

CAROLINA OCEAN ALLIANCE
PRESENTS

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS



CONFERENCE

OCT 1-2

FILM FESTIVAL &
COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

OCT 3

EXPERIENCES

OCT 4

THE HOPE SUMMIT

"CREATING VIBRANT COMMUNITIES"

cultivate ideas - accelerate solutions - inspire hope

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SUMMIT DATES:
1-4 October 2026

EMAIL:
thehopsummit@carolinaoceanalliance.org

EVENT WEBSITE:
www.thehopsummit.org



INTRODUCTION

HOPE IS A REGENERATIVE ACT, INSPIRED THROUGH ACCESSIBLE, TANGIBLE, AND CREATIVE ACTION.

WHAT IS THE HOPE SUMMIT?

The Hope Summit is an annual conference and festival organized by the Carolina Ocean Alliance in Charleston to highlight multidisciplinary and intersectional challenges facing our world and celebrate community-driven solutions that create agency and hope for communities worldwide to adapt for a bright, regenerative, equitable future.

To heal our planet and ourselves, we must act as part of this world, not apart from it, experiencing community as the vast ecological web of life that supports and sustains us.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY “HOPE”?

Hope is a regenerative act that we inspire through accessible, tangible, and creative action.

At The Hope Summit, we aspire to inspire three kinds of hope. The first kind comes from agency, the feeling that you have the knowledge, tools, or solutions to be the change you seek. The second comes from finding a welcoming community that reconnects us with why we work to protect what we love. The third is the experience of being part of something bigger than ourselves and realizing that what we do to serve our community is enough.

The Hope Summit 2026

Summit Overview and Summary

In 2026, The Hope Summit will explore how, to create vibrant communities, we must redefine our understanding of who and what is part of a community.

The need for community has never been stronger. Communities around the world are rebuilding networks of care and resilience, reconnecting people with themselves, their neighbors, the institutions that seek to serve them, and the ecosystems that support and sustain them.

We invite leaders and solutions practitioners from all walks of life, disciplines, and stages of their professional journey to join us in Charleston from October 1st to 4th to cultivate ideas, accelerate solutions, and inspire hope through the multi-faceted and intersectional ways in which creating vibrant communities can shape the future of our communities and of our planet.



EVENT DATES:	CONFERENCE	FILM FESTIVAL & COMMUNITY FESTIVAL	EXPERIENCES
	OCT 1-2	OCT 3	OCT 4

EVENT LOCATION:

 **THE CHARLESTON MUSEUM**

Sponsors and Partnerships

Austen & Gowder

Joanna Foundation

Enduring Curiosity

Wake Refill

Francis Marion Hotel

Charleston Museum

AV Connections

Benefits of Your Support

Thanks to our sponsors and partners, The Hope Summit can offer high-quality, accessible experiences for participants and elevate speakers who share their experiences, knowledge, time, and ideas with our community.

With its low-cost, hybrid experience, The Hope Summit is accessible to hundreds of first-time and returning participants in Charleston and thousands virtually from around the world. In return for your generous support, the Carolina Ocean Alliance has a range of sponsorship options and benefits that meet your organization's needs.

COA looks forward to working with your organization to explore additional in-kind or targeted partnership opportunities.

All **\$500+** sponsors receive the following benefits:

- Logo inclusion on digital outreach, Summit website, and Summit hybrid portal
- Recognition onsite at The Hope Summit
- One (1) 'Sponsor Thank You' social media post
- Invitation to contribute a promotional piece to the Virtual Swag Bag for all in-person and virtual participants
- Exhibition space at The Hope Summit Community Festival
- Two tickets to The Hope Summit Conference & Film Festival

SPONSORSHIPS SUMMARY

Sponsors receive VIP access to The Hope Summit 2026, branding association corresponding to their sponsorship, the opportunity to welcome guests to the corresponding program, exclusive access to receptions and by-invitation spaces, and visibility across physical signage, our website, The Hope Summit app on Swapcard, and the virtual Swag Bag.

Conference and Community Festival exhibition space may be available upon request.

