

## Fleming Bruce to present at The Sustainers Conference

Written by Staff Writer

Tuesday, 08 October 2013 07:54 -

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The Sustainers: Builders and Preservers of Civil Rights Sites in the United States Conference will take place on October 23-24, 2013 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in Columbia, South Carolina.

This landmark event brings together builders and founders to tell the stories of how the nation's most famed civil rights site developed. The public is often focused on the events and people connected to the site, but the stories behind the transformation of historic sites into permanent places for interpreting and understanding Civil Rights often go untold. Be a part of this unprecedented storytelling in Columbia, South Carolina in 2013!

Join leaders from the educational and business communities; travel and tourism industries; historical, museum and preservationist communities, and other community actors for a major Southeastern event. Our special guests include Harriet Tubman descendants and nationally recognized historian Vernon Burton.

Serving as presenters are Gerard Eisterhold and Judge D'Army Bailey, National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee; Barbara Tagger, Selma to Montgomery Trail, Selma, Alabama; Ray Arsenault, Freedom Rider Bus Museum, Montgomery, Alabama; Minnie White Watson, Medgar Evers House Museum, Jackson, Mississippi; Vernon Burton, Scholar, 'Age of Lincoln'; and Columbia's Catherine Fleming Bruce, Visanska Starks House.

Fleming Bruce is Principal at TNOVSA, focused on media, preservation and global projects.

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She is restoring the Visanska Starks House, a site combining histories of Antebellum whites, immigrant Jews and African Americans. The Visanska Starks House story aired on HGTV's 'If Walls Could Talk'. She led restoration and preservation efforts of the Modjeska Simkins House, a National Register site and home of the "Matriarch of the South Carolina Civil Rights Movement". Her documentary "A Perfect Equality: Conflicts and Achievements of Historic Black Columbia", won state and national honors.

She is historian for Waverly District, an African American National Register of Historic Places District significant to Civil Rights history in South Carolina and the nation, recognized by Congress during its Centennial anniversary celebration in 2013. Bruce is pursuing her doctorate at the University of South Carolina, studying international communication systems and global governance. Her global work includes presentations for USC's Walker Institute; at Les Instituts d'Etudes Politiques (IEP) in France, and serving as UN World Summit for the Information Society observer. She held positions with several statewide organizations, including South Carolina ETV, Claflin University and the South Carolina Humanities Council.

For further information about this first ever gathering of builders of civil rights sites from across the nation, contact Tnovsa: [allsimkins@yahoo.com](mailto:allsimkins@yahoo.com) or 803-464-4149.