



Press Release

For Immediate Release

September 6, 2024

Hamilton Hood Foundation Launches Project Planning Initiative for Pierce Chapel African Cemetery with Support from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund

Midland, GA – The Hamilton Hood Foundation is excited to announce the launch of its Project Planning Initiative at the historic Pierce Chapel African Cemetery, made possible through a grant from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, with support from the Mellon Foundation. This critical funding will support comprehensive project planning, laying the foundation for long-term preservation efforts that honor the cemetery’s rich history and landscape.

The Pierce Chapel African Cemetery, established in 1827, is the resting place of enslaved Africans, their descendants, and members of the African American community in Georgia who made invaluable contributions to local and national history. With this new funding, the Hamilton Hood Foundation will focus on developing a strategic preservation plan to protect the cemetery’s cultural landscape, ensure ongoing care, and document the genealogies and stories of those interred.

“This initiative is a transformative step in our mission to preserve Pierce Chapel African Cemetery,” said [Spokesperson Name], Executive Director of the Hamilton Hood Foundation. “The funding from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund allows us to develop a roadmap for the long-term preservation of this sacred space. Our goal is to not only conserve the cemetery but also to amplify the powerful narratives of the community it represents. These stories are central to understanding our collective heritage and promoting equity and inclusion.”

The Project Planning Initiative will include an in-depth assessment of the cemetery’s needs, focusing on landscape preservation, headstone restoration, and the creation of educational programming. The Hamilton Hood Foundation will work closely with descendants, historians, and preservationists to develop a comprehensive plan that honors the cemetery’s historical significance while ensuring its sustainability for future generations.

A Roadmap for Preservation and Legacy Building

The Foundation’s efforts align with the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund’s goals of amplifying Black narratives, fostering equity, and advancing heritage conservation. By developing this preservation roadmap, the Hamilton Hood Foundation aims to engage the local community, descendants, and stakeholders in actively preserving their shared history.

This initiative also supports the Foundation’s broader mission to empower and inspire communities by preserving and documenting historically and culturally significant spaces. As the

Foundation establishes this roadmap, it will foster a deeper understanding of the African American experience, build connections across generations, and contribute to shaping a brighter, more inclusive future.

About the Hamilton Hood Foundation

The Hamilton Hood Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering and inspiring communities by preserving and documenting historically and culturally significant spaces. Through these efforts, the Foundation fosters a deeper understanding of our shared heritage, builds connections across generations, and contributes to creating a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

About the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund

The African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is the largest preservation effort to protect and celebrate African American historical sites. Funded in part by the Mellon Foundation, the Action Fund works to amplify Black narratives and safeguard African American history and heritage across the United States.

For more information on the Hamilton Hood Foundation and the Pierce Chapel African Cemetery Project Planning Initiative, please contact:

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