



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs to Host 2020 Black History Month Celebration

Dr. Bernard E. Powers, Jr. of International African American Museum to Serve as Keynote Speaker

The South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs will celebrate Black History Month with a dinner and awards ceremony on Friday, February 7, 2020 at 6 p.m. at the Brookland Banquet & Conference Center, 1066 Sunset Blvd., West Columbia, SC 29169.

Dr. Bernard E. Powers Jr., interim chief executive officer and president of the International African American Museum in Charleston, SC, will be the keynote speaker.

The annual celebration will also include Civil Rights activist and former member of the South Carolina House of Representatives Mr. James L. Felder; the Center for Learning Children's Choir; Gullah artist Aunt Pearl Sue (Anita Singleton-Prather); Allen University's Jazz Band; and Spring Valley High School JROTC. WCBDTV anchor Octavia Mitchell will serve as the mistress of ceremonies.

Powers has worked in higher education for approximately forty years. For twenty-six years, he was a professor of history at the College of Charleston teaching courses in American, African American, and African diasporic history. In 2018, he became the College's founding director for the Center for the Study of Slavery in Charleston.

Powers is a co-author of "We Are Charleston: Tragedy and Triumph at Mother Emanuel," which contextualizes the city's racially motivated murders of 2015.

Admission for the black tie optional dinner is \$25 per person. To purchase your tickets, visit <http://cmablackhistorymonth2020.eventbrite.com/>.

For more information, contact Cynthia Haddad at 803-995-8553 or email chaddad@cfma.sc.gov.

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ABOUT THE S.C. COMMISSION FOR MINORITY AFFAIRS

The South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs is the official South Carolina state agency bridging the gap between our ethnic minority communities. The Commission's mission is to be a catalyst that identifies and examines emerging issues and trends by providing constructive solutions and approaches to support the policy and socio-economic development of ethnic minority communities. For more information, visit our website at www.cma.sc.gov.