

North Carolina
Preservation North Carolina

The Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc.

Saving historic places that matter to the diverse people of North Carolina.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Annie Jernigan, (919) 832-3652 ext. 227 or ajernigan@presnc.org

**The Marion Stedman Covington Foundation Board of Trustees Endows Preservation Award for
Grassroots Leadership**

GUILFORD COUNTY – The Marion Stedman Covington Foundation Board of Trustees will endow a new NC Preservation Award for grassroots leadership in preservation in honor of Alexa Aycock. For over thirty years, Alexa Aycock served as grants administrator and later executive director of the Marion Stedman Covington Foundation, playing a key role in the Foundation's growth and development. As executive director, she established a legacy of stewardship and grassroots advocacy across the state of North Carolina. The foundation funded more than \$4.7 million in grants to preservation projects under Alexa's leadership.

The Alexa Aycock Grassroots Leadership Award is the highest honor presented to an individual that has been a catalyst and leader in generating community engagement and support of historic preservation at the local level through advocacy and education. This award recognizes the importance of grassroots preservation campaigns to the success and continuation of the preservation movement across the state. Presented for the first time in 2024 by the Marion Stedman Covington Foundation of Greensboro, the award comes with a \$500 stipend and an additional \$500 award directed to a nonprofit organization that supports historic preservation in North Carolina of the recipient's choice.

In 1990, the Covington Foundation selected Ms. Aycock as grants coordinator based on her experience and passion for working with nonprofits and philanthropic organizations rooted in education and community development. For many years, the Foundation made gifts to organizations in not only historic preservation but also the arts and humanities, education, the environment, and social services. In 2006, Ms. Aycock navigated the Foundation's transition to supporting solely historic preservation projects, fostering lasting relationships with Preservation North Carolina and the State Historic Preservation Office, all while mentoring countless fledgling preservation groups through the grant-seeking process. In 2012 she was elevated to executive director, acknowledging her expanded role and leadership in the Foundation's work.

Outside of her role as Executive Director of the Foundation, Ms. Aycock has served on numerous boards and nonprofit organizations including but not limited to: Past President of the Greensboro Junior League, Greensboro Public Schools Fund, Greensboro Beautiful Board, Greensboro Area Chamber of Commerce Board, Wesley Long Community Hospital Board, Wesley Long-Moses Cone Community Health Foundation Board, United Way of Greater Greensboro Board, and the UNC General Alumni Association Board. As Co-Chairman, Ms. Aycock spearheaded the development of Center City Park in Greensboro, receiving a Citizens Award for her distinguished work in 2006.

Along with her advocacy work in education and community development, Ms. Aycock also holds a master's degree in landscape architecture from North Carolina State University. She owned and operated a residential landscaping service, The Garden Collection LLC for many years.

The Alexa Aycock Grassroots Leadership Award will be presented in 2024 for the first time and is made possible by The Marion Stedman Covington Foundation Board of Trustees. For more information about the award and how to submit a nomination, please visit [PreservationNC.org/awards](https://www.PreservationNC.org/awards). Submissions for the 2024 Awards opened on January 1, 2024 and close on March 31, 2024.

#####

Founded in 1939, Preservation North Carolina (PNC) is North Carolina's only private nonprofit statewide historic preservation organization. Its mission is to protect and promote buildings, landscapes and sites important to the diverse people of North Carolina. Through its award-winning Endangered Properties Program, Preservation North Carolina acquires endangered historic properties and then finds purchasers to rehabilitate them. PNC has protected nearly 900 historic properties statewide.

Headquarters

Mail: P.O. Box 27644, Raleigh NC 27611-7644

Street: 814 Oberlin Road, Raleigh NC 27605

919-832-3652 • fax: 919-832-1651 • e-mail: info@presnc.org • www.PreservationNC.org



Alexa Aycock

Headquarters

Mail: P.O. Box 27644, Raleigh NC 27611-7644
Street: 814 Oberlin Road, Raleigh NC 27605
919-832-3652 • fax: 919-832-1651 • e-mail: info@presnc.org • www.PreservationNC.org