

Government and Community Services (GCS) is a proactive outreach arm of the County. GCS focuses on facilitating improved community outreach, administration of government services, and the resolution of community issues. GCS recognizes an “Organization of the Month” that exemplifies the importance of supporting the community and assisting in getting resources to those most in need. This month’s organization of the month is Historic Columbia.

[Historic Columbia](https://www.historiccolumbia.org/) exists to preserve places and share complex stories from the past that connect us in the present and inspire our future.

Founded sixty years ago in 1961, Historic Columbia began with a group of donors and volunteers who saved the [Robert Mills House](https://www.historiccolumbia.org/tours/house-tours/robert-mills-house-and-gardens), then Ainsley Hall House, from demolition. During the past six decades, Historic Columbia has matured and become recognized as one of South Carolina’s leading historic preservation organizations.

As the world has seemingly become more dynamic, nuanced, and indeed, challenging, Historic Columbia has positioned itself through an extensive menu of services, programs, and events to offer insight, provide perspective, and create spaces for respite and reflection. This includes advocating for historic preservation, educating the public to the importance and relevancy of history in our contemporary lives, and preserving and interpreting six historic 18th- through early 20th-century sites and their related gardens and grounds – all located in Richland County.

Did you know that Historic Columbia:

* Rehabilitated and reinterpreted the Woodrow Wilson Family Home in 2014 (today’s [**Museum of the Reconstruction Era**](https://www.historiccolumbia.org/woodrow-wilson-family-home), the only site of its kind in the state)
* Partnered with the Women’s Rights and Empowerment Network (WREN) to establish the [**City of Women Initiative**](https://www.columbiacityofwomen.com/#/) in 2018
* Rehabilitated and reinterpreted the [**Modjeska Monteith Simkins House**](https://www.historiccolumbia.org/tours/house-tours/modjeska-monteith-simkins-house) in 2020 to highlight the Palmetto State’s greatest human rights advocate

These are just a few of the ways Historic Columbia seeks to make history a vital part of Richland County’s assets.

What’s next for Historic Columbia and how can you get involved?

[**Become a member**](https://www.historiccolumbia.org/support/membership) and enjoy member benefits, including free museum visits, discounts at our Gift Shop, free or discounted tickets to special events and programs, and more.

**Celebrate Historic Columbia’s**[**60th Anniversary**](https://www.historiccolumbia.org/blog/historic-columbia-60-years-making) through November 2022, as they share content online about their work chronicling the history of this county’s sites, neighborhoods, and people.

**Save the date for March 12** as Historic Columbia opens the [**Hampton-Preston**](https://www.historiccolumbia.org/tours/house-tours/hampton-preston-mansion-and-gardens)**Greenhouse and Gatehouse project**.

**Read the immense research of the**[**LGBTQ Columbia History Initiative**](https://www.historiccolumbia.org/lgbtq-columbia) that highlights the places, key events, and notable people of Columbia’s LGBTQ community.

Join us!