

Indigenous Fort Caroline: The Mocama Side of the Story

Date/Time: Saturday, March 9, 2024 @ 10:00 am

Place: Anderson-Price Building, 42 North Beach Street, Ormond Beach, FL 32174

Presented By: Denise I. Bossy, Ph.D.

Event Type: In-Person

Free Admission: (Open to the Public)



On May 1, 1562, the French began to explore present-day Jacksonville to identify a suitable location for a potential colony. They returned in 1564 to establish Fort Caroline and in September 1565 lost a legendary battle to the Spanish for control over *La Florida*—a battle that occurred over and in the homelands of the Timucua-speaking Mocamas. For too long, this story has only been told from French and Spanish points-of-view. This program restores the Mocama side of the story more than 460 years after they initially encountered the French. It reveals why the Mocamas permitted the French to establish La Caroline in the middle of their territory and how they shaped the course of early Florida history.

Denise I. Bossy, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of History at the University of North Florida. She received her Ph.D., M.Phil., and M.A. from Yale University. She specializes in local and public Indigenous history. She is the prize-winning author of many articles and book chapters, the

editor of *The Yamasee Indians: From Florida to South Carolina* (published in 2018 by the University of Nebraska Press) and the co-editor of “Indigenous Florida” a special issue of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* (summer 2021). Her current book projects include *Yamasee: Indigenous Mobility and Power in the Early South* (forthcoming with the Omohundro Institute, UNC Chapel Hill) and *Heca Utimile/Our Land: The Indigenous History of Northeast Florida*, which she is co-authoring with Dr. Keith Ashley. She has also recently been appointed North American editor of the journal *Ethnohistory*, the flagship journal in her field.

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