



# OLD SALEM

MUSEUMS & GARDENS *presents*

FLORA ANN BYNUM KEYNOTE LECTURE & RECEPTION

## BLACK LANDSCAPES MATTER



**KOFI BOONE, ASLA**

Professor of Landscape Architecture,  
North Carolina State University College of Design

*September 26 · 6:30–8 p.m.*

James A. Gray Jr. Auditorium,  
Old Salem Visitor Center

### Welcome

Franklin Vagnone

*President and CEO, Old Salem Museums & Gardens*

### Introduction of Mr. Boone

Dreck Spurlock Wilson

*ASLA, NOMA, Associate Professor of Architectural History (former),  
Howard University, College of Architecture, Engineering and Computer Science*

### Flora Ann Bynum Keynote Lecture

#### “Black Landscapes Matter”

Kofi Boone

*ASLA, Professor of Landscape Architecture,  
North Carolina State University College of Design*



## Kofi Boone

Kofi Boone, ASLA, is Professor of Landscape Architecture at NC State University in the College of Design. A Detroit native and a graduate of the University of Michigan (BSNR 1992, MLA 1995), his work is in landscape architecture and environmental justice with a focus on democratic design and cultural landscapes. He is a University Faculty Scholar and a member of the Academy of Outstanding Teachers. His teaching and professional work has earned student and professional American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) awards.

Mr. Boone is Vice President of Education and a Board Director of The Landscape Architecture Foundation, a founding member of the ASLA Environmental Justice Professional Practice Network and serves on the Editorial Advisory Committee for Landscape Architecture Magazine. He is active in multidisciplinary activities ranging from the National Endowment for the Arts Designing Equity Forum to the AIA Design Justice Summit and other related efforts. His work is broadly disseminated, including in *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, *Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning*, *PUBLIC: A Journal of Imagining America*, and most recently in the award-winning book *Design as Democracy: Techniques for Collective Creativity*.

### “Black Landscapes Matter”

The rapid growth in interest in gardens, landscape architecture, and environmental history has the potential to capitalize on the diverse cultural currencies of the people and places contributing to our shared landscape. However, mainstream research, practice, scholarship, and messaging of landscape values is often exclusive and focused in the preferences and aesthetics of a narrow band of humanity. In particular, the context of the American South, the contributions of Black people are often relegated to other disciplines and not addressed as essential components of our landscape legacy.

The presentation “Black Landscapes Matter” borrows language from the Black Lives Matter movement to frame three challenges for the future of including Black landscapes into our broader narratives; these landscapes stand as examples of what it meant “*to be seen, to live with dignity, and to be connected.*” Research, case studies, and current work inform Kofi Boone’s exploration of these challenges and their implications for the future of landscape history.

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