



# The Landberry Foundation

## 2023 Annual Report

January 2024



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023	1
Activities	1
<b>Direct Grantmaking</b>	1
Programs	2
<b>Indigenous East</b>	2
<b>Gold Coast Commons</b>	3
Fiscally Sponsored Projects	3
<b>Great Dismal Swamp Stakeholder Collaborative (GDSSC)</b>	3
<b>Yesa:sahj Language Project</b>	4
Organizational Management	4
2023 FINANCIALS	4

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023

In 2023, Landberry Foundation grew stronger and crystallized a strategic direction. The Foundation continued to grow its portfolio of grants awarded, while expanding its activities and fiscal sponsorships.

To best meet our strategic goals and serve our target communities, we also undertook a cycle of creation, iteration, and reorganization.

Outcomes of this cycle included:

- We grew the Landberry team, bringing on Dominique Daye Hunter as Program Manager for the East Coast Indigenous Landscapes Partnership (ECLIP).
- We renamed the East Coast Indigenous Landscapes Partnership to Indigenous East, for clarity and ease.
- We reorganized and renamed our annual grantmaking categories; these now include:
  - Black Earth Grants - for African American Land Retention & Tenure
  - Land Rematriation Grants - for Indigenous Land Rematriation
  - Homesteading Grants - for Family Land & Homeownership Assistance
  - Startup Grants - for Land & Justice-Related Entrepreneurship
- We established a new program, focused specifically on increasing awareness and preserving the legacy of African-American history, culture, and wealth in the Tidewater region: the Gold Coast Commons.

## Activities

### Direct Grantmaking

2022: Goodwine Gullah/Geechee Legacy Trail Initiative

In 2022, the Foundation expanded its portfolio of funded initiatives. A \$5,000 award was made to the Goodwine Gullah/Geechee Legacy Trail Initiative in October 2022. This is the Foundation's inaugural project in South Carolina. The funds will be used to support the establishment of the Goodwine Gullah/Geechee Living Legacy Trail, including:

- Motorized stump grinder and additional tools for clearing
- Sand and shells to make the pathway safe and ADA compliant
- Tree survey and tree removal services
- Creation of Gullah/Geechee Living Legacy Kiosks
- Creation of Initial Art Benches• Obtaining Flora and Fauna Tags
- Cost of Permits for Creation of a Bathroom Area for Pathway Visitors

*Award Category: Family Land Preservation; African-American Land Tenure*

## 2023: Better Homes, Better Lives

This year, the Foundation awarded its first entrepreneurship grant, as a \$5,000 award was made to Better Homes Better Lives, LLC (BHBL), a real estate startup that specializes in developing solar energy efficient homes on vacant land for low-income individuals and families. This is the Foundation's first grant in its entrepreneurship category. The funds will be used to fund legal costs associated with securing land and establishing buildings for low-income individuals and families at BHBL's first site.

The progress of this award and a more precise application of the grant funds will be shared in the 2024 Annual Report.

*Award Category: Black Earth; Startup*

## **Programs**

### **Indigenous East**

Indigenous East (formerly called the East Coast Indigenous Landscapes Partnership) remains the flagship program of the Landberry Foundation. It aims to create a connected network of Indigenous -owned, -managed, and -stewarded protected lands east of the Mississippi River, and to establish a strong network of Indigenous land repatriation leaders in the East.

## **Grants Received**

In November 2022, Landberry was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation to continue this work.

In August 2023, Landberry Foundation was further awarded a \$66,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation's Monuments Across Appalachia grant program, administered by Virginia Tech. These funds were received through a partnership between Landberry, Eastern Woodlands Lacrosse/Saponi Stickball, and Virginia Tech.

In October 2023, Landberry received a commitment to fund at the level of at least \$30,000 from the J. M. Kaplan Foundation, through their discretionary grant funding and their Environment program.

## **Staff Changes**

Dominique Daye Hunter joined Indigenous East as Program Manager in March 2023. She has since applied her expertise in intertribal community organizing, digital media, and an undergraduate degree in Nonprofit Leadership Management with an emphasis in American Indian Studies to the program's outreach, needs assessment, rebranding, strategic input, and our

Indigenous East land rematriation map. The funding from Doris Duke pays for Dominique’s part time salary, benefits, and travel expenses.

## **Gold Coast Commons**

Gold Coast Commons is a cultural heritage preservation initiative intended to preserve and elevate the history of African American “Gold Coast” communities of the Tidewater region. The project is rooted in a generational love of land and place, a deep respect for the power of ancestral stories to inspire untold futures.

