



CULTURAL RESOURCES

The City of Camden and Kershaw County share a rich cultural and historical resource base. Area residents have a strong awareness of and commitment to local history and historic places, as well as a deep appreciation for the arts. Preservation and enhancement of these abundant historic and cultural resources directly benefit the community through increased tourism activity and revenue, revitalization of core commercial and residential districts, higher property values, stronger community identity, and enhanced attractiveness to new employers and residents.

The Cultural Resources Element generates awareness and consideration of historical, archaeological, and heritage assets, as well as their contribution to the unique attributes and defining character of the City of Camden. Cultural resources include historic buildings and structures, unique residential and commercial areas, archeological sites, entertainment venues and events, educational and religious institutions, and related features that impact the cultural identity of the community. The Element provides an overview of the historical development of the City of Camden, identifies significant historic and cultural resources, profiles local arts and cultural organizations, lists annual events and opportunities, and explores the current and potential economic impact of these resources on the community.



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A. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Precolonial inhabitants of the area included two Native American groups, the Catawba and Wateree. The Catawba Indian trading trail that connected with Charleston to the south crossed at Pine Tree Creek near the site that would become Camden. Although the first outside explorers to venture into the region were Spanish, early European economic activity in the area began in the early-eighteenth century with the arrival of English traders from the coast to the western fringes of the colony. The network of early frontier settlements established by the English was designed to protect the colony's coastal residents from Indian attacks.

The area that would become the City of Camden was settled by English and Scottish traders and farmers who moved inland from Charleston and other colonies as part of a strategy “intended to foster development of the middle country... to give official sanction to the inland expansion of the colony.” The site was officially surveyed in 1733 as the Fredericksburg township, making it the oldest inland city in South Carolina. In addition to milling, the area gained recognition as an interior agricultural producer of indigo, wheat, tobacco, and corn. Positioned at the northern navigation point of the Wateree River corridor, Camden provided a significant trading link between the settled coastal areas and the backcountry. This advantageous trading location was soon transformed into a strategic military outpost for both the British and the Americans, with Revolutionary War battles fought in the area, including the Battle of Camden and the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill.

Named for Revolutionary War patriot Joseph Kershaw, Kershaw County was carved out of Clarendon, Fairfield, Lancaster, and Richland counties in 1791 as part of the political reorganization of the former colonies. The post-war rise of large-scale plantation agriculture for cotton farming in the early nineteenth century brought new wealth to the area, along with a winter influx of wealthy northerners. The county seat of Camden thrived as the population, economic, and cultural center of the region.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR FIELD DAYS (Courtesy of Historic Camden)





The construction of Interstates in the early 1960s signaled the demise of many small South Carolina towns as motorists were lured off main streets to faster travel routes. However, the same interstate system that sapped the economic life of smaller towns now enables residents who work in the Columbia Metro area to live and commute from smaller communities such as Camden. The ability of the Camden area to attract and retain visitors, retirees, and professionals rests in large part on the quality of life offered by a rich historic and cultural resource base.

The rich histories of Kershaw County and Camden have been extensively documented through several publications including Walter Edgar's *South Carolina: A History* (1998) and *A History of Kershaw County* (2010) by Joan and Glen Inabinet. Other key historical references include the two-part series by Thomas J. Kirkland and Robert M. Kennedy on *Historic Camden: Part One - Colonial and Revolutionary* (1905) and *Historic Camden: Part Two - Nineteenth Century* (1926).

B. HISTORIC RESOURCES

Cities and towns with attractive cultural, scenic, and historical resources are among the fastest growing heritage tourism destinations. Camden has a rich cultural history of regional, state, and national significance to build upon. The historic resources of the Camden area contribute to the appeal of the community as a retirement destination, a desirable place to work and live, and a growing tourist destination. These resources warrant special consideration in the comprehensive planning process to protect their special character from development pressures or deterioration. Protection of the historical and architectural resources also requires an active partnership among public and private property owners, local governments, and State and Federal agencies.

Camden residents have long nurtured a strong appreciation for the community's many historic places and structures. Recognizing the need to protect and preserve these buildings and contributing historic resources, as well as their economic potential, both the City of Camden and Kershaw County have conducted comprehensive inventories of historical sites and their significance. A comprehensive list of these sites is detailed in the *Historic Resources Survey, Kershaw County, South Carolina* (2002) compiled by New South Associates. The assessment was conducted primarily to determine properties and districts that should be considered for National Register designation. A detailed inventory and assessment of historic and architectural sites within the City of Camden is found in the *Historic Resources Survey of Camden* (1996), conducted by Historic Property Associates. The comprehensive survey covered more than eight square miles of the City and assessed more than 860 properties. This was augmented with a report entitled the *Camden African-American Heritage Project* compiled in 2006. Conducted by the Public History program of the University of South Carolina, the study outlines African American history and the built environment in Camden from the colonial period through the twentieth century.

1. NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS

South Carolina has more than 1,400 listings in the National Register, with 160 historic districts statewide. The *National Register of Historic Places* is the nation's official list of historic and cultural resources that have been formally deemed worthy of preservation. Authorized by the *Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, the National Register is the foundation of a national effort to identify, evaluate, and protect irreplaceable



architectural and archeological resources. Under the oversight of the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Register listing includes buildings, structures, districts, sites, and objects that qualify as significant in the context of American history, architecture, engineering, culture, and archaeology. The benefits of National Register listing include wide recognition of a property’s significance, consideration and review in the federally-assisted project planning process, eligibility for federal tax benefits for rehabilitation and easements, and eligibility for federal and state historic preservation grants.

BETHESDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, c. 1822



National Register listings can be achieved for larger *historic districts* that contain broader areas of multiple historic properties that have collective significance, for *individual* properties that meet the criteria, and for *landmark* sites that represent historical significance at a level greater than local and regional interest. The property must be significant under one or more of four criteria: 1) associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; 2) associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; 3) embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or 4) yields, or may be likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history. Historic districts can be designated to protect larger areas of historic properties and landscapes from adverse impacts of development. National Register criteria for historic districts require that the majority of the components comprising a district’s historic character have integrity even though they may be individually undistinguished. There are two historic districts in the City (Map 6-1).

TABLE 6-1. NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICTS IN THE CITY OF CAMDEN

MAP	DISTRICT	SIGNIFICANCE	LISTED
D1	Camden Historic District	More than 60 sites pre-dating 1865. Includes examples of 19th century South Carolina vernacular, Antebellum, early 1900s winter residence architectural styles and examples of Federal and Classical Revival, cottage-type, Georgian, Charleston-type with modifications, and mansion-type homes. Contributing properties include homes, a church, cemetery, and public buildings. Includes Hobkirk’s Hill Revolutionary Battle Site, Polo Field, Price House, Bonds Conway House, Robert Mills Courthouse, and Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site.	1971
D2	Kendall Mill Historic District	Traditional design subdivision centering on the Wateree Plant and associated structures dating from 1899 to 1923. District includes Kendall Lake, DeKalb Mill and Village, and Kendall Park. Contains eight properties of key historic or architectural significance and 113 supporting properties illustrating the importance of the State’s textile industry. The DeKalb Mill design by W.B. Smith Whaley is considered a model of textile architecture in the Romanesque Revival style.	1982

SOURCE: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, 2017

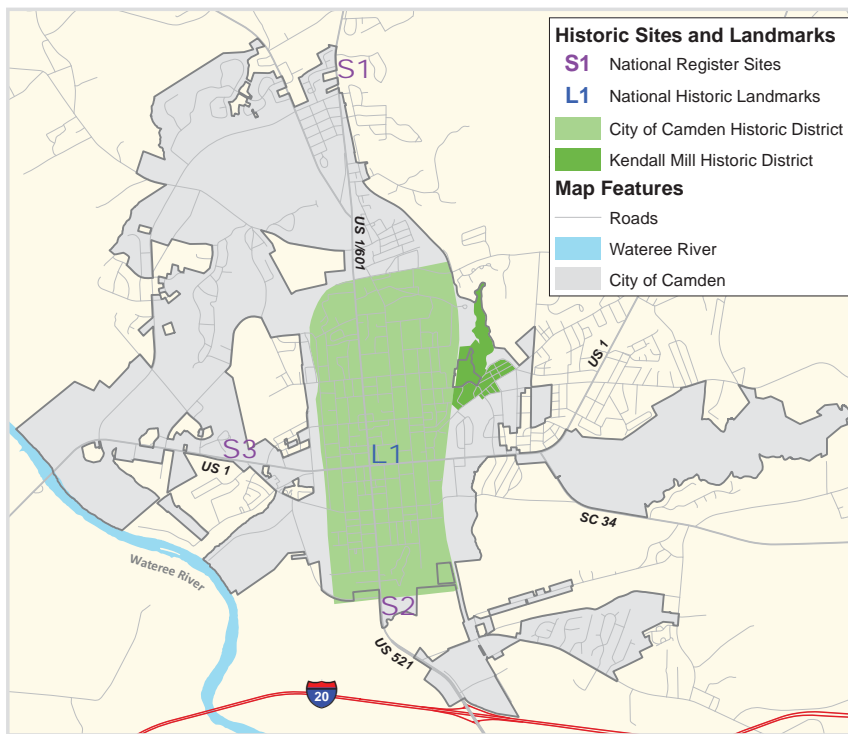
Although each historic district has multiple contributing properties, there are also numerous individual National Register sites that are located outside of these districts (Table 6-2 and Map 6-1).