THE HOPE SUMMIT 2026 SUMMIT TITLE SPONSOR	\$20,000	1 Available
CONFERENCE TITLE SPONSOR	\$15,000	1 Available
FILM FEST TITLE SPONSOR	\$7,500	1 Available
COMMUNITY FEST TITLE SPONSOR	\$5,000	1 Available
VIRTUAL SUMMIT SPONSOR	\$5,000	1 Available
VENUE HOST SPONSOR	\$5,000	1 Available
RECEPTION TITLE SPONSOR	\$2,500	1 Available

All sponsors in this category receive access to the conference and tiered recognition through physical signage, our website, The Hope Summit app on Swapcard, and the virtual Swag Bag. Community Festival exhibition space may be available upon request.

WATERSHED TIER SPONSOR	\$1,500	Unlimited
CREEK TIER SPONSOR	\$1,000	Unlimited
REEF TIER SPONSOR	\$500	Unlimited

Venue and Accessibility

The Charleston Museum



VENUE SPONSORSHIP \$5,000

Swapcard



VIRTUAL SUMMIT SPONSORSHIP \$5,000

AUDITORIUM CAPACITY 250 OUTDOOR FESTIVAL CAPACITY 1,000

The Hope Summit returns to the Charleston Museum for the third year. This year, we will activate even more of its special places to create memorable experiences for attendees and speakers.

The Museum's main auditorium will be our hub, with the main conference and film festival programs happening there. Lunch will return to the central courtyard, and the community festival will fill the grounds around the perimeter. Conference workshops and working groups will activate the natural history classroom and board room, and (for the first time), The Hope Summit will feature a media room for short interviews, testimonials, and podcasts.

CAPACITY 500+

The Hope Summit is expanding its accessibility as a hybrid conference with virtual attendance options for participants from around the world. Swapcard expands community building before, during, and after the conference for in-person and virtual participants, while preserving live streamed programming from the main auditorium as evergreen educational material.

Swapcard also expands sponsor visibility opportunities through virtual exhibitor booths, interactive maps of the Community Festival, and interactive graphics throughout The Hope Summit 2026 app.

THE HOPE SUMMIT 2026

The Hope Summit 2026 Conference

CREATING VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

Tickets & Registration

GENERAL ADMISSION	\$150	185 Available
NEXT GENERATION SPONSORED PASSES	\$100	75 Sponsored by Joanna Foundation & Austen & Gowder (Free for selected applicants)
VIRTUAL ADMISSION (DAY PASSES)	\$50	500+ Available
NEXT GENERATION VIRTUAL PASSES	\$100	25 Sponsored by Austen & Gowder (Free for selected applicants, includes both days of the conference)

Sponsorships are available for blocks of tickets or other ways to support (travel and housing) the participation of students, early career professionals, and other individuals who would benefit from attending the summit.

Please contact Grey Gowder (grey@carolinaonceanalliance.org) to inquire about opportunities to make The Hope Summit even more accessible.

THS 2026 Conference

At the Conference, community-driven solution creators, practitioners, and accelerators exchange knowledge, experience, and best practices to create vibrant communities.

To create vibrant communities, we need a vibrant hybrid conference with virtual access, a new user experience portal for networking and visit planning, and an interactive conference program featuring speakers, panels, workshops, working groups, impact screenings, morning coffee socials, and evening receptions. Join in person or virtually from anywhere in the world.

Over 100 young leaders and early-career professionals will attend through The Hope Summit Next Generation Scholarships (at least 75 in person and 25 virtually). Enjoy lunch in the museum's courtyard as you network, build community, and participate in mentorship opportunities with young attendees.

