

NARA BLACK HISTORY BASIC TRAINING

Feb 22 – Soul City

Soul City, NC is a town that was planned to be a utopian community, proposed by civil rights activist Floyd McKissick in 1969. He dreamed of a city that would support racial harmony, provide quality employment opportunities, good schools and affordable housing. In 1972, the Department of Housing and Urban Development's model city program granted \$14 million to McKissick for development. Soul City was originally planned to be 5,000 acres of land containing schools, a shopping center, homes, a daycare, and Soul Tech (an industrial park). Due to inexperience, negligence, and a loss of funding, Soul City never reached its full potential. Although only a tennis court, a health clinic, a few shops, and a few homes were built, there are still a few hundred people who currently live and work in the community.

“We need not justify any Black demands for ‘separatism’ to anybody white. The real separatists moved to the suburbs long ago.” – Floyd McKissick

Records:

- ✓ [Program Records relating to Soul City](#), NAID 12584354
- ✓ [Maps and Plans for New Communities](#), NAID 657696

Viewing:

- ✓ [Soul City, NC](#), SouthernWayTV
- ✓ [Original Advertisement for Soul City](#)

Reading:

- ✓ [Soul City, North Carolina!](#), Rediscovering Black History
- ✓ [Soul City: Race, Equality, and the Lost Dream of an American Utopia](#) (Metropolitan Books), 2021

Inspired by [GirlTrek](#)

