

**CELEBRATE CHARLOTTE'S AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE AND HISTORY  
AT FREE MUSEUM FESTIVAL**

***See new photography exhibit about schools for Black children in the segregated South***

**CHARLOTTE, N.C., Feb. 9, 2022** – Get free admission to The Charlotte Museum of History and celebrate Charlotte's Black history and culture on Saturday, Feb. 26, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the annual African American Heritage Festival, hosted by the history museum.

The festival this year includes live music and dance performances, author talks, activities for kids and free admission to the museum's latest exhibit, "A Better Life for Their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools that Changed America," an exhibit of photographs and stories by Andrew Feiler.

The fifth annual African American Heritage Festival is sponsored by the Arts & Science Council. The "A Better Life for Their Children" photography exhibit is supported by grants from AT&T Foundation, PRIDE Magazine and North Carolina Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The festival schedule includes:

**11:30 a.m. – Dance performances** honoring the African American experience by UNC Charlotte Department of Dance students, under the direction of Assistant Professor Tamara Williams.

**1 p.m. – Ron Hankins History Talks Lecture, sponsored by Wells Fargo** – Dr. Warren Eugene Milteer Jr. will discuss his research on the dynamics of race in the South and sign copies of his book *Beyond Slavery's Shadow: Free People of Color in the South*. Milteer is assistant professor of history at UNC Greensboro.

**2 p.m. – Family Book Talk** – "Ezra Wants to Know: the True Story of the Rosenwald Schools." Co-authors Frye Gaillard and Marti Rosner will read from their children's book about Rosenwald schools and talk about their mission to share civil rights history with young audiences.

**3 p.m. – Musical performance by A Sign of the Times**, a non-profit dedicated to preserving the legacy of the African Diaspora through music, dance and the spoken word. The group will perform jazz and R&B classics, salsa and original compositions highlighting the contributions of the African diaspora to music and culture.

For those looking to dig deeper into African American history, representatives from the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, the Association for the Study of African American Life & History and Special Collections at UNCC Atkins Library will be on hand to talk about their missions and to share resources available to research your own genealogy. The Levine Museum of the New South also will be at the festival to demonstrate their app KnowCLT, which uses augmented reality that allows users to view one of Charlotte's most storied Black neighborhoods, Brooklyn.

#### **HOW TO GO:**

All events are free and take place at The Charlotte Museum of History's eight-acre campus at 3500 Shamrock Dr. More information at [charlottemuseum.org/events](https://charlottemuseum.org/events).

The Museum will continue to implement safety precautions, including requiring masks for all visitors ages 5 and up and spacing activities across the museum's campus.

#### **About The Charlotte Museum of History**

The Charlotte Museum of History exists to save and share the Charlotte region's history, helping create a better understanding of the past and inspiring dialogue about the future. The museum is the steward of the 1774 Hezekiah Alexander Rock House and homesite, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the oldest home in Mecklenburg County. Visit [charlottemuseum.org](https://charlottemuseum.org) and follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). The museum is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.