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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**This Place Matters:  
Preserving Augusta's African American Communities  
October 19-20, 2012**

The public is invited to experience first-hand why Augusta's historic African American communities matter. On October 19 and 20, 2012, Historic Augusta, Inc. and the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History will lead an examination of historically and architecturally significant resources in the Sand Hills neighborhood and the local and national issues that affect their preservation. Current trends and strategies as well as recent preservation successes and challenges will be discussed.

The two-day event will begin on Friday, October 19 at 6:30 pm at the Sand Hills Community Center, 2540 Wheeler Road. Dr. Bobby Donaldson, Associate Professor of History and the Faculty Principal of Preston Residential College at the University of South Carolina-Columbia, will deliver the keynote lecture. A reception will follow.

On Saturday, October 20, the discussion will continue over coffee and refreshments at the Sand Hills Community Center at 9:30 am. Following coffee will be a ramble of Sand Hills neighborhood sites including Weed School, Rock of Ages CME Church, Fitten Street Cemetery, and Cumming Grove Baptist Church. At 11:30 participants will return to the Sand Hills Community Center to hear a panel of residents share stories and history of the neighborhood. The event will conclude with a luncheon.

The goal of "This Place Matters," now in its third year, is to protect Augusta's irreplaceable African American resources by increasing awareness of various preservation issues and considering solutions. This event is free and open to the public. The luncheon cost is \$10 per person. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Historic Augusta at 706-724-0436 or [www.historicaugusta.org](http://www.historicaugusta.org), or the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History at 706-724-3576 or [www.lucycraftlaneymuseum.com](http://www.lucycraftlaneymuseum.com).