

## **Dr. TOM HANCHETT, community historian**

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### **EDUCATION**

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#### **UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL**

Ph.D. Degree 1993: U.S. history (urban, southern, African American).

#### **UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**

M.A. Degree 1986: urban studies.

#### **CORNELL UNIVERSITY**

B.A. Degree 1978: history major, architecture minor.

### **COMMUNITY AWARDS**

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**LAUREL AWARD**, presented by American Institute of Architects, Charlotte Chapter, 2021

**ORDER OF THE LONG LEAF PINE**, presented by North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper, 2017

**ASC HONORS**, presented by Arts & Science Council, 2016.

**CHARLOTTEAN OF THE YEAR**, presented by *Charlotte Magazine*, 2015

### **ACADEMIC AWARDS**

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#### **CATHERINE BAUER WURSTER PRIZE for best article 1995 - 1997**

Awarded by Society for American City & Regional Planning History for "US Tax Policy & the Shopping Center Boom of the 1950s and 1960s," *American Historical Review* (October 1996).

#### **BEST DISSERTATION AWARDS -- 1993**

In Urban History, presented by Urban History Association.

In Southern Studies, presented by St. George Tucker Society.

#### **FIRST PLACE HISTORY BOOK AWARD -- 1987**

North Carolina Society of Historians. *For Legacy: The Myers Park Story* (co-author Mary Kratt)

#### **AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC AND FOLKLORE RECORDINGS: 1987 SELECTED LIST**

Library of Congress American Folklife Center. Producer and wrote notes for The Gospel Christian Singers: A Capella Since 1929, named one of year's "best recordings of American folk music."

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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"Tasting Change in Global Charlotte," in Marcie Cohen Ferris, ed., *Edible North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2022).

"McCrorey Heights: Making History in an African American Neighborhood," published on-line by Charlotte Historic Districts Commission, 2022.  
[https://charlottenc.gov/planning/HistoricDistricts/Documents/McCrorey\\_Heights\\_LocalDistrictDesignationReport\\_Draft.pdf](https://charlottenc.gov/planning/HistoricDistricts/Documents/McCrorey_Heights_LocalDistrictDesignationReport_Draft.pdf). Also a house-by-house history of the neighborhood's 167 dwellings:  
<https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/>

"Building History," monthly column in *Charlotte Magazine*, 2021 – 2022.

"Developing Opportunity: The Charlotte Office Building of Civil Rights Leaders Julius Chambers and Mel Watt," *North Carolina Historical Review*, 98:4 (October 2021), 406 – 430.

*SORTING OUT THE NEW SOUTH CITY: Race, Class and Urban Development in Charlotte* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, first edition 1998, second edition 2020).

"Self-Guided Walking Tours" of nine Charlotte neighborhoods, on-line at [www.HistorySouth.org](http://www.HistorySouth.org), 2020 – 2021.

"Charlotte History Toolkit," with J. Michael Moore, co-creator, on-line at [CharlotteHistoryToolkit.com](http://CharlotteHistoryToolkit.com), 2020.

"Oaklawn Park, An African American Neighborhood in Charlotte," published on-line by Charlotte Historic Districts Commission, 2019.  
[https://charlottenc.gov/planning/HistoricDistricts/Documents/OaklawnPark\\_LocalDistrictDesignationReport\\_Final.pdf](https://charlottenc.gov/planning/HistoricDistricts/Documents/OaklawnPark_LocalDistrictDesignationReport_Final.pdf).

"Food from Home," monthly column in *Charlotte Observer*, 2009 – 2020.

"A Salad Bowl City: The Food Geography of Charlotte, NC," in John T. Edge, Elizabeth Englehart & Ted Ownby, *The Larder: Food Studies Methods from the American South* (U Georgia Press, 2013).

"An Idea-Based Exhibit: Platform for Participation," in Bix Gabriel, et al, *Museums of Ideas: Commitment and Conflict* (Edinburgh, Scotland: Museums, Etc., 2011)

"Salad Bowl Suburbs: A History of Charlotte's East Side and South Boulevard Immigrant Corridors" in Heather Smith, ed., *Charlotte NC: Global Evolution of a New South City* (U Georgia Press, 2010).

*LEGACY: The Myers Park Story*, Mary Kratt co-author, rev.ed. (Charlotte: Duke Mansion, 2009).

"Urban Planning," "Charlotte," "Shout Bands," "Beverages" in *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* (U North Carolina Press, 2008-2010).

"The South's Love Affair with Soft Drinks," in John Shelton Reed, ed., *Cornbread Nation 4: The Best of Southern Food Writing* (U Georgia Press, 2008).

*Charlotte and the Carolina Piedmont* (co-author Ryan Sumner) (Charleston: Arcadia, 2003).

"US Tax Policy and the Shopping Center Boom of the 1950s and 1960s," *American Historical Review* 101:4 (October 1996), 1082 - 1110.

"The Rosenwald Schools and Black Education in North Carolina," *North Carolina Historical Review* 65:4 (October 1988), 387 - 444.

