

# ***When the Unthinkable Happens! Disaster Preparedness for Cultural Heritage Organizations***

**North Carolina Preservation Consortium Annual Conference  
McKimmon Conference and Training Center  
North Carolina State University  
November 15, 2019**

Recent weather events such as Hurricane Florence and Dorian have once again brought the topic of disaster preparedness to the minds of many who work cultural heritage institutions across North Carolina. Is your organization as prepared as it needs to be for a disaster, large or small? This conference will provide information about the fundamentals of disaster planning, provide ideas for training staff and how to practice your disaster plan, review lessons learned from past events, and examine local, state and national resources that can help you prepare and survive a disaster should the unthinkable happen.

## **Schedule**

- 8:00            Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00            Welcome
- 9:15            *Overcoming Inertia: Developing and Maintaining a Written Disaster Plan.*  
Martha Battle Jackson, Chief Curator North Carolina Historic Sites.
- 10:15          Morning Break
- 10:30          *Practice makes Perfect: Planning a Tabletop Exercise to Practice Your Disaster Plan.* Annie Peterson, Program Leader, LYRASIS.
- 11:00          *Navigating the FEMA Grant Process.* Dorothy Henderson Bell, Community Development Specialist at NC Division of Emergency Management – FEMA.
- 11:30          Robert James Award for Preservation Excellence and Scholarship Winners
- 12:00          Lunch
- 1:00            Lightning Sessions
- (1) *You Can Dance in a Hurricane Only if You're Standing in the Eye.*  
Craig Fansler, Preservation Librarian, Wake Forest University

(2) *Luck Was on Our Side: Disaster Perspectives from a Curation Facility.* Emily McDowell, Supervisor NC Office of State Archaeology. Courtney Page, Collections Manager, NC OSA. Sherry Boyette, Laboratory Technician, NC OSA.

(3) *Everyday Disaster: What Happened at the Duke University Medical Center Archives When the Toilet Overflowed.* Lucy Waldrop, Assistant Director and Technical Services Head, Duke University Medical Center Archives. Rebecca Williams, Research, Outreach and Education Librarian, Duke University Medical Center Archives.

2:00 *Hurricane Florence: Lessons Learned.* Travis Gilbert, Old Baldy Lighthouse & Smith Island Museum. Karen Willis Amspacher, Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center.

2:30 Break

2:45 *Lessons Learned: Integrating National and State Resources for Cultural Heritage Emergency Response.* Jessica Unger, Emergency Programs Coordinator, Foundation for Advancement in Conservation. David Goist, Conservator in Private Practice.

3:30 *Help at Hand: State and Regional Disaster Recovery Resources.* Jeff Futch, Regional Supervisor, Western Office NC Office of Archives and History. Heather South, Lead Archivist, Western Regional Archives.

4:00 Final Questions and Comments

4:30 Closing Remarks