Telling the story of Southern life, community, culture, and the environment...

- Exhibits and Public Programs
- Fieldwork Documentation
- Material Culture & Folk Art Collections
- Audio, Video, and Image Archive
- Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Awards
- Digital Image, Audio, & Video Processing
- Internships & Student Opportunities
- Publications & Internet Initiatives
- Folklife Training & Workshops

Museum Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 to 5:00
Sat 11:00 - 3:00

For more information:

McKissick Museum
College of Arts & Sciences
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208
803.777.7251

www.cas.sc.edu/mcks
www.digitaltraditions.net
So...what is folklife?

Folklife is an important part of our daily lives. It’s about community life and our sense of identity. Expressed in a variety of ways, folklife is rooted in our music, the way we speak, and the food we eat. Enriching our region and our state, these enduring traditions are passed informally from generation to generation. From the Appalachians to the Sea Islands, South Carolina communities are unique - both culturally and geographically. Folklife is not simply a remnant of the past, but an inseparable part of everyday life. Folklife provides a connection to the past, identity in the present, and continuity for the future.

Well...who's doing it?

Folk traditions occur in many settings - at home, at work, or within social or religious gatherings. Take a close look at your life - on any given day you might head to work after enjoying a biscuit made from a family recipe. On the way to the football game, you stop to pick up some local BBQ or drop the kids off for practice with a church gospel choir. The traditional aspects of our culture are everywhere and they adapt as our lives change. In short, everyone experiences folklife and shares it with others!

And...McKissick's role?

Collecting and presenting folklife is a vital part of the mission of USC’s McKissick Museum. For over 30 years, McKissick has been a learning laboratory for students and is the region’s most comprehensive, publically-supported museum of material culture and folklife. A leader in collecting and interpreting key Southern traditional art forms, McKissick has showcased alkaline-glazed and Catawba Indian pottery, African-American sweetgrass basketry, multi-cultural music traditions, and communal foodways.

The Folklife Resource Center is the only archive in the region dedicated to documenting, studying, and celebrating folklife and traditional culture. Containing recordings, images, and film, the Center is a resource for training University students, developing exhibitions and other public programs, and providing information to a variety of researchers. McKissick Museum offers an unparalleled resource for exploring the history and contemporary traditions of South Carolina and the South. Delve into the rich world of southern life through its communities, its culture and its environment. You can visit us on the USC’s historic horseshoe or on the web at www.cas.sc.edu/mcks or www.digitaltraditions.net.