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Progression! Advances in African-American Archaeology

Carol McDavid, Column Editor

During the 1999 Society for American Archaeology meetings in Chicago last Spring, I participated in a panel entitled "Communication and Consultation: Working toward an Informed Archaeology." Panel members included a number of archaeologists who work with indigenous people, as well as several who work with African-American and other descendant communities. As I had hoped, our discussions that day started a process of bridge building based on shared interests (collaboration, consultation, power and politics, etc.), bridges that have only recently begun to be explored, due to entrenched boundaries that separate prehistoric archaeologies and archaeologies of the historic period. I asked Anna Agbe-Davies, co-chair of the workshop, to discuss the development of this panel and to critique it for the 'Progression' column.