TABLE 6-2. NATIONAL REGISTER SITES IN CAMDEN

MAP	PROPERTY/SITE	SIGNIFICANCE	LISTED
S1	Cool Springs	Fine Midlands example of Greek Revival architecture. Original house was constructed as summer residence ca. 1832 by planter and lawyer John Boykin. Contributing structures are 2 horse stables, concrete piscatory, old stone spring, brick basin, dam, and granite gate posts.	1989
S2	Historic Camden Revolutionary War Restoration	Covers central colonial Camden and outlying areas with focus on British occupation. All original buildings in the district have been destroyed, and much of it remains open. Archaeological restoration of the powder magazine site and the foundation of the fortified house (used as British headquarters for Lord Cornwallis and Lord Rawdon and the home of founder, Joseph Kershaw) have been effected without destroying their historical integrity.	1969
S3	Seaboard Air Line Depot	Mid-twentieth-century railroad station. Brick, one-story station was a replica of the Seaboard station at Williamsburg, Virginia.	2000

SOURCE: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, 2017



MAP 6-1. CAMDEN NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICTS, SITES AND NATIONAL LANDMARKS

SOURCE: CITY OF CAMDEN, OCTOBER 2017

2. NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

National Historic Landmarks are districts, buildings, and sites designated by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior as having exceptional value or quality that have meaning to all Americans beyond the local or regional level. There are 76 National Historic Landmarks in South Carolina, with the majority located in the coastal areas of the State. Bethesda Presbyterian Church is the sole historic landmark in Camden (Table 6-3 and map 6-1).



TABLE 6-3. NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK IN CAMDEN

MAP	PROPERTY/SITE	SIGNIFICANCE	LISTED
L1	Bethesda Presbyterian Church	National significance as one of only a few remaining Robert Mills churches. Constructed in 1822, distinctive for the quality and type of design and for the architectural stage of Mills' career. Influenced by Jeffersonian classicism. Churchyard includes De Kalb Monument, constructed in memory of Baron de Kalb, a German major general in the Revolutionary War who died at the Battle of Camden. Lafayette laid the monument cornerstone in 1825.	1985

SOURCE: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, 2017

3. HISTORICAL MARKERS

Historical markers give recognition to places, people, events, and structures that have historical significance at the local, state, or national level. The South Carolina Department of Archives and History manages the *South Carolina Historical Marker* program. Although the Department must approve the content of all markers and the location of markers must be coordinated with the S.C. Department of Transportation, there is no state funding for the signs. Markers must be sponsored and purchased by civic, church, historical, or educational organizations.

The South Carolina Historical Marker program database includes 1,500 markers statewide, with eight markers in the City of Camden (Table 6-4). The Kershaw County Historical Society has taken the responsibility for the care of most local historical markers. The Society is also active in identifying additional sites in need of market designation. These markers recognize diverse sites of historical significance throughout the County that include schools, homes of prominent figures, Revolutionary War battles, and churches.

TABLE 6-4. HISTORICAL MARKERS IN CAMDEN

MARKER NAME	LOCATION
Battle of Hobkirk's Hill	U.S. Highway 521 and 601 North
General Greene's Headquarters	Broad Street (U.S. Highway 521/601 N)
Camden	Monument Square, N. Broad Street and Hampton Park, Broad Street
Gaol	Corner of King and Broad Streets
Baruch Home	Broad St. between Walnut and Lafayette Streets
Mather Academy	Corner of South Campbell and West DeKalb Streets
Eugene H. Dibble Store	Corner of Broad and DeKalb Streets
Monroe Boykin Park	Campbell Street

SOURCE: S.C. HISTORICAL MARKER PROGRAM DATABASE, 2017

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

As defined by the S.C. Department of Archives and History, an archaeological site is an area yielding three or more historic or prehistoric artifacts within a 30-meter radius and/or an area with visible or historically recorded cultural features such as shell midden, cemeteries, rock shelters, chimney falls, brick walls, piers, and earthworks. The South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) maintains a central cataloging database for discovered archaeological sites in the State. Documented archaeological sites in Kershaw County are associated with numerous small sites, prehistoric villages, Indian ceremonial centers, and colonial and nineteenth century farmsteads, particularly along the Wateree River corridor. Due to the sensitive nature and wealth of information that can be gained over time from careful study of these sites, locations are typically not publicly disclosed.



Sites on federal or tribal lands or that are potentially impacted by federally funded projects are protected to a limited degree by the *Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979*, the *Native American Graves and Repatriation Act of 1990*, *Executive Order 13007* of 1996, and the *Department of Transportation Act of 1966*. At the State level, multiple laws and regulations protect archeological resources including the *South Carolina Mining Act*, the *South Carolina Underwater Antiquities Act*, the *South Carolina Water Resources and Planning Act*, as well as various State codes related to abandoned cemeteries and burial grounds. The State has also developed *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations* as an advisory framework for archaeological fieldwork and reporting in the state of South Carolina.

Archeological sites can be particularly fragile and vulnerable to development. Most sites are discovered during the land development process, especially road construction. As growth intensifies, the City and County should work to preserve known sites and to identify and protect additional potential areas of archaeological significance.

5. CEMETERIES

Cemeteries are a significant historical resource in every community as important repositories for social, religious, artistic, genealogical, and cultural heritage. There are well over 300 cemeteries in Kershaw County that range in size from small family plots to Revolutionary War battlefield burial grounds. Many of these cemeteries have been inventoried by the U.S. Geological Survey and are included in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS). Cemeteries of historic interest include the three adjacent cemeteries of Quaker, Beth El, and Cedar in Camden. The 50-acre Quaker cemetery is the oldest, founded in 1759. The cemetery is the burial site for many of the original Quaker settlers of the area, as well as Revolutionary War and Civil War veterans, orphaned children of the Camden Children's Home, and a governor. The adjacent Beth El Jewish cemetery dates back to 1877. Cedars Cemetery was the primary nineteenth and twentieth century burial site for many of the town's African-American citizens.

The South Carolina Department of Archives and History provides a reference guide for individuals and groups who are interested in the preservation and protection of historic cemeteries (*South Carolina's Historic Cemeteries: A Preservation Handbook, 2007*). Vandalism, development, and neglect are the biggest threats to these historic resources. Cemeteries are protected by multiple State laws that address the preservation and protection of cemeteries (S.C. Code 6-1-35), access and relocation of cemeteries (S.C. Code 27-43-10), and destruction or desecration of remains (S.C. Code 16-17-600). However, enforcement of State laws pertaining to cemeteries rests with local law enforcement. The *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* also provides some protection to cemeteries that are eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

6. UNIQUE AREAS AND SCENIC CORRIDORS

There are multiple unique corridors that showcase the unique history, culture, and geography of the area. In addition to scenic views, these routes feature historically and archaeologically significant sites and the unspoiled, diverse natural character of the community. The **Wateree River** flows south from Lake Wateree, touching the westernmost border of the City of Camden as it bisects the western area of Kershaw County. Public access for fishing and watching wildlife is available at boat landings located at the U.S. Highway 1/U.S.



Highway 601 bridge just across the river from Camden and at the U.S. Highway 378/U.S. Highway 76 bridge. The **Wateree River Blue Trail** offers a scenic corridor highlighting both the natural and historic resources of the western portion of Kershaw County. The trail extends the length of the river, beginning near Camden and winding southward 75 miles to its convergence with the Congaree River Blue Trail at Congaree National Park. One of the trail highlights is the upper section that runs along the southwestern edge of the City of Camden and includes numerous historic and archaeological sites, including Native American burial mounds. The trail segment downstream from Camden features miles of undisturbed wilderness. An historic mill pond with paddling access is also open to the public on **Kendall Lake** in the eastern side of Camden.

The 476-acre **Battle of Camden National Historic Landmark**, located just north of the City, is operated by the Historic Camden Foundation as a National Park Service affiliate. The Battle of Camden site was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1961. The core area of the battlefield is open to the public and offers three miles of walking trails with interpretive signage. An accompanying podcast shares battle stories and commentary with site visitors. The important Revolutionary War Battle of Hobkirk's Hill (sometimes referred to as the Second Battle of Camden) was fought north of the City of Camden at the **Hobkirk's Hill Battle Site** in April 1781. Although now a private residential area in Camden, wayfinder signs enable visitors to follow in the footsteps of the soldiers who participated in the conflict.

Built in 1898, the **Camden Polo Field** is the second oldest field in the nation and has been designated as a National Landmark. The beginnings of the equine industry in Kershaw County can be traced to the development of Camden as a winter resort, with polo as the chief attraction. Although the sport declined during the second half of the 20th century, the Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County and the Camden Polo Club teamed to revive the sport in 2001. Today the Polo Field site on Polo Lane is held in perpetual trust by the Palmetto Conservation Foundation and is used for a variety of local events, including the annual Camden Cup polo match.

