



**SAPELO ISLAND CULTURAL & REVITALIZATION SOCIETY, INC.**

Dear Potential Supporter(s):

Thank you for taking a serious look at the circumstances of the Geechee/Gullah Nation and the plight of the Saltwater "Kissi" Geechee of the Hogg Hummock Historic District, Sapelo Island, Georgia, McIntosh County.

The Saltwater "Kissi" Geechee people of the Hogg Hummock community are the direct descendants of Africans "Kissi Tribe" brought to Sapelo in the early 1800's and Freedmen who purchased property after the Civil War. Originally there were at times between 700 - 900 "Kissi" Geechee on the island, constituting 44 families organized into 13 communities, covering some 2,700 acres of land. Today they have already lost close to 1,000 acres and are struggling to interrupt efforts of others to take an additional 1,376 acres via economic suppression and neglect by the local municipality, gentrification by land speculators. The 2009 estimated fair market value of the lost land is over one billion dollars. Currently, the Hogg Hummock community occupies only approximately 248 acres of land located in the central area of Sapelo Island.

With a median age of 61 and flight by the youth due to unemployment, lack of school(s) and limited entertainment, and recreation, the aging Hogg Hummock community is trying to fight off cultural genocide.

The Sapelo Island Cultural and Revitalization Society (SICARS) was founded in 1993, incorporated in 1994, and achieved 501(c)(3) non-profit status in 1995. The organization's mission is to "address systemic threats to the survival of the Hogg Hummock community through land retention strategies, land use planning, and policy reform." These threats include tax and government planning agendas that directly affect the community and encourage or directly create the loss of descendant-owned land.

In 2006 Congress established the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor (Subtitle I of Public Law 109-338). This National Heritage area as part of the National Park Service spans a geographical area encompassing over 12,000 square miles along the Eastern coast through four states: North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

In 2007 SICARS commissioned a Cultural Interpretive Village Feasibility Study. This feasibility study was completed in 2008 and resulted in a Memorandum of Agreement between SICARS and the SAPELO ISLAND HERITAGE AUTHORITY, an instrumentality of the State of Georgia. This memorandum calls for the development of a Cultural Interpretive Village at SICARS expense, with the State of Georgia conveying 25 acres (valued at \$6,832,000.00) for the village site, provided SICARS could raise the capital and construct Phase I within 2 years of signing the memorandum on 1 July 2008. As of this writing all funds have been expended and a new administration is operating the SICARS organization.

Believing that the Sapelo Island community "...can take ownership and responsibility for their future only to the extent that they can develop an accountable, representative, and well-informed leadership," SICARS has taken action to halt

further land losses through public education on heirs' property, land retention, tax reforms, and zoning laws. SICARS has almost completed all architectural renderings and soil sampling necessary to begin construction.

What is needed now is **\$1,632,000.00** for construction and the first year operations expenses.

What we are asking of you is the consideration of a monetary donation to begin the implantation process of this 25 acre cultural development. The Geechee Gullah Cultural Interpretive Village will serve as a vivid reminder of the struggles and triumph of Geechee Gullah People. In addition, the site will be a center of excellence for learning about the important Geechee Gullah thread in our American Fabric.

African-American heritage tourism is the single, fastest-growing segment of the tourism industry and attracts a wide range of visitors from all over the world who have great interest in learning more about the history, culture, and accomplishments of African-Americans in the rural South. As an African-American heritage tourism initiative we will successfully create jobs and small business development opportunities while preserving, enhancing, and showcasing the rich cultural heritage in communities across the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor.

Your favorable decision and contribution of any amount will enable SICARS' mission, help to save the Hogg Hummock Community and preserve a national treasure, the last in-tact African community in America!

There are 4 ways to support the SICARS mission:

1. Direct deposit to SICARS' Phase I account at Bank of America, routing #061000052 ; account #: 334025095316
2. For amounts under \$500 please use US Postal Money orders only.
3. For amounts over \$500 please use Cashier's Checks only.
4. Gift Annuity

**MAKE PAYABLE TO: Sapelo Island Cultural and Revitalization Society (SICARS)**

Thank you for your support of our important effort to save the Saltwater "Kissi" Geechee Hogg Hummock community of Sapelo Island, Georgia, that has been on the **National Register of Historic Places** by the **United States Department of the Interior** since 1996.

Very truly yours,

Reginald H. Hall,  
V.P. of Development

p.s. Please visit us on the web at [www.sapeloislandgeorgia.org](http://www.sapeloislandgeorgia.org) to learn more about our organization and <http://www.sapeloislandgeorgia.org/village/index.html> to view the Geechee Gullah Cultural Interpretive Village virtual tour.



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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION!**

**Donor's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

Check your method to support the **SICARS** mission:

- CASH or PERSONAL CHECK: Amounts under \$250.00.
- POSTAL MONEY ORDER: Amounts between \$250 — \$500
- CASHIER'S CHECK: Amounts over \$500.00
- CORPORATE CHECK: Any Amount
- CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP
- GIFT ANNUITY
- PROPERTY DONATION

**MAKE PAYABLE TO: Sapelo Island Cultural and Revitalization Society (SICARS)**

Please keep this written acknowledgement of your donation for your tax records. Since January 1, 1994, the IRS will no longer accept your canceled check as proof of any donation of \$250 or more. Changes in tax law also require us to estimate the value of goods or services, if any, that have been rendered to you in return for your contribution, and to remind you that your contribution is deductible only to the extent that it exceeds what we have provided.

**I am donating \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help SICARS.**

(If contribution is property rather than cash, a detailed description appears below.)

**Donor's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of donated property:** (It is the responsibility of the donor to determine the fair market value of the donated items.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Estimate of the value of goods /services provided:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No goods or services were provided in return.

No estimate is provided because the payment was less than \$75.00