



## OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS of the 200<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMISSION to COMMEMORATE FLORIDA JOINING the UNITED STATES

On July 17, 1821, American and Spanish officials oversaw the exchange of flags in Pensacola as Florida formally passed from Spanish to American possession. People in attendance that day reflected Pensacola's diverse population. Today, we see that the diversity of the 1821 population is still reflected in our modern community. At the request of Pensacola Mayor Grover Robinson and the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners, the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission has been developing ways in which our community can commemorate this important event in our local, state, and national history.

The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic impacted the planning to a great degree. However, in this unprecedented time, we have developed a plan to bring our community together to celebrate this important event with products and events designed to engage our community both via remote participation and, this summer, hopefully in person.

Several examples of products coming out of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning are:

A database of information on all individuals who can be identified as being in Pensacola in 1821. This project is sponsored by the West Florida Genealogy Society and will be accessible to the public via a virtual platform. It is an especially exciting project as the product, *1821: A Pensacola Sampler*, will reflect the presence of the overall population along with the military members who were here.

An interactive mosaic of faces from our modern community "standing for" people who were here in 1821.

A virtual walking tour of historic St. Michael's Cemetery focused on the people who were in Pensacola in 1821 and are buried there. St. Michael's Cemetery Foundation, Inc. is partnering with the UWF Archaeology Institute and the UWF Historic Trust to create this virtual tour. This product will be available to the public via a virtual platform.

In the planning stage, a documentary on the historic event, the people of Pensacola ca 1821, and the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be a statewide offering by public broadcasting. This is a partnership between WSRE, WUWF, and Florida Humanities (funding source).

Historic markers highlighting the anniversary and the people and places of 1821.

A formal commemoration program will take place in Museum Plaza (Historic Pensacola Village) on Saturday morning, July 17, 2021, exactly 200 years after the exchange of Spanish and American flags. A historic marker will be unveiled. Following the formal program with a re-creation of the exchange of flags, Historic Pensacola Village will be open to the public at no charge. A number of programs and performances will take place throughout the Village.

Programing is structured to reflect our community's rich and diverse heritage and the collective influences that makes our community what it is today.

This commemoration is an excellent opportunity to reach a broad audience, not only in Pensacola and Escambia County, but also across the state, region, nation, and beyond. The pandemic will end, and people will be ready to take full advantage of all we have to offer. **Our community is looking for something uplifting in this time of uncertainty. Let's lift our community up.**

#### **200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission Members**

Dr. Judy Bense, *Chair*, UWF, historical archaeologist  
Ms. Margo Stringfield, *Co-chair*, UWF, historical archaeologist  
Mr. Rob Overton, Director, UWF Historic Trust  
Dr. Elizabeth Benchley, Director, UWF Archaeology Institute  
Mr. Darien Schaefer, Visit Pensacola, President/CEO  
Mr. Jack Brown, former City and County Administrator  
Dr. Brian Rucker, History Professor Pensacola State College and UWF  
Mr. Gregg Harding, Historic Preservation Planner, City of Pensacola  
Ms. Laura Coale, Director of Communications and Public Information, Escambia County  
Dr. Marion Williams, local historian and African-American leader  
Dr. William Lees, Executive Director, Florida Public Archaeology Network  
Ms. Teniadé Broughton, President, John Sunday Society, Pensacola City Council member, District 5  
Ms. Maria Goldberg, Board of Directors, Florida Humanities  
Mr. John Appleyard, local public historian (*in memorialis*)

#### **July 17<sup>th</sup> 2021 Commemoration Event Committee**

Dr. Judy Bense, Chair and Ms. Margo Stringfield, Co-Chair

Mr. Robert Overton, UWF Historic Trust  
Ms. Laura Coale, Escambia County  
Mr. Gregg Harding, City of Pensacola  
Ms. Barbara Fitzpatrick, Pensacola Heritage Society  
Dr. Cheryl Howard, African American Heritage Society  
Mr. Walker Wilson, Downtown Improvement Board  
Dr. William Lees, Florida Public Archaeology Network  
Dr. Elizabeth Benchley, UWF Archaeology Institute  
Mr. Dan Helms, Vice Chief, Santa Rosa Creek Tribe  
Ms. Carrie Williams-Hannah, Naval Air Station Pensacola  
Ms. Virginia Shelby, West Florida Genealogy Society  
Ms. Renea Brown, St. Michael's Cemetery Foundation  
Ms. Barbara Wright, Pensacola Archaeological Society  
Ms. Teniade Broughton, John Sunday Society  
Ms. Maria Goldberg, Florida Humanities  
Ms. Grace Resendez McCaffery, La Costa Latina  
Ms. Bridget Middleton, Fiesta  
Dr. Brian Rucker, Pensacola State College  
Mr. Dean DeBolt, Pensacola Historic Preservation Society

## **Draft Preliminary Program for July 17, 2021**

Sunrise: Traditional blessing of an important day by the Santa Rosa Creek Tribe

Break

8:30 AM: Continental breakfast in Museum Plaza

9:15: Unveiling of the commemoration historic marker with brief comment

9:40: Dignitaries seated on stage or shown to seats in front rows below stage

9:50: Live music leading program participants into the Plaza

10:00: Master of Ceremonies welcomes honored guests and community attendees

10:05: MC introduces dignitaries selected to give brief comments

10:45: Change of Flags:

American sentry relieves Spanish sentry of his post

Spanish sentry is joined by a representative of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force who lower Bars of Aragon

American sentry is joined by a representative of the U.S. Army and U.S. Marines who raise the 23 star

American flag

Band(s) play the *Star Spangled Banner*

Fly over TBD

Parting words by MC

Santa Rosa Creek Tribe Friendship Dance, audience joins in.

Lunch: Food trucks around the Village or dining at area restaurants on your own

Activities:

Open house in the Village, period children's activities, re-enactors, strolling musicians, dancers and demonstrations.

Event in Museum Plaza and Historic Pensacola Village ends at 2:00

Considering an evening event in Wahoo Stadium