The **Springdale Race Course** is a 600-acre European style, Thoroughbred racehorse training center located on Knights Hill Road in Camden. Acquired by Marion duPont Scott in the 1940s, the course was deeded to the State of South Carolina upon her death with the caveat that the land remain solely for equine use in perpetuity. She also bequeathed a million dollar endowment for maintenance of the facility, which now includes both the Race Course and the National Steeplechase Museum. Springdale Race Course is home to The Carolina Cup, a renowned steeplechase horseracing event that attracts more than 70,000 fans from throughout the Southeast each spring.

7. HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORGANIZATIONS

Several state and local agencies and nonprofit organizations are actively helping South Carolina communities grow and prosper while maintaining their local character and preserving historic and cultural landmarks. The **South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH)** is an independent state agency with the mission to preserve and promote the documentary and cultural heritage of the Palmetto State. The SCDAH provides archives and records management, history education and historic preservation. Created in 1969, the **State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)** is housed in the SCDAH and encourages and facilitates the responsible stewardship of South Carolina's irreplaceable historic and prehistoric places. The SHPO is responsible for implementing the goals of the *National Historic Preservation Act*, as well as several programs to assist local communities with preservation efforts. SHPO programs include coordination



of the *Statewide Survey of Historic Properties* to identify and evaluate historic resources, nomination of eligible resources to the National Register of Historic Places, management of the *South Carolina Historical Marker* program, administration of the *Certified Local Government (CLG)* Program, and participation in review of projects involving Federal and State funds, licenses, permits, and certifications.

In partnership with the SHPO and National Park Service, the ***Certified Local Government (CLG)*** program promotes local preservation planning and facilitates funding, technical assistance, and training for certified jurisdictions. CLG jurisdictions manage future growth and encourage economic development while protecting the historic resources that are significant to their community, state, and nation. The multiple benefits of CLG status include eligibility to apply for CLG grant funds, technical assistance and training for local boards of architectural review, and participation in statewide preservation planning programs. In turn, CLG communities agree to: 1) enforce state legislation for the designation and protection of historic properties, including passage of a local historic preservation ordinance; 2) establish an adequate and qualified historic preservation commission by State or local legislation; 3) maintain a system for the survey and inventory of historic properties; and 4) encourage public participation in the local historic preservation program, including the nomination of properties to the National Register. To date, 35 South Carolina communities have been certified by the National Park Service. The City of Camden does not participate in this program at this time.

The ***South Carolina Institute for Archeology and Anthropology (SCIAA)*** maintains the official inventory of discovered archeological sites in the State. The SCIAA was established in 1963 as a University of South Carolina research institute and State cultural resource management agency. The SCIAA has a State mandate to create and maintain a statewide inventory of archeological sites and ensure the adequacy of archeological research and archeological investigations carried out in the State of South Carolina. The SCIAA serves as the lead State agency concerned with South Carolina's Prehistoric and Historic Archaeology.

The ***Kershaw County Historical Society*** is dedicated to maintaining, conserving, and promoting information concerning the history of Kershaw County. This mission is accomplished through the education of its members and the public on the history of Kershaw County, the marking of historic sites, and preservation of the history, heritage, and historic places of Kershaw County. The society is housed in the restored early nineteenth century home of Bonds Conway, believed to be the first African-American in Camden to purchase his freedom and that of his family.

The ***Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation*** is a non-profit organization actively engaged in preserving the historic structures and places of South Carolina. The Trust advocates for historic preservation, preservation legislation, and funding and technical assistance to communities, organizations, and individuals in efforts to save, rehabilitate, and reuse historic properties. The Trust also engages in the rescue, stabilization, and re-sell of historic properties acquired through purchase or donation that are threatened by neglect or development pressures. Completed and active projects, easements, and properties are located in the surrounding counties of Chesterfield, Fairfield, Richland, and Lancaster.



BONDS CONWAY HOUSE, c. 1810 - OFFICE OF THE KERSHAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The nonprofit *Palmetto Conservation Foundation* was founded in 1989 with the statewide goals to conserve South Carolina's natural and cultural resources, preserve historic landmarks, and promote active outdoor recreation on the Palmetto Trail and other greenways. While known primarily for the Palmetto Trail, the Foundation is engaged in Revolutionary War battlefield preservation and restoration work in Cowpens and Camden. The Foundation transferred ownership of the 476-acre core Camden battlefield to the Historic Camden Foundation to ensure that work continues to protect the site and its archaeology, while improving public understanding of its historical significance. The battlefield is recognized as a National Historic Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The mission of the *Historic Camden Foundation* is to protect, preserve, and celebrate Camden's Colonial and Revolutionary War history. As a private non-profit, the Foundation is funded through membership, admission and tours, gift shop sales, rentals, grants, and sponsorships. Historic Camden emerged as one of the first major preservation initiatives in Kershaw County in 1966 in anticipation of the 1976 Bicentennial. Four decades later, Historic Camden now includes a 107-acre outdoor museum, as well as 476 acres of the Camden Battlefield and Longleaf Pine Preserve. Historic Camden is a National Park Service affiliate site, with both its Broad Street campus and the Camden Battlefield listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

8. HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNING

Historic preservation yields wide-ranging economic benefits of higher property values, job creation in rehabilitation industries, and increased heritage tourism. Rehabilitation of historic structures also encourages energy conservation and infrastructure savings through the reuse of existing structures. Communities are also strengthened through the preservation of historic places and patterns that promote social and cultural connections between residents and the cultural heritage of the community. The benefits enhance community livability.



Land use, transportation planning, and zoning decisions can critically impact these historic preservation efforts. Communities that plan ahead to preserve historic properties and districts have a greater likelihood of success. South Carolina law allows local jurisdictions to enact zoning provisions that preserve and protect the character of a community. These communities can enact historic preservation ordinances that contain specific procedures and standards for designating historic properties and districts, design guidelines, and a process for reviewing proposed changes to historic properties. The focus of such ordinances is on preserving the appearance, rather than the use, of identified historic properties.

KING HAIGLAR OPERA HOUSE TOWER, c. 1886



The City of Camden created the *Historic Landmarks Commission* to help protect, preserve, and enhance the distinctive architectural and cultural heritage of the City as part of the public interest. Using a Historic Resources Survey that inventoried eight square miles and more than 860 properties, the Commission has created a list of locally designated historic properties within the City that includes more than 200 properties and eight parks. Any demolition, new construction, alteration, modification, or addition to an identified historic property requires a *Certificate of Appropriateness* from the Historic Landmarks Commission.

The Commission reviews requests for modifications to these locally designated historic properties to ensure projects are consistent with the *Camden Design Guidelines*. The guidelines encourage a general harmony of style, form, proportion, and material between buildings of historic design and those of contemporary design, while promoting three key elements of community sustainability. The City’s preservation vision is for historic properties to retain their integrity, contribute to the livability of the City’s vital neighborhoods, and support economic development.

9. HISTORIC RESOURCE OPPORTUNITIES

Incentive programs encourage the preservation and rehabilitation of historic buildings and the donation of conservation easements to protect historic sites. Eligible building owners in downtown Camden have access to these income tax credits as part of the downtown National Register District. Table 6-5 summarizes the Federal and State preservation tax incentives currently available to property owners in Camden.



TABLE 6-5. SUMMARY OF FEDERAL AND STATE TAX INCENTIVES FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

INCENTIVE	BENEFIT SUMMARY	ELIGIBILITY	LEVEL
20% Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit	Federal income tax credit equal to 20% of eligible rehabilitation costs	Income-producing use such as offices, stores, or rental housing with individual or contributing National Register (NR) status	Federal
10% State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit	State income or license tax credit equal to 10% of rehabilitation costs	Same as federal credit above and does not require separate state application process	State
10% Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit	Federal income tax credit equal to 10% of rehabilitation costs	Non-residential income-producing use for buildings in service before 1936 that do not have individual or contributing NR status	Federal
25% State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit	State income tax credit equal to 25% of allowable rehabilitation costs not to exceed \$1 million	Owner-occupied residence with individual NR status or as contributing to historic district or historic outbuilding associated with an eligible residence	State
Federal Income Tax Incentives for Easement Donations	Income and estate tax deductions	Owner-occupied residence or income-producing uses for building with individual or contributing NR status	Federal
Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Textile Mill Buildings	Credit against local property taxes or a State income tax credit equal to 25% of rehabilitation costs	Rehabilitation and reuse of former textile manufacturing facilities	State
Federal Income Tax Credit for Low Income Housing	Income tax credit rehabilitation of historic buildings for low income housing. Used with 20% Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit to rehab historic buildings as low income rental units	Low Income Housing Credits in South Carolina are allocated per the guidelines of the S.C. Housing Finance & Development Authority	Federal State
Local Property Tax Special Assessment	Property is assessed on the pre-rehabilitation fair market value for the length of the special assessment – up to 20 years with length set by local government	Income-producing real property and owner-occupied property are eligible for buildings designated as historic by NR or local government	Local

SOURCE: S.C. DEPT. OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY, 2017; HISTORIC TAX CREDIT ANNUAL REPORT FY 2016-2017

Although Federal and State grant resources to support historic preservation efforts are currently limited in scope and funding, there are additional local opportunities available to property owners and local governments for historic preservation efforts. Eligible projects can combine Federal, State and local credits with one or more other local incentives resulting in even greater benefit. The Bailey Bill was passed by the State legislature to allow South Carolina cities and counties to provide property tax incentives for improvements to historic structures. In 2015, the Camden City Council approved an ordinance to authorize these tax incentives within the City. Property owners can have the value of the structure locked in for a period of 15 years for approved improvements that meet historic preservation standards. Property owners must invest at least 20% of the fair market value of the structure to qualify. The property must also be granted historic designation by the City Council which requires that the property is at least 50 years old. It must also be designated as a historic property by the City Council, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or located within an area that has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district.

