

June 2026

Vera Cecelski, Site Manager

Historic Stagville State Historic Site

Division of State Historic Sites and Properties

Commission for Forthcoming Historic Stagville Visitors Center Exhibit

Historic Stagville State Historic Site would like to commission a ceramic mount by North Carolina artist Dare Coulter, to be used in an artifact display in an interpretive history exhibit at the site.

The piece would be part of a permanent educational exhibit inside the new Historic Stagville visitors center, expected to open to the public in late 2027.

The full commission cost of \$4,300 will be covered by the Historic Stagville site revenue fund.

The piece will be a ceramic model of two life-sized cupped hands, cradling a string of reproduction beads. The hands would be modeled on the hands of a living descendant of those once enslaved at Stagville.

The mount will be displayed for the public with a museum label, in an artifact case alongside original artifact beads. The piece will not be used for commemoration or decoration, only for interpretation. The mount will be part of a short exhibit section interpreting cultural resistance during enslavement.

Please see the photograph (right) for an example of a similar piece by artist Dare Coulter.

