

FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH



**COMMUNITY - BASED
ARCHAEOLOGY**



FLORIDA PUBLIC
ARCHAEOLOGY
NETWORK

A PARTNER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA

FPMHIS



FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL



www.flheritage.com



Community-Based Archaeology

You bring power to archaeology! In community-based archaeology, community members take the lead in guiding research that is important and relevant to them, interpreting sites based on their knowledge of local history and community insight.

What makes a community?

There are many types of communities who can get involved in archaeology. Communities can be contemporary groups of people living in an area, but can also be groups who are descended from people who have a connection in the past to a place. Communities can also serve as site stewards, ensuring places are maintained.

Where are the answers to questions about Florida's past found?

Archaeology is the study of people in the past, but the most important source of information often comes from communities today. Local knowledge is not always captured in written documents or by artifacts in the ground. Some communities rely heavily on oral traditions and other methods to share knowledge from one generation to the next. Private collections of photographs or documents can provide information not recorded anywhere else. Individual experiences of living and working in a place over a lifetime can help with interpretations of a place and its past. Engaging communities helps to build a better understanding of sites and places, how they should be studied, and who ultimately benefits from the results of that study.

How can we use Community-Based Archaeology as a tool for shaping the present and future?

Community-Based Archaeology can serve as an empowering tool. It can help to build a more equitable future by bringing into focus the impacts of racism and colonialism, connecting the dots from past injustices to the social inequities of the present. Community-Based Archaeology empowers communities today, to reclaim their heritage and tell their stories through their own voices. In order to be part of such an approach, archaeologists must choose to seek out, build trust, support, and collaborate with the communities who are connected to places they wish to study. It requires a commitment to equitable partnerships and honoring the integrity of diverse voices, systems of knowledge, and forms of data.

Florida Archaeology Month 2021 seeks to promote a better understanding of Community-Based Archaeology. We try to highlight examples of archaeology that place communities at the center of the work, especially communities who have not traditionally relied on archaeology to inform them about their pasts. This year is also a Call to Action to continue important dialogues and begin a wholesale shift in archaeological practice. For archaeology to be relevant, now and in the coming decades, the goals of a community-based approach must be at the top of our archaeology tool kit.

2021
FAM



Florida Archaeology Month Committee: Theresa Schober and Joanne Talley (FAS), Elizabeth Benchley and Donna Ruhl (FAC), Jeff Moates and Mike Thomlin (FPAN), Kathryn Miyar and Ivor Mollema (BAR). Graphic design by Nigel Rudolph. Text by Jeff Moates and Emily Jane Murray. Special thanks to staff of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Tribal Historic Preservation Office for review and comments.

For more information visit www.FLarchmonth.org