The SCDHA also offers two matching grant programs with funds from the National Park Service for *Survey and Planning and Stabilization Projects*. However, only Certified Local Governments are eligible for grant consideration. *Survey and Planning Grants* can be used for identifying and recognizing historic properties, planning for historic districts, strengthening local government preservation programs, preservation education, and planning for individual historic properties. *Stabilization Project Grants* are used for stabilization repairs to National Register buildings, including roofs, structural framework, and deteriorated doors and windows.



C. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources envelop the broad spectrum of the heritage, the traditions, the religions, and the arts of a community. Participation and awareness of the arts can significantly enrich the quality of life for residents. Partnerships among schools, libraries, arts and civic groups, churches, higher education, and local businesses and industries can leverage local cultural opportunities to increase exposure to the arts for residents of all ages and backgrounds.

The creative sector has also been defined as an industry cluster in statewide economic planning. Tourists attending cultural venues average longer stay times and higher spending levels than the general tourist population. The sector employs artists, educators, and personnel for cultural organizations, festivals, events, private art businesses and galleries, studios, and the motion picture industry. The importance of the arts as an economic sector is supported by the magnitude of its impact on wages and salaries, jobs, and economic output in the State. The most recent study by the Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina found that creative industries in South Carolina – including for-profit companies, non-profit organizations, and self-employed individuals – contribute more than \$9.2 billion to the State's economy and support more than 78,000 jobs annually. While the 2011 study attributed 3% of the total state economy to the creative sector, it is likely that this impact has continued to grow over the last six years.

1. CULTURAL FACILITIES

Cultural facilities are buildings and places that house cultural programs and provide public access points for the arts. The Camden community has a diverse range of cultural venues for residents and tourists alike that include museums, historic battlefields, art galleries, a library, a town green, a civic center, and a fine arts center. Each of these resources is profiled in the sections that follow.

a. MUSEUMS

Museums and battlefields carefully preserve the cultural heritage of the community. The **Camden Archives and Museum** is equipped with a large and diverse collection of genealogical and historical research materials, along with permanent and rotating exhibits of local and regional history. The Archives and Museum is housed in the former Carnegie Library on Broad Street, a fine example of Greek Revival architecture built in 1915. The facility is also home to the South Carolina Daughters of the American Revolution and houses the South Carolina Society Colonial Dames XVII Library. Funded by the City, the Museum is responsible for collecting, preserving, and ensuring access to items of historical importance to Kershaw County. City support for facility maintenance and the operation of the Archives and Museum is augmented by volunteer contributions of both time and financial support through the Friends of the Archive and Museum.

The **Historic Camden Revolutionary War Park** is a 107-acre outdoor museum complex located on South Broad Street in Camden that offers a view of colonial life during the Revolutionary War period. Included on the site are two circa-1800 log houses, the restored and refurbished 1785 John Craven house, the 1830 Cunningham house that also serves as offices and a gift shop, a blacksmith shed with a working traditional forge, the 1795 McCaa house, and reconstructions of fortifications built by the British. Also on the site is the reconstructed colonial Georgian home originally built by Joseph Kershaw, now called the KershawCornwallis



House. The home was commandeered as the headquarters of Lord Charles Cornwallis during the British occupation of Camden. The Park also includes a 0.7 mile nature trail and picnic area. Special events include the Revolutionary War Field Days, which attracts more than 500 re-enactors and includes a daily battle, living history demonstrations, traditional craftsmen, a period fashion show, and children's activities.

The **National Steeplechase Museum** is located on the grounds of the 600-acre Springdale Race Course. The museum is devoted to the history of the steeplechase in America with memorabilia from past and present race meets presented in a research library, archives, and interactive exhibits. The facility also has an extensive collection of trophies, photographs, and films.

b. LIBRARIES

Library service in Kershaw County dates back to the early 1800's. The Camden Library Society was established in 1805. In 1915, a public library building was built on Monument Square with assistance from the Carnegie Foundation. The Kershaw County Public Library on Church Street was constructed in 1935 with assistance from the Federal Works Projects Administration (WPA). At the end of WPA project support in 1947, the Kershaw County Library Commission was established that combined the Camden Public Library and the Kershaw County Library under a single system. However, the joint system was disbanded after a few short years in 1951. Nearly two decades later in 1970, the City and County Councils adopted a merger resolution to support a new Kershaw County Library System that was formalized by legislative action. A new headquarters library was completed on Broad Street in Camden in 1973, with branches added in Bethune in 1974 and Elgin in 1999.

The modern **Kershaw County Library System** now includes a collection of more than 107,000 books, serials, and volumes, ranking 21st highest among the 42 library systems in South Carolina in total population served. The System ranks 19th highest in total circulation at 166,058 items per year. The Camden branch is the largest in the County system at 13,680 square feet in area and a staff of 13. The Library is also an important resource for computer and internet access. The Kershaw County Library System ranks 17th highest among the State's library systems in computer usage, with County residents and visitors using the library computers more than 56,000 times in 2016. This usage data does not include the number of patrons who used the Library's Wi-Fi for internet access using personal devices.

The Library provides a wide variety of cultural programming, from author talks to musical events to culinary instruction. Responding to the needs of the community, the Library has taken an expanded role in promoting early literacy for children, parent literacy, and information literacy for all ages. Outreach programming is offered at senior and assisted living centers, schools, child care centers, and for homebound residents. The Library is also recognized as having one of the leading genealogical research libraries in the Southeast. Research is supported by a diverse collection of books, maps, microfilm, files, periodicals, and general reference materials. Through the SC LENDS program, Kershaw County residents can access materials from twenty other library systems. Access to e-books and downloadable audios from the collections of fifteen library systems is also available, along with online access to thousands of magazines, newspapers, and reference books.



c. PERFORMING ARTS CENTERS AND RELATED COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The **Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County** was founded in 1974 by the Camden Art Association, the Camden Music Association, and the Camden Community Theatre as a nonprofit umbrella organization dedicated to bringing arts experience and exposure to all ages. The Center is housed in three buildings in the heart of Camden, forming a cultural campus that includes a stage, gallery, and studios. Three capital campaigns have fueled the Center's growth in facilities, staffing, and arts programming. The Bassett Building houses the Bassett Gallery, Wood Auditorium, and offices, while the Daniels Education Building is the focal point of classroom and studio space supporting music instruction, dance, and visual art. The historic Douglas-Reed House provides second-floor office space and first-floor event and meeting space that includes a catering kitchen.

The Fine Arts Center fosters arts education for area youth in close partnership with the Kershaw County School District. The *School Arts Residency* is a long-standing program that provides hands-on classroom arts experiences with practicing artists in the fields of storytelling, mime and movement, ceramics, puppetry, music, poetry, and drama. The *School Arts Performance Series* includes performance and lectures for larger audiences. The series has featured live entertainment ranging from chamber music and professional theatre to dance companies and West African drumming ensembles. *Arts Arising* is an intense, arts focused summer program for the District's gifted and talented students to explore and develop their artistic potential in a challenging and supportive environment. The annual *Youth Arts Month Exhibit* celebrates the County's young artists in grades K-12 with a juried gallery exhibit and touring exhibit of student artwork in various media. Teacher and artist coordination is emphasized in all activities to advance curricular objectives and academic outcomes.

Additional community facilities are available for cultural programming that are capable of hosting a variety of events including community performances, private functions, and productions. Camden's historic **Little Theater** is a newly refurbished movie theater on DeKalb Street that has two theaters and 1,000 seats. The popular theater offers first-run movies in a family environment. Recent architectural renovations of the **Camden City Arena** have created a year-round venue for sports, festivals, recreation, and other community events, as well as an iconic gateway feature into the heart of downtown Camden. The City transformed a blighted parking lot into the **Camden Town Green**, a new downtown green space. The park is surrounded by pervious concrete parking areas and features an event space that is pre-wired to accommodate performances. Positioned in the core of downtown, the Town Green and the connecting alley are large enough to accommodate events of all sizes with access points to Broad and Market Streets. The **Kershaw County Farmers Market** is also located in the City. Although the primary purpose of the market is to support local agricultural product growers and producers, the facility also provides a seasonal showcase for local artists and crafters and a community gathering space for residents and visitors.

2. ANNUAL FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Local governments, cultural and civic organizations, and the private sector can play a valuable role in providing recreational, cultural, and entertainment opportunities that enhance the sense of community for residents, attract tourists, and boost activity in traditional downtown districts. The City and partner organizations host numerous festivals and special events throughout the year for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. These events range from art shows and scavenger hunts to an equine themed international film festival (Table 6-6).



