Uzi Baram
Scholar

Uzi Baram is Professor of Anthropology and Director of the New College Public Archaeology Lab at New College of Florida. Professor Baram's academic efforts focus on the politics of the past in the Eastern Mediterranean and public archaeology in Sarasota/Manatee. He has published and contributed to four edited volumes, dozens of scholarly articles and book chapters and delivered many conference papers and on topics ranging from the archaeology of the Ottoman Empire to marketing heritage and given public lectures based on archaeological insights into heritage. Since 2004, he has been involved with recovering and disseminating the history and heritage of Angola on the Manatee River, an early 19th-century maroon community; the focus on the courage of the freedom-seeking people who found refuge on Gulf Coast Florida and liberty in the Bahamas animate his presentations.

Programs Available

Archaeology of Freedom: The Heritage Found at Angola on the Manatee River

What is the meaning of freedom? The Underground Railroad is famous for the routes facilitating freedom from enslavement in the United States to freedom in Canada. But the quest for freedom did not only go north; many self-emancipated and headed south, to Spanish La Florida. Previously known havens of freedom in Florida include Fort Mose by St. Augustine and Prospect Bluff on the Apalachicola River; another haven is found under today's Bradenton. Excavations are revealing everyday life for the freedom-seeking people at Angola on the Manatee River. The slide-illustrated presentation lays out the history and heritage for Angola and its implications for our understanding of what it means to be free.