

# Learn More About Africatown

## Africatown Community Organizations

Africatown is a small residential area just north of downtown Mobile. Many of its residents can trace their lineage to the 110 survivors of the *Clotilda*, who founded the community after the Civil War. For more than 150 years, members of the community took steps to ensure that the incredible story of those who came before them was always honored and never forgotten. They tapped into their personal resources and gave of their time, ever committed to preserving their history while ensuring a bright future for the generations to come. Their decades of dedication has resulted in the establishment of a full array of community organizations that work diligently - independently and also in support of each other - to keep the dreams of the original residents of Africatown alive. Listed in alphabetical order, these organizations include:

- Africatown Business and Community Panel: web presence pending
- Africatown C.H.E.S.S. (Clean, Healthy, Educated, Safe & Sustainable): <http://www.africatown-chess.org/>
- Africatown Community Development Corporation: website to launch February 13
- Africatown Historic Preservation Foundation: <https://africatownhpf.org/>
- Africatown Redevelopment Corporation: created by the Alabama State Legislature/HB#448 in 2021, web presence pending
- Clotilda Descendants Association: <https://theclotildastory.com/>
- M.O.V.E. (Making Opportunities Viable for Everyone) Gulf Coast Community Development Corporation: <https://movegulfcoastcdc.org/>
- Mobile County Training School Alumni Association: <http://www.mctswhippets.org/>
- Mobile Environmental Justice Action Coalition: <https://www.mejacoalition.org/>



Credit: Mobile County Commission

## Historic Africatown Churches (in order of founding)

- 1869: Union Missionary Baptist Church, 506 Bay Bridge Road, Mobile, AL 36610
- 1883: Yorktown Baptist Church, 851 East Street, Mobile, AL 36610
- 1893: First Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, 664 Shelby Street, Mobile, AL 36610

### Suggested Reading: Books of Interest (all available on Amazon)

- *Barracoon: The Story of the Last "Black Cargo"* (Zora Neale Hurston, 2018)
- *Dreams of Africa in Alabama: The Slave Ship Clotilda and the Story of the Last Africans Brought to America* (Sylviane A. Diouf, 2007)
- *Historic Sketches of the South* (Emma Langdon Roche, 1914)
- *The Last Slave Ship: The True Story of How Clotilda Was Found, Her Descendants, and an Extraordinary Reckoning* (Ben Raines, 2022)
- *The Slave Ship Clotilda and the Making of AfricaTown, USA: Spirit of Our Ancestors* (Natalie S. Robertson, 2008)

### Suggested Reading: Articles of Interest

- ["Clotilda: Journey of the Last American Slave Ship"](#) *National Geographic*, November 19, 2019 (Please note: This is behind a paywall, so you'll need to log in with an email address or subscribe to access the story.)
- ["Africatown - A Tradition and Struggle Like No Other"](#) by Joe Womack, posted July 7, 2014 on the "Bridge the Gulf" blog

### Suggested Films

- ["Clotilda: Last American Slave Ship,"](#) currently showing on Disney+
- ["Descendant,"](#) currently showing on Netflix

### Official Tours

- Dora Franklin Finley African American Heritage Trail: <https://www.dffaaht.org/> (established in 2005)
- Visit Mobile, the official tourism organization for the city, worked with Michelle Browder of More Than Tours in Montgomery, to mentor a group of aspiring tour guides, some of whom are descendants. Browder helped five businesses establish licenses and create marketing tools, in addition to coaching them on how to share fascinating but difficult stories in both educational and engaging ways. The first class of "Africatown Experience Givers" graduated on January 25, 2023.



Africatown Experience Givers and their sponsors at the recent graduation ceremony.

Credit: Visit Mobile