TABLE 6-6. ANNUAL FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS IN CAMDEN

EVENT	LOCATION	DATE	ACTIVITIES	SPONSORS
Camden Film Festival/ EQUUS Film Festival	Historic Little Theater Camden	February	Equine-themed showcase of foreign and locally produced films, shorts, documentaries, literary, and fine art with screenings, book signings and children’s activities	City of Camden, The Marley Project
Li'l Herc's Family Fest	Camden	February	Family-friendly films, food, and games	Part of Camden Film Festival/EQUUS Film Festival
Heritage Tea	Camden	February	Talent showcase of local youth art and stage performances	Kershaw County Fine Arts Center
Soul-icious	Camden	February	Black History Month heritage celebration with food, music, dance, and games at Camden’s historic Price House	City of Camden, Price House Commission
Irish Fest Camden	Town Green Camden	March	Leprechaun Parade, Irish dancing, Celtic music, food, arts and crafts	City of Camden, Montessori School of Camden
Colonial Brew To-Do	McCaa’s Tavern	March	Colonial beer sampling, games, English country dancing and music	Historic Camden
Carolina Cup	Springdale Race Course	March	State’s premier international steeplechase event	Carolina Cup Racing Association, City of Camden, among others
Boykin Spaniel Society National Field Trial	Boykin, Rembert, & Camden	April	Oyster roast, duck dog shootout, hot dog retrieve, children’s handling and natural ability stakes, speed dog	City of Camden, Boykin Spaniel Society
Historic Camden Scavenger Hunt	Camden	April	City-wide scavenger hunt	Historic Camden
Spring Jam Festival	Historic Camden	April	Music, food vendors, inflatable slide, and children’s obstacle course	Historic Camden
Battle of Camden BBQ Festival	Historic Camden	May	Barbeque contest, food and drink from local vendors, live music	Camden Jaycees Humane Society
Grace Annual Dog Show	Downtown Camden	May	Competitions from child handling to sporting dogs, lunch concessions	Grace Episcopal Church
Annual Ag & Art Farm Tour	Various	June	Artisans, music, local food, farm products and tours	City of Camden, Kershaw County, Olde English District, S.C. Ag & Art Tour
Battle of Camden Commemoration	Camden Battlefield	August	Anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Camden with tours, demos	Historic Camden
24 Hours of LeMons	Camden	September	Funky car cruise in parade and street party on Broad Street	Carolina Motorsports Park, City of Camden
Fall Concert	Kendall Park Camden	October	Free music event	Community Concert Band
Cabela’s King Kat Tournament	Lake Wateree	October	Regional fishing tournament draws hundreds of anglers	City of Camden
Halloween at Historic Camden	Historic Camden	October	Trick-or-treat, hay ride, ghost tour of the Kershaw-Cornwallis House	Historic Camden
USTA Adult Tennis Challenger	Camden	October	Sanctioned USTA open tennis championship tournament for adults	City of Camden
Trick or Treat Trail	City Arena Camden	October	Candy, prizes and giveaways for children under 12	Kershaw County Parks/ Recreation
Carolina Down Home Blues	Downtown Camden	October	Music festival held in various venues in historic downtown	Kershaw County Fine Arts Center
Annual Chili Cook Off	Camden	October	Halloween costume contests, food, music, pumpkin painting, and games	United Way of Kershaw County



TABLE 6-6. ANNUAL FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS IN CAMDEN

EVENT	LOCATION	DATE	ACTIVITIES	SPONSORS
Blue Jeans, Blue-grass & BBQ	Camden	November	Art exhibits, music, BBQ, and oysters event	Community Medical Clinic of Kershaw County
Gallery Gallop	Fine Arts Center	November	CamdenART fall show and gallery crawl featuring local artists	CamdenART
Camden Hunt Hunter Trials	Camden	November	Multi-day schooling, cubbing and showing	Friends of the Camden Hunt
Revolutionary War Field Days	Historic Camden	November	Reenactments of the Battles of Camden and Hobkirk Hill	Historic Camden
Candlelight Tour of Homes	Camden	December	Christmas tour of homes, music, hospitality stop	Camden Junior Welfare League

SOURCES: CITY OF CAMDEN – CAMDEN-KERSHAW COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP, 2018

3. ARTS AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

Arts and culture play an important role in shaping community identity and civic pride, as well as providing economic opportunities for creative residents. Community members connect with art and one another when they attend and take part in music, dance, and theater performances, tour architectural sites and art exhibits, share works of literature, and engage and express themselves through electronic and digital media. The arts are easily integrated into strategies that improve the community livability.

The County’s growing creative sector that includes local writers, artisans, and musicians is centered in Camden. Although a comprehensive directory does not exist, the County has several active arts groups in areas including drama, music, dance, and folk arts such as quilting. In addition to activities presented through the Fine Arts Center, there are numerous smaller interest groups that offer County residents an opportunity to pursue their artistic talents at the local level. The **Camden Community Theatre** produces plays and musicals each year featuring local community talent. The **Kershaw County Music Association**, formerly known as the Camden Music Association, was formed to encourage, support, and promote young artists and foster the knowledge and appreciation of quality music in Kershaw County. The **Camden Community Concert Band** offers four free concerts to the community each year. Membership in the band is open to adult musicians with prior band experience throughout Kershaw County and the surrounding communities. **Camden ART** consists of local artists who meet each month and present two annual exhibits at the Fine Arts Center. The **Camden Poets Society** meets monthly for poetry readings and sharing of personal creations. Poets and songwriters also join the group celebration of National Poetry Month each April. The **Quilters of Kershaw County** meet monthly, attracting more than fifty active members throughout the County and neighboring region to meet and discuss patterns, participate in workshops, and work on projects for charities. The group is an affiliate of the *Fine Arts Center*.

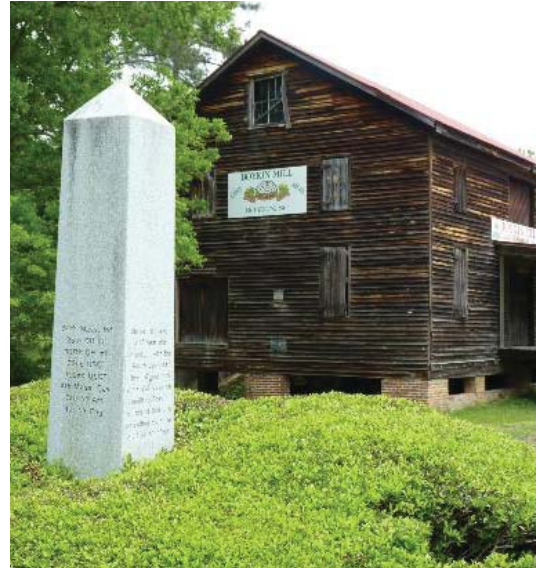
A wide range of agencies and organizations at the national, state, and local levels provide technical and funding support for Camden artists and arts and cultural initiatives. The **National Endowment for the Arts** (NEA) was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government and tasked to give people across America the opportunity to participate in and experience the arts. The NEA awards project-based funding through multiple grant programs that support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for individuals, states, and communities. The Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County received



a FY 2017 *Challenge America* grant to support artist residencies. The \$10,000 award supports chamber musician performance and composition outreach to underserved populations.

The **South Carolina Arts Commission (SCAC)** is an autonomous state agency tasked with advancing and promoting excellence in the arts in South Carolina. The Commission was created in 1967 to build a thriving arts environment for the benefit of all South Carolinians. The work of SCAC is focused in the three areas of artist development, arts education, and community arts development. The Commission's primary source of funding is state appropriations, with secondary funding sources consisting of federal grants through the National Endowment for the Arts, private foundation grants, and community sponsors.

1865 BATTLE OF BOYKIN'S MILL MONUMENT



SCAC offers grant programs for individual artists, arts organizations, and schools. SCAC grants to organizations include operating support, arts accessibility for people with disabilities, arts education, folklife and traditional arts projects, and quarterly project awards. Funding assistance to individual artists includes artist fellowships, folk life and traditional arts apprenticeships, and artist ventures, as well as quarterly projects that support professional development. SCAC grants assistance to schools is primarily available through programs that enrich arts education at the school level through arts education for students, teacher standards implementation, and the *Arts in Basic Curriculum Advancement* program to make the arts an integral part of the basic curriculum and daily classroom instruction. Two grants in the FY 2018 cycle were awarded to local organizations and artists, with a *Folklife & Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Grant* and a *General Operating Support Grant* awarded to the Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County.

The **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)** is an independent federal agency created in 1965. As one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States, the NEH seeks to promote excellence in the humanities and convey the lessons of history to all Americans. The **Humanities Council of South Carolina** seeks to enrich the cultural and intellectual lives of all South Carolinians by increasing public understanding of and support for the humanities. Both organizations offer multiple grant programs. While NEH grants typically go to larger cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, and radio stations, recipients of state grants include local libraries, individual schools, churches, civic groups, and community historical and arts councils. The South Carolina Humanities Council makes several categories of grants available including major grants, mini and planning grants, fast track literary grants, and council program grants. Funded projects range from television documentaries to small-scale oral histories and community festivals. Between 2008 and 2012, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Humanities Council of South Carolina awarded \$7.1 million for projects to institutions and individuals that explored the human endeavor and preserved cultural heritage in South Carolina.

Humanities funding has supported multiple projects in Camden, including civic forums and a Revolutionary War exhibit in 2015. Two community forums were organized by the City with the goal of improving the



perception of historic preservation and making the Camden community more aware of local cultural resources and programming. The Camden Archives and Museum received support for a traveling exhibit and lecture series on the American Revolutionary War in South Carolina, with a focus on local battles and influential figures.

4. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Communities that promote a philosophy of lifelong learning among residents are better positioned to successfully compete in a global economy and benefit from a more engaged citizenry. Arts education and music programs are provided to 11,000 students each year through the **Kershaw County School District**. The District is recognized as an early leader in arts education and one of the State's first *Arts in Basic Curriculum* sites. Over the last three decades, Kershaw County Schools have continued to leverage district resources, grants, and local support to enhance arts opportunities that include an annual arts gala, an elementary strings program, and the *Arts Arising* summer program for gifted arts students.

Elementary students are instructed in visual art, music, and creative writing, while middle school students can choose electives in dance or theater. High school students have elective course options in instrumental music, chorus, visual art, theater, and dance. The District also partners with the Fine Arts Center and other community arts groups to deliver an artist residency program for individual schools. The residencies provide hands-on classroom arts experiences with practicing artists in storytelling, mime and movement, music, puppetry, ceramics, poetry, and drama.

5. EQUINE AND AGRICULTURAL VENUES

Kershaw County has agricultural and equine industry facilities that strongly complement its historic, arts, and cultural resources. The Camden area is home to a growing equine industry anchored in a long history of steeplechase, racing, fox hunting, and polo dating back to the early nineteenth century. *South Carolina Equine Foundation* data shows that the County has the highest number of horses per capita in the region, with thoroughbreds accounting for nearly half of the horse population. The local revenue generated by horses is significant and contributes to a vibrant equine economic cluster that has grown to include the specialized niche of *equitourism*. Annual events including the spring Carolina Cup draw tens of thousands of visitors to the community each year and yield cultural and economic dividends to the City and the region.

The state-of-the-art **South Carolina Equine Park** accommodates a full range of equine activities. The facility hosts more than thirty events each year on the 60-acre site near Interstate 20. The Kershaw County Chamber estimates that the Park generates \$1.3 million in local revenue each year, including lodging, food, fuel, retail and visits to local sites of interest.

The 600-acre **Springdale Race Course** is a Thoroughbred racehorse training center located in Camden. It was designed as the first full length European-style course in the nation where all jumps could be reviewed from the same spot. The Springdale Race Course hosts a renowned steeplechase horseracing event and houses the **National Steeplechase Museum**. The **Carolina Cup** is held each spring with attendance that has grown to more than 70,000 fans from throughout the Southeast.



The City is also home to the second oldest polo field in the nation. Built in 1898, the *Camden Polo Field* played an important role in the development of the equine industry, attracting wealthy residents to the community. The field is held in perpetual trust by the Palmetto Conservation Foundation and is used for a variety of local events. The *Camden Hunt* is the second oldest hunt in South Carolina and has been an important aspect of Camden's equine and foxhunting culture since 1926. The Hunt maintains scheduled runs from September through March.

Linking the County's equestrian industry with its thriving arts and culture sector, the City of Camden is one of only nine world stops for the international *EQUUS Film Festival*. The festival honors award-winning equestrian-themed films, documentaries, videos, and shorts from around the world, along with fine equestrian art and literature.

Agritourism attractions often showcase the cultural and historical traditions of the community. A number of Kershaw County farms are successfully looking beyond traditional markets to diversify their operations through agritourism, incorporating farm tours and field trips, dinners, on-site farm-to-table restaurants with markets, workshops, festivals, and u-pick operations. Kershaw is one of only eleven counties in the State participating in the annual South Carolina *Ag and Art Tour*. The annual farm tours highlight local agricultural and food products, as well as cultural and artisan works. Launched in 2012, the summer event is now the largest farm and art tour in the nation. Local farms featured on the multi-day tour include nearby Boykin Mills, Goat Daddy's, Old McCaskill's Farm, and the Kershaw County Farmers Market, located in the City. Many these farms also participate in the local festivals listed in Table 6-6.

6. RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

The faith community played an influential role in the early development of Camden. Quaker settlers had an active role in the early formation of the City. A Quaker meeting house and cemetery were among the earliest religious institutions in the new settlement. Significant as one of only a few remaining Robert Mills churches, the Bethesda Presbyterian Church is located in the heart of the Camden Historic District and stands as the only National Historic Landmark in the City.

The more than 70 churches, synagogues, and faith communities active in the City are a vital partner in broadening community access to cultural opportunities. These institutions continue to have a positive impact on the quality of life by hosting events such as annual community concerts and reunions that preserve community and family histories, maintaining historic cemeteries, providing diverse youth activities and summer camps, and participating in festivals that showcase local food, talent, and crafts. Churches also often provide day care, preschool, and faith-based private school options for many families.

7. MEDIA

Newspapers, magazines, television, and radio stations can be a key conduit of information about local cultural events and festivals. Although there are no network television stations located within Kershaw County, Camden residents are served by major network affiliate stations based in the nearby Columbia Metro area. The Camden-based *Chronicle-Independent* is published twice a week on Tuesday and Friday. *Camden Living Magazine* is published six times a year. The magazine features a variety of topics



and stories of local interest, recipes, and an event calendar. Three radio stations are based in Camden. **WPUB** (FM) broadcasts oldies music, while **WEAF** (AM) and **WCAM** (AM) offer gospel music and nostalgia programming, respectively.

8. CULTURAL TOURISM

Cultural tourism in particular offers significant economic opportunities for local businesses and residents through the creation of new retail and service markets in the areas of arts and culture, historical tours and sites, genealogy resources, agribusiness, specialty foods, and related products. In addition to visiting historic places and museums during their trips, heritage visitors enjoy shopping, parks, cultural events and festivals, and outdoor recreation activities such as hiking, hunting, and equestrian events. Such tourism is an attractive economic development resource as it preserves community character, instills local pride, promotes community investment, improves the overall quality of life, and generates local employment and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Tourism has grown to a \$20.2 billion industry in South Carolina, accounting for nearly three percent of the State GDP (*U.S. Travel Association, 2017*). One of every ten jobs in the State is now supported by tourism. While hotels depend heavily on tourism, nearly a third of food and beverage business is attributed to tourism spending. Domestic travelers to the State spent more than \$12.5 billion on transportation, lodging, food, entertainment, recreation, and incidentals. Sector spending also generates \$1.8 billion in State and local tax revenue. This equates to a tax burden transfer from residents to tourists of \$826 per household.

State data also shows that Kershaw County has an annual visitor count of 318,000, the 24th highest among the State's 46 counties. The County benefitted from more than \$50.6 million in travel and tourism related expenditures, with \$2.3 million in local tax revenues. Tourism in 2015 generated nearly \$7.9 million in local payroll. Kershaw County ranked among the top half of South Carolina counties in total travel expenditures. The County received \$229,571 in accommodations tax collections for fiscal year 2016, with \$97,442 of this total going to the City of Camden.

As the Kershaw County seat, Camden provides a focal point for a vibrant arts and cultural destination where business, residential, cultural, and governmental uses intersect. The City completed a *Tourism, Market Assessment and Branding Plan* in 2014 to enhance the status of Camden "as a place to shop, invest, and visit." The plan identified the need for the City to further leverage its public and private assets to promote the community as a destination, particularly in the areas of African-American history or equestrian attractions. Recommendations included the need for consistent branding in marketing efforts, the addition of gateway and wayfinding signage to enhance the visitor experience, and coordinated marketing efforts among key organizations and attractions.

The **Camden – Kershaw County Tourism Development Partnership** promotes Camden and Kershaw County's cultural heritage and equine sporting lifestyle, drawing visitors from around the state, country, and world. In partnership with the County, the City uses Classically Carolina® as the designated marketing vehicle for promoting the City of Camden and Kershaw County as a tourist destination. The **Kershaw County Visitors Center** is operated by the Chamber of Commerce as the designated welcome center for Kershaw County. Housed in the renovated historic Robert Mills courthouse, the Center promotes the County as a tourism destination and assists visitors with referrals to local attractions and events, accommodations,

*CAMDEN ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM*

dining, and shopping. The ***Antiques and Arts District*** of Camden has more than 20 galleries, shops, and restaurants offering shoppers original artwork, antiques, specialty gifts, and dining. The upscale Camden Antiques Market represents 30 dealers in a single location in the heart of Camden's antique district.

The City of Camden is also part of the ***Main Street South Carolina*** program administered by the Municipal Association of South Carolina. The City of Camden Economic Development Department manages the City's Main Street program, as well as a one-stop for businesses locating in the City. The current Main Street District covers a relatively large area of 450 acres that spans 36 blocks. The 2017 ***Baseline Assessment Report*** by Main Street South Carolina recommended that the City focus mixed-use retail, public beautification projects, and housing redevelopment within a smaller area of historically and architecturally significant buildings for a more visible impact. The area bounded on the north by DeKalb Street, on the south by Clyburn Lane and the east and west by Market and Church Streets offers a more manageable district covering 16 acres. The addition of housing in the downtown district will not only increase the resident population, but will diversify the customer base, create new energy, and extend the hours of activity later into the evening. Support includes financial incentives for qualifying businesses, physical site improvements, and district-wide marketing. The 2017 assessment also recommended a public art placement plan for downtown Camden.

