

## News Release

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### **DR. TOM HANCHETT JOINS CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG LIBRARY AS ITS FIRST HISTORIAN-IN-RESIDENCE**

A Historic Appointment to Support the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room

**Charlotte, NC – July 1, 2019** – Charlotte Mecklenburg Library welcomes its first-ever Historian-in-Residence, Dr. Tom Hanchett, who on July 1, 2019 begins a 12-month residence. In this new role Hanchett, who is a community historian in Charlotte, will serve as a community connector to enhance the visibility, contributions and reputation of the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room through programs, events, vlogs and other information detailing the history of Charlotte. Hanchett's first presentation, "*Food From Home*" will take place at Mint Hill Library on July 11, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. and is open to the public. His second event, "*Sorting Out Charlotte*" will be at Myers Park Library on July 23, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. where he'll trace the surprising history of how Charlotte became a city of distinct neighborhoods, based on his award-winning book *Sorting Out the New South City*.

"We're pleased to announce Tom in this new role. He not only has great knowledge and understanding of the area, its people and history, but is also recognized and respected by the community," says Jenni Gaisbauer, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library chief community officer. "We envision that through his writing, teaching and story-telling, he'll help many Charlotte residents discover and enjoy the historical and genealogical gems the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room has to offer."

"The Carolina Room is one of the best local history resource centers in the United States, and I am deeply honored to serve as Historian-in-Residence," says Dr. Tom Hanchett. "From its impressive archives to its on-line digital treasure trove, it has been invaluable to me in my work for more than thirty years and I'm thrilled to share this on a public level across the community."

More information can be found through [cmilibrary.org/historian-in-residence](http://cmilibrary.org/historian-in-residence) or [cmstory.org](http://cmstory.org) where vlogs, photos, blogs and articles of interest will be shared. The Historian-in-Residence is the first for Charlotte Mecklenburg Library and is supported through the Library's Humanities Endowment Fund, with support from the National Endowment for Humanities.

Dr. Tom Hanchett ([www.historysouth.org](http://www.historysouth.org)) is a community historian and best known for his 16 years as Staff Historian at Levine Museum of the New South where he curated the permanent exhibition *Cotton Fields to Skyscrapers*, and a string of national-award-winning temporary exhibitions including *COURAGE* about the Carolina roots of the Brown v. Board Civil Rights case. Hanchett's writings range widely on urban history and Southern culture, including a book about Charlotte's neighborhoods, essays, and a monthly newspaper column *Food From Home*. Hanchett was educated at Cornell University, University of Chicago and UNC Chapel Hill.

**Photo caption:** Dr. Tom Hanchett, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Historian-in-Residence

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