Event Date:

October 1 & 2

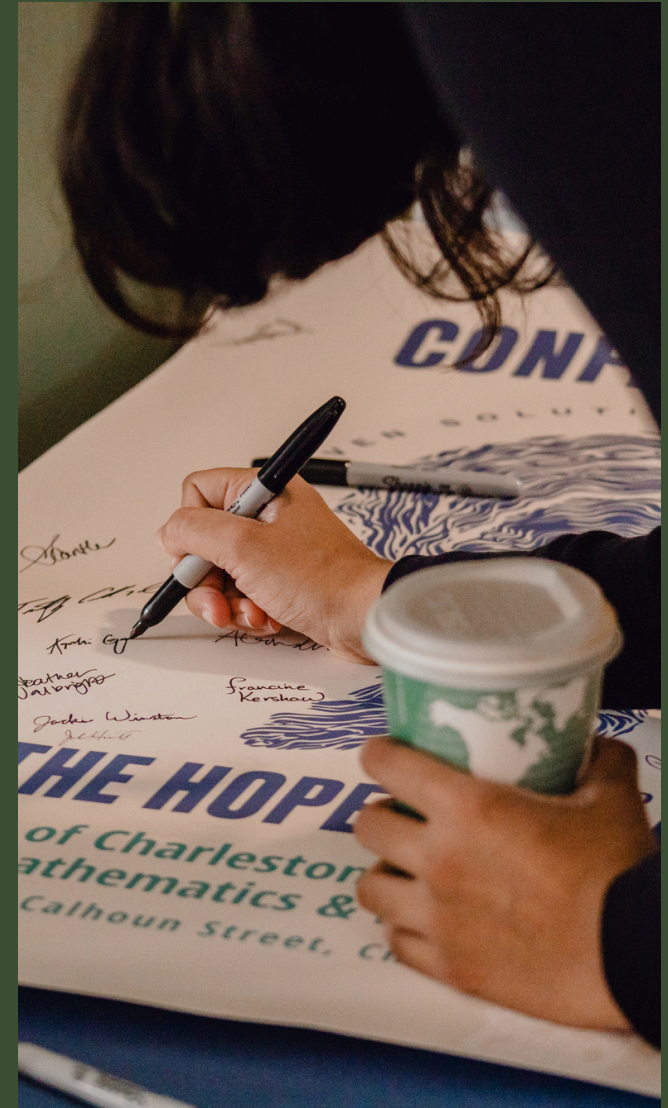
Event Time:

08:30AM - 4:30PM

Event Location:

THE CHARLESTON MUSEUM

THS Conference Title Sponsorship Available **\$15,000**



Speakers & Programs

October 1st

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR INDIVIDUAL PANELS AND WORKSHOPS

“CREATING THE SOIL IN WHICH SEEDS OF CHANGE CAN THRIVE”

“HOW DO YOU DEFINE HOME?”

Exploring the cultural, historical, and ecological ways of understanding our relationship with places, memory, and each other

CREATING COMMUNITIES OF CARE

GARDENS GROWING COMMUNITIES

SPEED TALKS

“YOUR STORY, YOUR ASK”

“DESIGNING A CIVIC ECOLOGY AND TACTICAL URBANISM TOOLKIT FOR VIBRANT COMMUNITIES”

“GRASPING AT THE ROOTS” & “IN OUR NATURE” (films pending final confirmation)

Dr. Simona Perry, author of “Good Works, Love Rules: Facing Change, Resurrecting Community, Transforming Our Fractured World Together” and Co-Founder of Oceans Connect

Joshua Jenkins, National Parks Conservation Association

A panel on how spaces can create agency, empower creativity, and create pathways to justice and equity.

A panel on community spaces that create connection, networks of care and reciprocity, restore biodiversity, and expand environmental education.

A series 6 speakers in 90 minutes explore solutions in housing, energy, mobility, infrastructure, education, and more.

A workshop on developing your civic voice By The National Parks Conservation Association.

A by-invitation intersectional working group by The Creek Collective.

Impact film screening and discussion on the importance of environmental educators and immersive natural spaces for addressing environmental justice and promoting vibrant communities.

Speakers & Programs

October 2nd

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR INDIVIDUAL PANELS AND WORKSHOPS

“REWILDING LANDSCAPES AND SEASCAPES”

A panel on community-led ecosystem restoration on the land and in coastal waters.

“BRINGING NATURE BACK TO THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT”

A panel on restoring biodiversity to the built environment through civic ecology, nature-based resilience solutions, and a new form of neighborliness.

“THE LEGAL LANDSCAPE OF RIGHTS OF NATURE”

A panel moderated by Andy Gowder featuring special guests from the Earth Law Center, Coalition of Law Students Against Deep-Sea Mining, and the South Carolina Environmental Law Project.