Local cultural tourism development efforts for the City seek to capture a greater share of retail and tourist dollars by supporting existing tourist venues related to the area's history, agriculture, and equine sports identity. This can best be accomplished by leveraging local, regional, and state tourism assets that raise per capita tourism expenditures, improving the visitor mix, and attracting, launching, and retaining businesses. The State offers multiple programs through several departments that aid South Carolina communities in building and marketing their cultural tourism assets. The ***South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism*** (SCPRT) is a cabinet agency assigned to operate and manage South Carolina's State Parks, market the State as a preferred vacation destination, and provide assistance to local communities for the development and promotion of parks, recreation and tourism. SCPRT offers annual grants to support local



governments and nonprofits in developing marketing and generating more visitors to the State (Table 6-7). Recent state funding support has included an outdoor marketing campaign for the Beard firearms collection at the Camden Archives and Museum.

TABLE 6-7. CULTURAL AND HERITAGE TOURISM SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

GRANT PROGRAM	SUMMARY	ELIGIBILITY	AMOUNT
Emerging Destination Marketing	Funds leveraged with local match to generate new visitation through select tourism advertising activities for highly-developed, emerging tourism destinations	501(c) non-profit charged with marketing tourism for specific city or unincorporated area	\$100,000 to \$200,000 (2:1 cash match)
Destination-Specific Tourism Marketing	Supports destination specific advertising that generates a proven economic return for the State	Qualified tourism partners	\$250,000+ (2:1 cash match)
Sports Tourism Advertising and Recruitment	Funds for recruiting new sporting events to the State that will enhance resident quality of life and generate significant economic impact to local communities through additional participant and visitor spending	Nonprofit tourism or sports-related organizations, applying through local governments	Up to \$50,000 (1:1 match)
Tourism Advertising	Funding to qualified tourism marketing partners for direct tourism advertising expenditures that expand the economic benefits of tourism using Festivals and Events, Attractions, or Destinations	S.C. tourism regions and organizations with tourism marketing mission Nonprofit or local governmental organizations that attract out-of-market visitors to destination, festival or attraction	Up to \$100,000 (1:1 and 2:1 match)
Undiscovered SC	Assists communities and nonprofits with development of publicly owned tourism products and attractions that encourage visitation to the State	County/municipal governments with Accommodations Tax distributions of \$550,000 or less	\$100,000 to \$200,000 (1:1 match)

SOURCE: S.C. DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM, 2017

Camden is located on the southern edge of the **Olde English District Tourism Commission** region that encompasses the seven counties of Chester, Chesterfield, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Union, and York. As one of eleven tourism regions in the state, the Commission received SCPRT funding to promote the region as rich in American Revolutionary War and Civil War history, diverse educational and cultural attractions, outdoor recreation, and entertainment. The goals of the office are to promote tourism to stimulate the economic and cultural environment, provide recreational opportunities, enhance recreational facilities and public services, and promote business.

The South Carolina General Assembly has authorized the **S.C. Arts Commission** to grant official state designation to local *cultural districts*. A cultural district is a geographic area that has a concentration of cultural facilities, activities, and assets. The legislated goals of the program are to encourage economic development, foster local cultural development, provide a focal point for celebrating and strengthening local cultural identity, and attract artists, creative entrepreneurs, and cultural enterprises to communities statewide. Municipalities are eligible to apply with the option of designating a municipal department or a community partner organization to manage the proposed district. Eligible partners can be an arts council, Main Street program, chamber of commerce, empowerment zone, historic district, visitor’s bureau, or other organization with the capacity to manage the district. The seven state-recognized cultural districts to date are in Rock Hill, Lancaster, Spartanburg, Congaree Vista, Beaufort, Bluffton, and Florence. Cultural district certification is awarded for a five-year period.



The *Transportation Alternatives Program* of the **S.C. Department of Transportation** funds community-based projects that improve the cultural, historic, and environmental aspects of the transportation infrastructure. Eligible projects include pedestrian and bicycle facilities and streetscaping projects, including gateway and wayfinding signage. The federal award can cover up to 80% of project costs to allow local governments to pursue non-traditional transportation related activities. Such projects are limited to a maximum of \$400,000. Costs are eligible for reimbursement only after project approval by the State Department of Transportation or a Metropolitan Planning Organization and the FHWA division office.

Cultural resources, activities, and opportunities are prominent and essential elements of community life, contributing to the vibrancy, place, and identity of the City of Camden and the quality of life and well-being of its residents. The ongoing cooperation of public and private interests in marketing, preservation and revitalization, and programming will position the City to continue building upon local heritage tourism assets that include historic sites of state and national significance, cultural attractions, festivals, equine events, and diverse culinary and retail offerings. This concerted effort to preserve and enhance the community's rich cultural resources base will advance the appeal of the City as a desirable place to work and live and as a tourism and retirement destination.



D. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

GOALS/OBJECTIVE/STRATEGIES	ACCOUNTABLE AGENCY	TIME FRAME
GOAL 6.1. PROTECT THE HISTORIC AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE CITY OF CAMDEN, AS EMBODIED AND REFLECTED IN ITS STATUS AS THE STATE'S OLDEST INLAND CITY AND IN ITS HISTORIC STRUCTURES, SITES, AND DISTRICTS.		
OBJECTIVE 6.1.1. EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES IN POLICIES, PLANS, AND ORDINANCES TO ENSURE THAT THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF THE CITY IS PRESERVED AND ENHANCED.		
<i>STRATEGY 6.1.1.1.</i>		
Identify and address the protection of historic resources through land use plans and regulations.	City of Camden	2022
<i>STRATEGY 6.1.1.2.</i>		
Continue to use code enforcement, the Historic Landmarks Commission, and other measures to enhance the visual and aesthetic character of the City through historic preservation.	City of Camden Historic Landmarks Commission	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.1.1.3.</i>		
Continue to survey, list, and record the community's archaeological and historical assets and potential sites within the community that have historical and cultural significance.	City of Camden Kershaw County S.C. Archives and History	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.1.1.4.</i>		
Ensure the comprehensive incentive package in Camden is well publicized, understood, and effectively used to promote redevelopment.	City of Camden	2020
OBJECTIVE 6.1.2. PROTECT LOCAL SITES, STRUCTURES, AND DISTRICTS THAT REPRESENT OR REFLECT ELEMENTS OF CULTURAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY, COUNTY, REGION, AND STATE.		
<i>STRATEGY 6.1.2.1.</i>		
Continue to educate the public and businesses on the economic and cultural benefits of historic preservation.	City of Camden Camden Main Street	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.1.2.2.</i>		
Promote the on-going improvement and maintenance of property condition and appearance of historic structures and districts.	City of Camden Nonprofit Organizations Property Owners Neighborhood Associations	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.1.2.3.</i>		
Continue to encourage the adaptive reuse of historic or architecturally significant buildings that connect the City and its residents with their histories.	City of Camden Property Owners	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.1.2.4.</i>		
Maximize grant funding and incentives from the S.C. Department of Archives and History and other sources to support preservation and revitalization efforts.	City of Camden Property Owners Businesses	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.1.2.5.</i>		
Promote awareness among individual property owners, realtors, bankers, developers, and business owners of the multiple Federal, State, and local tax incentive and grant programs available to historic property owners.	City of Camden Camden Main Street Property Owners	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.1.2.6.</i>		
Develop an accessible building database for the Historic District that indicates the eligibility of each building for incentives.	City of Camden Camden Main Street	2027
<i>STRATEGY 6.1.2.7.</i>		
Create list of developers who have successfully completed historic building renovations in other South Carolina communities and encourage them to consider downtown Camden for their next project.	City of Camden Camden Main Street Historic Property Developers	2022



GOALS/OBJECTIVE/STRATEGIES	ACCOUNTABLE AGENCY	TIME FRAME
<i>STRATEGY 6.1.2.8.</i>		
Work with the Kershaw County schools to establish and deliver programs on historic preservation and community history.	PK-12 Schools Kershaw County Historical Society Historic Camden Camden Archives and Museum Kershaw County Library	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.1.2.9.</i>		
Encourage replacement and repair of downtown facades and the rehabilitation of buildings to build upon the historic character of the City and create a more inviting pedestrian experience, making the downtown a more attractive for visitors, residents, and potential businesses.	City of Camden Camden Main Street Property Owners	On-going
GOAL 6.2. STRENGTHEN ACCESS, INVOLVEMENT, AND APPRECIATION OF THE ARTS FOR CITY RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.		
OBJECTIVE 6.2.1. STRENGTHEN THE CREATIVE CAPACITY OF THE COMMUNITY BY PROVIDING CITY RESIDENTS WITH DIVERSE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARTS PARTICIPATION.		
<i>STRATEGY 6.2.1.1.</i>		
Increase the awareness and active participation of residents of all ages and income levels in visual, performing, and literary arts, and cultural programming.	Fine Arts Center of Kershaw Kershaw County School District Other Cultural and Arts Groups	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.2.1.2.</i>		
Support the Kershaw County School District and community arts groups in maintaining a comprehensive arts program in local schools, including the Arts-in-Education programs to expose students to a lifetime of visual and performing arts, music, and creative writing.	Kershaw County School District Fine Arts Center of Kershaw Artists and Arts Groups Kershaw County Library	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.2.1.3.</i>		
Enable residents of all ages to acquire knowledge and skills in the arts by supporting arts projects that address lifelong learning.	Fine Arts Center of Kershaw Kershaw County School District Cultural and Arts Groups	On-going
OBJECTIVE 6.2.2. STRENGTHEN THE CREATIVE AND OPERATIONAL CAPACITY OF EXISTING COMMUNITY ARTS AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS.		
<i>STRATEGY 6.2.2.1.</i>		
Increase local arts funding by supporting arts organizations in federal and state grants applications, as well as corporate and private funding.	City of Camden Kershaw County	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.2.2.2.</i>		
Promote public knowledge and understanding of the contributions of the arts.	Fine Arts Center of Kershaw Cultural and Arts Groups	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.2.2.3.</i>		
Maximize funding from sources including the National Endowment for the Arts, the S.C. Arts Commission, the S.C. Humanities Council, and the S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism.	City of Camden Kershaw County Fine Arts Center of Kershaw Cultural and Arts Groups Camden & Kershaw County Development Partnership	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.2.2.4.</i>		
Continue to support cultural and arts venues through annual appropriation of accommodations tax revenues that directly promote tourism in the City of Camden and that attract regional, state, and/or national audiences.	City of Camden Kershaw County Accommodations Tax Committee	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.2.2.5.</i>		
Encourage volunteering and diversity in cultural programming and events with the involvement of community, faith-based, and civic organizations, as well as businesses.	Cultural and Arts Groups Faith-based Organizations Kershaw County School District Private Schools Civic and Community groups	On-going



