



NEWS RELEASE

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An Evening of Remembrance at McLeod Plantation Historic Site: Hear “Leia’s Story” at this fundraising event supporting cultural and historical education

(CHARLESTON COUNTY) – The Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission’s (CCPRC) nonprofit partner, the Charleston County Parks Foundation, will host Evening of Remembrance: Leia’s Story on **Sunday, Sept. 25** at McLeod Plantation Historic Site. The fundraising event benefits the foundation’s Cultural History Fund.

From 4 – 7 p.m. at McLeod Plantation Historic Site, Evening of Remembrance will feature drinks, hors d’oeuvres prepared by nationally renowned Chef BJ Dennis, and a performance by a brass quintet from the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. This year’s event will tell the story of Leia – a precious little girl who was purchased by the McLeods in 1856 and lived her entire life at McLeod Plantation. Leia’s story of resilience and her legacy of nearly 100 descendants has become known worldwide.



Proceeds from Evening of Remembrance: Leia’s Story will benefit the Cultural History Fund. This fund supports CCPRC’s cultural and historical research, preservation, interpretation, and education for diverse audiences with an emphasis on underrepresented histories throughout Charleston County Parks. The fund is currently focusing on cultural and historical education opportunities that foster a more equitable society, by expressing a unified narrative of African American history, culture, heritage and art at McLeod Plantation Historic Site.

Tickets are \$75 per person and include drinks and food. Purchase tickets online [here](https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/ParklandsFoundationofCharlest/eveningofremembranceleia-1-1.html) (<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/ParklandsFoundationofCharlest/eveningofremembranceleia-1-1.html>).

McLeod Plantation Historic Site is one of our nation’s foremost locations for interpreting the African American transition to freedom in Charleston and the American South. CCPRC opened the public county park and historic site in 2015. Located on James Island, McLeod Plantation Historic Site is a former sea island cotton plantation and is a 37-acre site important for its significant Gullah Geechee history. After years of careful research and restoration, McLeod today is a living tribute to the men and women who persevered in their efforts to achieve freedom, equality and justice. Visitors embark upon an in-depth exploration of the lives of those people whose stories are essential to understanding Charleston’s complex past and helped shape who we, as a nation, are today. For more information on the site, visit ccprc.com/McLeod or call 843-795-4386.



The Charleston County Parks Foundation is a nonprofit organization formed in 1990 by CCPRC. Its mission is to help ALL residents experience Charleston County Parks and programs. Presently, the foundation is working on four projects: The Genesis Swim Safety Fund, the Park and Recreation Opportunity Fund, the Nature Stewardship Fund, and the Cultural History Fund. For more information on The Charleston County Parks Foundation, call 843-795-4386 or visit www.CharlestonCountyParksFoundation.org.

The mission of CCPRC is to improve the quality of life in Charleston County by offering a diverse system of park facilities, programs and services. The large park system features over 11,000 acres of property and includes six land parks, three beach parks, four seasonally-lifeguarded beach areas, three dog parks, two landmark fishing piers, a historic plantation site, three waterparks, 19 boat landings, a climbing wall, a challenge course, an interpretive center, an equestrian center, cottages, a campground, a marina, as well as wedding, meeting and event facilities. The park system also offers a wide variety of recreational services – festivals, camps, classes, programs, volunteer opportunities, and more. For more information on CCPRC, call 843-795-4386 or visit charlestoncountyparks.com.