SPEED TALKS

A series 6 speakers in 90 minutes explore solutions in housing, energy, mobility, infrastructure, education, and more.

“CRAFTING RIGHTS OF NATURE POLICY FOR THE SOUTHEAST AT THE MUNICIPAL AND STATE LEVELS”

A by-invitation intersectional working group organized by the Carolina Ocean Alliance.

“RADICAL HOSPITALITY: RETHINKING COMMUNITIES AS SANCTUARIES OF LIFE”

An intersectional workshop focused on community spaces, tactical urbanism, and ecocentric futurism.

“GHOST LAND” (SHORT), “MYSTICAL ORNITHOLOGY” (SHORT) & “LOST FOR WORDS” (FEATURE PRESENTATION) (films pending final confirmation)

Impact film screening on restoring our connection with the natural world and building a culture of caring. Followed by a discussion with filmmakers and special guests.

THE HOPE SUMMIT 2026

CREATING VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

THS 2026 Community Fest

The Hope Summit Community Festival returns for its fifth year.

Meet dozens of local nonprofits and community organizations, browse the sustainable ecopreneurs market, explore breathtaking discoveries from the Blake Plateau and Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, find your Fall reading list at The Hope Summit Book Club, and discover the many ways you can be part of the future you want to see in our community.

This family-friendly event is free and open to the public.

Event Date:

October 3

Event Time:

01:00PM - 3:00PM

Event Location:

 **THE CHARLESTON MUSEUM**

THS Community Festival Title Sponsorship Available **\$5,000**



THS 2026 Film Festival

Sponsored by Austin & Gowder and Enduring Curiosity

The Hope Summit Film Festival returns for its third year with an expanded program. Conference attendees will end each day with a curated selection of films followed by a conversation with the filmmakers and local experts.

On Saturday, the Film Festival will feature two blocks of films, including at least one short film, a full-length documentary, and a Q&A discussion with the filmmakers and special guests.

Block 1 | “Surf Trash” (short), “Color the Water” (short), “The Hidden Gulf” (27 minutes) & “How Deep Is Your Love” (100 minutes)

Block 2 | “Last Stand of the Elwah River” & “The Right Whale: Tales of Resilience & Hope”

Event Date:

October 3

Event Time:

01:30 - 4:00PM & 5:30 - 8:00 PM

Event Location:

📍 THE CHARLESTON MUSEUM

~~THS Film Festival Title Sponsorship Available~~

~~\$7,500~~



(films pending final confirmation)



Receptions & Experiences

SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR RECEPTIONS & EXPERIENCES

Local Food Showcase

OCT 1ST

The MARSH Project

OCT 2ND

Deep-Sea Dance Party

OCT 3RD

Eat Local, Eat Sustainable Showcase Dinner at Park & Grove
Sponsored by National Parks Conservation Association

OCT 1ST

The MARSH Project presents a Friday Night Marsh Social

OCT 2ND

Saturday Morning Volunteer Field Day: Newmarket Creek Living Shoreline Build

OCT 3RD

Carolina Ocean Alliance presents a Deep-Sea Dance Party

OCT 3RD



Proceeds from your sponsorship benefit the Carolina Ocean Alliance, a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. Your contribution may be tax-deductible. For more information, please consult a tax professional.

As the host of The Hope Summit, the Carolina Ocean Alliance is committed to the safety and well-being of all participants. We follow the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control concerning pandemic controls and adhere to mandates put in place by the City of Charleston and our venue partner, The Charleston Museum. Thank you for your cooperation.

All sales are final, and contributions, purchases, tickets, and sponsorships are non-refundable. In the event of extreme weather or other factors that prevent a safe in-person gathering of The Hope Summit 2026, all conference and film festival programming will shift to a virtual format.

CREATED BY:

Grey Gowder

EVENT LOCATION:

The Charleston Museum

EVENT ORGANIZER:

Carolina Ocean Alliance

SOCIAL MEDIA

@thehopesummit_charleston

EVENT EMAIL:

thehopesummit@carolinaoceanalliance.org

EVENT WEBSITE:

www.thehopesummit.org