GOALS/OBJECTIVE/STRATEGIES	ACCOUNTABLE AGENCY	TIME FRAME
GOAL 6.3. LEVERAGE THE CITY'S HISTORIC AND CULTURAL ASSETS AS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE.		
OBJECTIVE 6.3.1. INTEGRATE THE CITY'S HERITAGE INTO THE OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, ESPECIALLY AS IT RELATES TO BUILDING A CULTURAL TOURISM INDUSTRY.		
<i>STRATEGY 6.3.1.1.</i>		
Increase awareness of the extensive genealogical resources as a local attraction for additional heritage tourists.	Camden Archives and Museum Kershaw County Library	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.3.1.2.</i>		
Ensure the City's visibility in the regional and state tourism market through participation in regional marketing plans, visitor centers, websites and other media.	Kershaw County Visitors Center Chamber of Commerce Camden & Kershaw County Development Partnership Olde English Tourism District	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.3.1.3.</i>		
Ensure that digital and print marketing materials, maps and related information are current, attractive, and up-to-date.	Kershaw County Visitors Center Chamber of Commerce Camden & Kershaw County Development Partnership Olde English Tourism District	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.3.1.4.</i>		
Enlist community and civic partners to participate in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) initiatives.	City of Camden Kershaw County Kershaw County School District Central Carolina Technical College Employers	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.3.1.5.</i>		
Conduct semi-annual meetings among representative community groups, including those from the educational, arts, and business sector.	City of Camden Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce Camden & Kershaw County Development Partnership Kershaw County Library Kershaw County School District Employers	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.3.1.6.</i>		
Engage local and regional media in the active and on-going promotion of cultural resources and events to include print, radio, television and Internet coverage.	City of Camden Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce Local Media	On-going
OBJECTIVE 6.3.2. SUPPORT LOCAL EMPLOYERS ENGAGED IN THE CULTURAL AND HERITAGE TOURISM, AGRITOURISM, EQUITOURISM, AND NATURE-BASED TOURISM SECTORS.		
<i>STRATEGY 6.3.2.1.</i>		
Recognize, build upon, and promote the community's historic and cultural assets with equestrian, agricultural, Revolutionary and Civil War, African-American, and other themes through local historical and arts institutions and programming.	City of Camden Kershaw County Camden & Kershaw County Development Partnership Business Owners Olde English Tourism District	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.3.2.2.</i>		
Pursue additional SCPRT grants for local governments and non-profits to supplement promotional efforts in tourism marketing for festivals, attractions, and events.	City of Camden Kershaw County Cultural Organizations	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.3.2.3.</i>		
Commit time and resources to focus on comprehensive revitalization efforts that are oriented to attracting and supporting quality businesses in the downtown and neighborhood commercial districts.	City of Camden Camden Main Street	On-going



GOALS/OBJECTIVE/STRATEGIES	ACCOUNTABLE AGENCY	TIME FRAME
STRATEGY 6.3.2.4.		
Identify additional opportunities for special-events and festivals.	City of Camden Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce Arts and Cultural Groups	On-going
STRATEGY 6.3.2.5.		
Collaborate with the private sector to expand local shopping, dining, and lodging amenities as an important means of capturing tourist dollars.	City of Camden Camden Main Street Chamber of Commerce Business Owners	On-going
STRATEGY 6.3.2.6.		
Position the City to become a downtown retail attraction by developing Broad Street as the historic Main Street.	City of Camden Camden Main Street Chamber of Commerce Business Owners	On-going
OBJECTIVE 6.3.3. INCREASE THE ECONOMIC IMPACT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EQUINE INDUSTRY AND ITS UNIQUE IMPRINT ON THE CITY OF CAMDEN AND KERSHAW COUNTY.		
STRATEGY 6.3.3.1.		
Protect the equine industry from intrusion of incompatible uses to preserve their longevity and contribution to the community.	City of Camden Kershaw County	On-going
STRATEGY 6.3.3.2.		
Monitor rezoning and development proposals to ensure compatibility with existing historical and equine resources, utilizing plan review and public hearing process.	City of Camden Kershaw County	On-going
STRATEGY 6.3.3.3.		
Establish and protect horse crossings, trail areas, and green space vistas.	City of Camden Kershaw County SCDNR	On-going
OBJECTIVE 6.3.4. MAKE THE CITY A DESTINATION FOR CULTURAL ENRICHMENT, LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT, AND THE ARTS FOR KERSHAW COUNTY AND THE REGION.		
STRATEGY 6.3.4.1.		
Support expansion and diversification of tourism opportunities and strategies as appropriate, leveraging the <i>Classically Carolina</i> brand and resources in the equine, fishing and hunting, fine arts, and historical domains.	City of Camden Kershaw County Camden & Kershaw County Development Partnership Business Owners Olde English Tourism District	On-going
STRATEGY 6.3.4.2.		
Continue investment in the City Arena and other venues to host local and regional events and shows with broad appeal.	Camden & Kershaw County Development Partnership	On-going
STRATEGY 6.3.4.3.		
Identify and recruit recurring organized cultural, educational, sporting, military, historical, equine, and other events and activities.	Camden & Kershaw County Development Partnership	On-going
STRATEGY 6.3.4.4.		
Capitalize on Interstate access and proximity to major metropolitan areas to capture the economic potential of local historic and cultural resources.	Camden & Kershaw County Development Partnership Olde English Tourism District	On-going
STRATEGY 6.3.4.5.		
Implement and maintain the wayfinding signage program throughout the City including gateway and directional signage, historical and neighborhood markers, pedestrian kiosks, and other improvements that will enhance the visitor experience in the City.	City of Camden Camden Main Street SCDOT	On-going



GOALS/OBJECTIVE/STRATEGIES	ACCOUNTABLE AGENCY	TIME FRAME
<i>STRATEGY 6.3.4.6.</i>		
Incentivize additional lodging, restaurant, and retail providers to accommodate greater visitation.	City of Camden Camden & Kershaw County Development Partnership	On-going
GOAL 6.4. ENCOURAGE CAMDEN RESIDENTS TO CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER AND THE COMMUNITY.		
OBJECTIVE 6.4.1. PROMOTE A STRONG AWARENESS OF AND COMMITMENT TO LOCAL HISTORY AND HISTORIC PLACES, AS WELL AS A DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE ARTS, AMONG CITY RESIDENTS.		
<i>STRATEGY 6.4.1.1.</i>		
Support fully functional and active nonprofit and cultural boards and commissions that are staffed with knowledgeable and innovative volunteers.	City of Camden Kershaw County Cultural Organizations	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.4.1.2.</i>		
Promote opportunities for volunteerism in and sponsorships of tourism, cultural, and recreational offerings.	City of Camden Kershaw County Cultural Organizations	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.4.1.3.</i>		
Encourage public and private leaders to celebrate their communities by promoting culture and arts through festivals, classes, lectures, parades, concerts, performances, art appreciation, heritage and history, storytelling, and other forums in family-friendly, affordable settings.	City of Camden Kershaw County Cultural and Civic Organizations Kershaw County School District Central Carolina Technical College	On-going
OBJECTIVE 6.4.2. PRESERVE, ENHANCE, AND MARKET THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF THE COMMUNITY WHILE REFLECTING UNITY OF THE TOURISM INDUSTRY IN THE CITY OF CAMDEN AND SURROUNDING AREA.		
<i>STRATEGY 6.4.2.1.</i>		
Ensure that planning and zoning requirements, fire safety codes, and noise ordinances enhance protection of key historic, recreation and tourism sites.	City of Camden Kershaw County	On-going
<i>STRATEGY 6.4.2.2.</i>		
Engage neighborhoods, schools, churches, employers and community groups in local landscape and beautification projects.	City of Camden	On-going



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