

**Amari James**

## *The Importance of Learning the History of African Americans and their Contributions to South Carolina.*

*The history of African Americans in South Carolina is a significant part of American history that is often overlooked or minimized. Generational information is slowly fading from our youth as the untold stories are being forgotten. It is essential to learn about this history and their contributions to South Carolina because it offers an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the state's culture, identity, and values. Moreover, studying the history of African Americans in South Carolina highlights the ongoing struggle for racial equality and social justice in the United States.*

*The state of South Carolina has a rich history, but it cannot be fully understood without exploring the experiences and contributions of African Americans. Their culture, labor, and activism have shaped the state's identity, values, and economic development. The Gullah Geechee culture and the Civil Rights Movement are just two examples of the African American legacy in South Carolina that deserve recognition and appreciation.*

*The Gullah Geechee people have a unique and rich cultural heritage that is a blend of African and European influences. Their language, food, music, and art have contributed to the state's cultural diversity and are worthy of study and preservation. Likewise, the Civil Rights Movement was a defining moment in South Carolina's history that challenged racial segregation and fought for equal rights. The contributions of African American activists like Septima Clark and Modjeska Simkins were crucial to the success of the movement, and their legacy deserves recognition and appreciation.*

*African Americans also played a significant role in South Carolina's economic development. During the antebellum period, the rice industry, which relied on the labor of enslaved Africans and fueled the state's economy and made it one of the wealthiest in the South. African American workers also contributed to the state's industrialization during the early 20th century, working in factories, mills, and other industries. By acknowledging their contributions, we can always appreciate their resilience and ingenuity in the face of adversity.*

*The study of African American history in South Carolina is essential for understanding the ongoing struggle for racial equality and social justice in the United States. Despite the significant progress made in the fight for civil rights, racial discrimination and inequality continue to exist. The devastating Charleston Church Shooting that took place in 2015 is just one of many circumstances that stresses the need for greater understanding and empathy between different racial groups and measures to combat hate crimes and racial discrimination.*

*Ultimately, African American history has become critical for gaining a deeper understanding of the state's culture, identity, and values. It acknowledges the contributions of African Americans to South Carolina's economic development and highlights the ongoing struggle for racial equality and social justice. By recognizing their legacy, we can celebrate their contributions to the state and country and honor their determination to fight for their rights and dignity. Having an African American museum built in what used to be one of the largest slave ports is much more than monumental, it is inspirational to all.*