	Norm Dickerson	Chair, Social Action & Civic Engagement, NAACP	Eric Manning Pastor, Mother Emanuel	Dr. Tonya Matthews IAAM	Arthur McFarland Retired municipal judge
Lisa Jones Historic Charleston Foundation	Jalen Evans Student, BSU	Walter B. Brown	Former Chair, Monck's Corner Planning Commission	Luqman Rasheed Imam	Michael Allen National Parks Service	Demetria Noisette Clemons Trustee Emerita
Jerome Harris Human Affairs & Racial Conciliation Commission	Zoe Barber Student, HPCP	Stephen Vale Cofer-Shabica	Circular Congregational Church - the Meeting House			Omar Muhammad Protect & Respect the Bodies
Madison Lee Preservation Society of Charleston	Sharon Ramirez Grad. Student, HPCP	Patricia Ploehn	Historic Preservationist			
Dr. Shawn Gathers City of Charleston MWBE		Dr. Millicent Brown	Protect & Respect the Bodies			
		James Njonjo	Protect & Respect the Bodies			
		Daniel Schmidt	Radcliffeborough Neighborhood			
		Julie Ann Bowling	Friends of the Tower Hill Cemetery			