*Why call it Gold Coast Commons?*

Many of the wealthiest and most established African American communities of the Tidewater region carried the nickname of the “Gold Coast” – a term that called to mind the syncretism of African ancestry and American wealth held by these scions. Among the stories of struggle, discrimination, and oppression, Gold Coast histories also tell African American stories of perseverance, hard work, success, and the promise of tomorrow.

GCC’s inaugural project is called *16th Street Scions* – a combination documentary and historical exhibit that collects and highlights the unique stories of the African American residents of Washington, D.C.’s Gold Coast – the neighborhoods in and around Crestwood, 16th Street Heights, Brightwood, Shepard Park, Colonial Village and North Portal Estates. We want these stories to reflect the glorious past of these beautiful neighborhoods, but also give recognition to the importance of preserving their legacy and inspiring the future.

In 2024, we will aim to partner on this project with Dr. George Derek Musgrove, Associate Professor of History and Africana Studies in the Department of History at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, as well as with the historical exhibit team at the Howard County Museum of African American History.

## **Fiscally Sponsored Projects**

### **Great Dismal Swamp Stakeholder Collaborative (GDSSC)**

Launched in 2019. The [Great Dismal Swamp Stakeholder Collaborative](#) (GDSSC) is a multi-stakeholder initiative with the goal of increasing protections around the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (GDSNWR) and elevate the communities to which the Swamp is tied. The mission of the GDSSC, to strengthen the relationship between cultural, tribal, environmental, and governmental organizations to advance activities that are equitable, inclusive, and mutually beneficial for all stakeholders is directly in line with the Foundation’s goals.

In support of the Collaborative, Landberry Foundation will provide fiscal sponsorship for two grants received by the group in 2022: \$10,000 from the Association for the Study of African American Life & History (ASALH) in partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); and \$20,000 from The Wilderness Society.



Activities overseen under these grants include a website redesign for the GDSSC, including the integration of a storymap of cultural memory around the Great Dismal Swamp and a video series entitled *Narratives of the Swamp*.

## **Yesa:sahj Language Project**

The [Yesa:sahj Language Project](#) (YLP) is a non-profit organization owned and operated by the Monacan, Haliwa-Saponi, Sappony, Occaneechi, and Ohio Saponi communities. The YLP's mission is to preserve our ancestral language and catalyze a strong future for our culture and our communities by restoring Yesa:sahj to everyday use.

## **Organizational Management**

Founder and Board Member Dr. Alexandra Sutton Lawrence was appointed Executive Director in May 2022, with a compensation agreement not to exceed \$55,000 agreed upon by the board, depending upon receipt of the \$100,000 grant by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

In March 2023, those funds were redirected to bring on board Dominique Daye Hunter as the Program Manager for Indigenous East. Dominique's experience in building relationships within Indigenous communities, and her talent at storytelling and graphic production have made her an excellent leader for this body of work.

Contractor assistance was received from Jana Homes Lorde, who acted as temporary Business Manager and designed Landberry's stationery assets (i.e. letterhead, business cards); further contractor assistance was received from Arina Lekht to prepare this annual report.

## **2023 FINANCIALS**

2023 was a complex fiscal year for the Foundation, as we adjusted to new financial management demands due to payroll, reimbursements, travel, contractor assistance and technology support. The organization began the year with \$140,812.84.

Of these funds, \$13,000 were retained as fiscal sponsorship fees to the primary Landberry account; the total funds available for Landberry operations and annual grantmaking were \$5,000. Funds available for Indigenous East totaled \$90,000 at the start of the year. Funds held for the Great Dismal Swamp Stakeholder Collaborative totaled \$6,347.13 and funds held for the Yesa:sahj Language Project totaled \$0 at the beginning of the year.

Landberry ended the year in the expected financial position with an account balance of \$91,553.19 at the end of 2023. These funds enable the Foundation to continue operations and meet its programmatic and organizational goals in the coming year.

In 2024, we anticipate a renewal of the \$100,000 grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. These funds will enable us to maintain payroll and engage in greater grant-seeking and fundraising activities in the year to come. MAAV obligated \$66,000 for 2024 but has not yet made a disbursement. Additionally, we are anticipating an award of \$30,000 from JMK.

We look forward to sharing our growth with you.

**To make a tax-deductible donation to  
the Landberry Foundation,  
please email us at [grants@landberry.org](mailto:grants@landberry.org)  
or reach out to Esperance Sutton, Board Chair.**

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