

AFRICAN BURYING GROUND PROJECT TIMELINE 2003 TO 2008

- **October 2003** - Remains of 13 individuals were discovered under Chestnut Street (between Court and State Streets) during construction of infrastructure upgrades in the area; eight burials were exhumed and all were determined to be of African ancestry.
- **August 2004** - The City Council appointed the African Burying Ground Committee to determine a proper way to honor those buried at Chestnut Street.
- **September 2004 to May 2005** - The Committee met with project abutters to determine an appropriate and workable site configuration for a memorial at Chestnut Street, which included removal of all on street parking, the creation of a travel lane for two-way traffic, and the closure of Chestnut Street at the Court Street end.
- **April 2005** – The City Council voted to accept the African Burying Ground Committee’s recommended site configuration for a memorial on Chestnut Street. Further, the Council voted to refer the proposed plan to the Traffic and Safety Committee for a hearing and a report back, and authorize the City Manager to commence development of more detailed plans.
- **June 2005** – The Traffic and Safety Committee voted to advise the City Council that they found no impact on traffic or safety and that the site configuration be approved.
- **April 2007** – The City contracted with Roberta Woodburn, of Woodburn & Company Landscape Architecture to work on a project design with the African Burying Ground Committee.
- **April/May 2007** – The African Burying Ground Committee held two well-attended public forums to solicit public input for the memorial design.
- **September 2007 to June 2008** – The City conducted a national search for an artist specializing in outdoor public art to join the design team and complete work with the African Burying Ground Committee on the project design. The African Burying Ground Committee selected Jerome Meadows of Meadowlark Studios in Savannah, Georgia in June 2008.
- **July 17, 2008** – The City Council voted in concept to have the City Manager expend up to 50% of the cost of constructing the African Burial Ground memorial from UDAG funds, with the remaining 50% to be raised privately.
- **July/October 2008** – The African Burying Ground Committee held design meetings with the design team and City staff to develop the desired design for the memorial.
- **October 8, 2008** – The African Burying Ground Committee met with project abutters to explain the design concept and solicit feedback; the design was well received by abutters.
- **October 20, 2008** – The Committee plans to present its recommended design to the City Council for its approval prior to moving forward with final design.

ANTICIPATED NEXT STEPS:

- **Fall of 2008** – Upon Council approval, the City will direct the design team to move forward with final design (expected to be completed early next year).
- **November 17, 2008** – The Committee will host a community forum where the design will be presented to the public and ideas about fundraising will be solicited.
- **Beginning fall of 2008** – Fundraising will be carried out by the Committee and the community.