



Central & West Central Region

Quarter 2 report: October, November, December 2021

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Nigel Rudolph Public Archaeology Coordinator, Central Region

Rachael Kangas M.A., RPA Public Archaeology Coordinator,
West Central Region

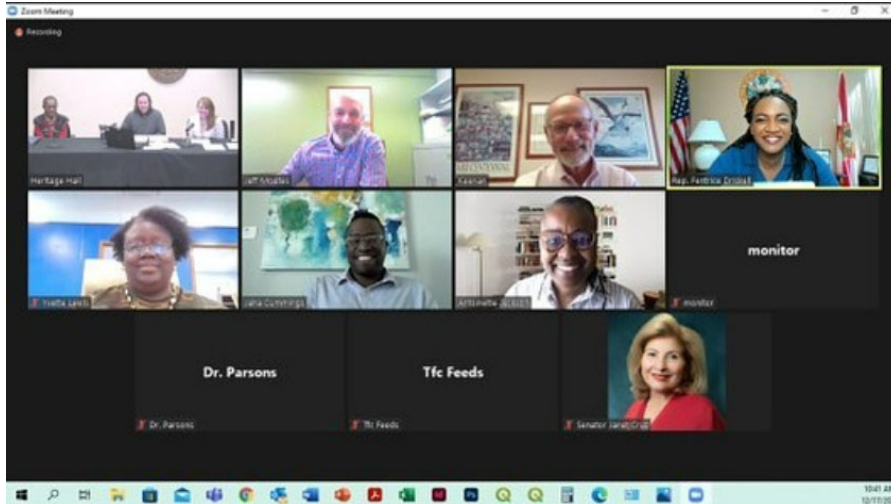
West Central Region

FPAN staff participated in both in-person and virtual events and meetings with community, host institution, local, county, and state partners, continuing to interpret archaeology to the public, follow through on projects, and grow partnerships. Bringing 2021 to a close and preparing for the upcoming year staff worked hard to find creative solutions to COVID-19 related hurdles and still bring a high quality of work to the regions.

The West Central Region welcomed Rachael Kangas, formerly the coordinator for the Southwest Region of FPAN, to the USF office in September. Rachael brings over 5 years of experience with FPAN and interests and skills that will complement the wide range of work the West Central and Central Regions already perform. Much of this quarter was spent visiting sites, meeting with partners, and getting Rachael familiar with the region and up to speed on the ongoing projects in the region of FPAN.

Highlight

In December, Director Jeff Moates participated in the fifth and final meeting of the State Abandoned African-American Cemeteries Task Force. Over 5 months the task force created formal recommendations to the State of Florida resulting in a bill that is currently being considered by the Florida Legislature. While only one voice of 10 on the task force, Jeff represented FPAN well during meetings and was a voice that advocated for communities he has served in the Tampa Bay area over the past several years. The final report of the task force can be viewed here: https://files.floridados.gov/media/705214/hb-37_task-force-on-abandoned-african-american-cemeteries_report_12-17-2021.pdf



1- Members of the Abandoned African-American Cemeteries Task Force during the final meeting

Central Region

The Central office participated in 14 meetings/events/activities, serving 252 people in education and outreach in Florida archaeology. As many Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions were still in place, most meetings and presentations were virtual over the Zoom Meetings application. However, there were a number of site visits, in-person tours, and meetings. Events were primarily focused in the larger population centers within the Region of Alachua and Citrus Counties.

Highlight

Noteworthy Central Region events include a continued and expanded partnership with the University of Florida, Historic Preservation Department regarding the Bethlehem Methodist Episcopal Cemetery in Archer. The Moon Over the Mounds tour at Crystal River Archaeological State Park, and History Bike Gainesville are additional ongoing in-person, quarterly events of note.



2 Public Archaeology Coordinator, Nigel Rudolph, discussing cemetery restoration options with University of Florida, Historic Preservation Department, Director Dr. Cleary Larkin, UFHP Board Member and preservationist, Glenn Boornazian, and graduate student.