IV. Preserving the Legacy: Recommendations
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A. Heritage Tourism

- **Create a walking tour.** Identify concentrations of buildings important in the history of black Camden, such as Campbell Street and the former black business district, and develop walking tours. Create tours that utilize important landmarks to highlight the contributions of African-American residents of the city. Also consider making this a virtual tour that internet users from other areas could access.

- **Produce brochures.** Emphasize important aspects of African-American life in Camden through printed brochures. The different sections of the report offer good ideas for some of the aspects – such as economic life, education, segregation, and the built environment. These brochures could aid in tourism and may also include information from/about the walking tours.

- **Develop an African-American heritage center.** Utilize the Price House as a heritage center where the city could display exhibits and preserve resources for researchers. Another possibility is to renovate Kirkwood School for a heritage and community center.

B. Museum Exhibitions

- **Identify the topic and sub-topics for exhibits.** Using the information in this report, choose a general topic such as economics, then narrow main topic into a series of sub-topics. For example, hotels and horses would be an interesting sub-topic to focus on. Other topics could include the daily life of African Americans during slavery and during Jim Crow, the emergence and mobilization of the NAACP in Camden, the businesses that promoted dialogue between races (barber shops, blacksmith, etc.), the impact of segregation on education, the life of Larry Doby and other important African-American citizens of Camden.

- **Locate an appropriate venue.** Select a location to display the exhibits, which is easily accessible and large enough to house the entire exhibit. Camden has many possible opportunities to utilize spaces that correspond with the exhibition’s particular topic. For instance, a vacant space facing Broad Street could feature an exhibit on the black business district. Other spaces, outside of the traditional “museum exhibit” location could include city hall, city schools, and the train station.

- **Create virtual exhibits.** Design internet exhibits to emphasize the key points of the traditional exhibit, attract attention to the collection and venue, and provide interested audiences with further information on broader topic of the exhibit. For an example, consult the online version of the “Pets in America” exhibit: www.petsinamerica.org.
C. Archival Collections

- **Emphasize collections focusing on African Americans.** Commit to collecting information on African Americans by making it a distinct part of the Camden City Archives’ collection policy. Actively pursue African-American collections and agencies that may produce information pertinent to African-American life in Camden and the surrounding area.

- **Publish finding aids electronically.** Produce electronic finding aids of manuscript collections (much like the city’s current electronic finding aids for the vertical files) that allow outside researchers to identify the materials that the archives currently possess and the materials that the archive is actively collecting.

- **Encourage public use of the 1941 City Directory data.** Utilize data from the spreadsheet and the corresponding maps compiled for this project to produce statistical information, individualized maps, and other resources for researchers. Make the electronic data available to the public through the proposed website, the proposed heritage center, and the Camden Archives.

D. Heritage Education

- **Implement school outreach programs.** Encourage the youth of Camden and surrounding areas to discover the heritage of African Americans through programs and curriculum development. For example, create tours geared towards explaining Jim Crow segregation and how African Americans formed their own ways of surviving under the system.

- **Create position for city preservation officer.** Recruit a preservation officer to coordinate city preservation projects, implement educational programs, and provide information for researchers and tourists.

- **Conduct oral history projects.** Utilize the resources of the University of South Carolina to conduct and document a formal oral history project with African Americans from the town. Make the transcriptions from these interviews available for public use. Housing them in the Camden Archives, for example, would be an excellent way to preserve the interviews and to provide materials for researchers.

- **Expand understanding of the historic black business district.** Utilize the database of the 1941 City Directory in conjunction with oral interviews to document the locations and the changes of black businesses over time.

- **Solicit outside funding.** Seek sponsorship and financial support from outside businesses and philanthropist agencies to fund special exhibits focusing on black Camden, programming celebrating “Black History Month,” and other projects.
• **Schedule programs with holidays and celebrations.** Emphasize particular themes that cover various aspects of African-American life during important holidays and celebrations. For example, during a February “Black History Month,” show the impact of black funeral homes on the political, economic, religious, and environmental aspects of African-American life in Camden. Also, to celebrate “Historic Preservation Month” in May, discuss the importance of historic preservation through public presentations that highlight an African-American heritage project undertaken during the preceding year.

• **Network with agencies interested in African-American history and culture.** Create professional relationships with other organizations—such as the South Carolina African-American Heritage Commission and the African-American Heritage Coordinator at the state historic preservation office—to create inter-agency programs and projects.

• **Develop website dedicated to African-American history and culture.** The site might include information such as times and schedules of walking tours, current exhibits shown at town venues, operating hours and a hyperlink to the Camden City Archives, upcoming events and programming.

E. Linkages with the University of South Carolina

• **Work with the Public History Program to develop class projects.** Draw upon the knowledge of the historic preservation students and faculty to nominate sites important to black Camden to the National Register of Historic Places. Historic Preservation (HIST 792), for example, is taught annually and requires students to nominate properties to the National Register. The Historic Preservation Practicum (HIST 712) is offered every two years and can take on larger, more wide-ranging projects. The Historical Research Methods class (HIST 816) is taught every fall; graduate students undertake a major research project of their own choosing, and suggestions for topics to research are always welcome.

• **Create internship opportunities.** Work with Public History faculty to identify graduate students in archival studies, historic preservation, and museum studies to conduct research, to assist in the development and implementation of exhibits, and to identify important properties that influenced African-American life in Camden.