

Mayor Neisler, could you please expand on the full history of the City of Kings Mountain's relationship with the Catawba Tribe? Does it pre-date this project?

From a historic perspective, scholars have conducted detailed research on this question. All things document the consistent use and occupancy of the lands near to the proposed development site in Kings Mountain, North Carolina by the Tribe's ancestors. Such documentation goes back at least 500 years, and obviously includes the historic contribution the Catawba made in furtherance of our Nation's independence during the October 7, 1780 Battle of King's Mountain. The history with the City since it was established in 1874 has been ongoing.

The modern connection between the Tribe and Kings Mountain is well documented and the Nation maintains a strong cultural presence throughout the area. For example, in 2010, the Kings Mountain Historical Museum held two events highlighting the Catawba people and their culture, including storytelling, early poetry, basketry, weapons and pictures of early pioneers. In 2017, the Museum presented a five-week exhibit featuring the Catawba Nation. While 8 miles away from Kings Mountain, for many years the Schiele Museum of Natural History in Gastonia, North Carolina, has a permanent exhibit on the Catawba and hosts an annual celebration of Catawba culture with drummers and dancers from the Nation.

Representatives of the Nation are also regularly invited to speak at local academic and community events, such as Belmont Abbey College and Warren Wilson College, and Catawba College in Salisbury, North Carolina, which is the home of the "Catawba Indians" and which provides an annual scholarship for a Tribal Member to attend the school. Additionally, the Nation is working with North Carolina chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution on a monument to Catawba warriors who fought in the Battle of King's Mountain. The City of Kings Mountain itself has hosted events commemorating Catawba contributions during the Revolutionary War, with full participation by the Nation.

If you need further information, I would be happy to submit.