And see more projects at [www.HistorySouth.org](http://www.HistorySouth.org)

## EMPLOYMENT

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*I've been a "community historian" all of my adult life. As I explore the communities around me, I've been fortunate to find many different types of employment, as well as freelance work. In 2016 I retired from my longest-held position, staff historian with Levine Museum of the New South. A look at some of the things I did with the organization gives a sense of the multi-faceted nature my worklife.*

**LEVINE MUSEUM OF THE NEW SOUTH**, Charlotte, NC 28202 Staff Historian, 1999 – 2016

Co-leader of "**NEUVOLUTION: Latinos and the New South**" project. Researched Latino communities in Charlotte, Atlanta and Birmingham areas with filmmaker Rodrigo Dorfman. Co-wrote major grants: American Alliance of Museums "Innovation Lab"; Knight Foundation. Co-authored "Working with Latino Partners: Seven Insights," *AASLH History News*, Summer 2013. Exhibit installed at Levine Museum in Charlotte, Atlanta History Center and Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, 2015 – 2018.

Lead writer for exhibit "**Para Todos Los Ninos: Fighting Segregation in California**," on display 2010 at Museum of Tolerance, Los Angeles, then two versions traveling in CA and NC.

Grant-writer/concept developer for Newcomer Project exploring Charlotte's diverse cultures, opened 2009. Lead writer on \$400k Knight Foundation grant, \$149k IMLS grant, \$80k Foundation for Carolinas grant. Host/producer of public TV special. Assistant curator of exhibit "**Changing Places**," honored by Am.Assoc. of Museums 2010 as one of four top exhibits in US.

Curator for "**Purses, Platforms & Power: Women Changing Charlotte in the 1970s**," March 2005 - January 2006. Winner of national AASLH Award of Merit. Named best new exhibit over \$100,000 in southeastern US by South East Museums Conference. Also curated a 2000 square foot version installed 2007 - 2013 in Wachovia/Wells Fargo Atrium, uptown Charlotte.

Curator for "**COURAGE: The Carolina Story that Changed America**," on *Brown v Board* 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Initial version ran 2004 at Levine, 2005 at McKissick in Columbia, SC, permanently at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte starting 2012. Received national attention including *Newsweek*, won the top national awards from AASLH and American Association of Museums, honored at White House ceremony by First Lady. Small version toured South Africa starting

2005. Also curated a 4000 square foot edition for U.S. travel 2008-present including Atlanta History Center, Harlem's Schomburg Black History Center, Museum of Tolerance Los Angeles.

Project Director/curator for \$1.5m NEH-supported permanent exhibit "**Cotton Fields to Skyscrapers**: Charlotte and the Carolina Piedmont in the New South," 2001 - 2022. Named best new exhibit over \$1m in southeastern US by South East Museums Conference.

Curator for Levine exhibits "**Comic Stripped: A Revealing Look at Southern Stereotypes in Cartoons**," Sept 2007 – April 2008; "**John Nolen: Neighborhood-Maker**," May 2005 – May 2007; "**Pen & Ink Politics: Thomas Nast's Reconstruction-Era Cartoons**," Dec 2002 – Sept 2003; "**The New South's Love Affair with the Car**," Jan – Nov 2002. Scholarly advisor: "**Families of Abraham**," Dec 2006 – July 2007. Project manager: "**Cambodia to Carolina**," May - Nov 2006. Researcher/writer: "**Carolina Victorian**," March – Oct 2002. Editor for many installations including "**Boots on the Ground**" (2012) and "**Without Sanctuary**" (2013)

Television producer, writer and/or scholar, "New South Crossings" television series exploring diverse musical traditions in Charlotte, WTVI public television 2007 – 2008; "Hometown Stories: African- Americans' Journey in Charlotte Mecklenburg," WTVI public television 2005; "Lessons from the Lunchcounter," WTVI public television 2004, named the year's top documentary by the National Association of Black Journalists; "A Celebration of Black Heritage" TV spots and website, WSOC-TV 2007 – present: <http://www.wsoc.tv/blackheritage/index.html>; "Women in North Carolina Politics: A Tribute to Representative Ruth Easterling," WTVI public television September 2002, also broadcast statewide on WUNC network Fall 2002; "Millennium Memories," 10 one-minute history modules aired repeatedly on WTVI public TV 1999 – 2001.

Curator for on-line exhibits [www.Charlotte1911.org](http://www.Charlotte1911.org) and [www.Bearden1911.org](http://www.Bearden1911.org) with Digital Innovation Lab, UNC Chapel Hill, 2011.

Project-planner/host for concerts and major public programs including "GospelShout!" annual concerts 2003- present; "Sit-Ins to Eat-ins" city-wide commemoration of Charlotte's 1963 restaurant desegregation; "Bluegrass Meets Mariachi" & "Bluegrass Meets Bolero" concerts with Charlotte Folk Society in 2010 & 2012; "Sit-In Reunion" 2003; "Turn Your Radio: Charlotte's Music History" concerts 2000 & 2001.

Speaker for 100+ community talks and tours each year incl. "The New South for the New Southerner" series, "New South BBQ" tours, neighborhood walking tour series, conference keynotes, etc.

## UNIVERSITY TEACHING POSITIONS

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**CORNELL UNIVERSITY** Assistant Professor, Historic Preservation Program, Dept. City & Regional Planning -- 1998 - 1999

**YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY** Assistant Professor, Historic Preservation Program Coordinator, History Dept. -- 1995 - 1998

**EMORY UNIVERSITY** Andrew Mellon Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Southern Studies -- 1994 - 1995