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Contact:

Mary Beth Navarro, 704-576-1858

**PROJECT TO SAVE HISTORIC BLACK SCHOOL GETS BOOST
WITH \$100,000 GIFT FROM LOWE'S FOUNDATION**

Latest gift brings campaign closer to restoring and moving the school

Museum also announces next step in project – selecting an architect

CHARLOTTE, N.C., Oct. 13, 2020 – Today The Charlotte Museum of History announced that the Save Siloam School Project is another step closer to reality, hitting a major fundraising milestone with a \$100,000 gift from the Lowe's Foundation. The foundation will contribute a \$50,000 grant to the museum in support of educational programming at the renovated Siloam School, together with \$50,000 in renovation materials.

The Save Siloam School Project aims to restore and preserve the historic Siloam School, a Jim Crow-era schoolhouse for African American children in northeast Charlotte. When restored, the Siloam School will be the only preserved Rosenwald school in Mecklenburg County devoted to K-12 history education and history programming.

The contribution from the Lowe's Foundation, together with recent gifts from Walmart and individual donors, brings the total raised for the Save Siloam School Project to \$355,000, well over a quarter of the way to the project's \$1 million goal. The City of Charlotte gave the project \$50,000 in early 2019 and Mecklenburg County provided \$125,000 later that year.

"Lowe's is committed to making homes better for all, and that definition of home extends into our neighborhoods and communities, particularly here in our hometown of Charlotte," said Janice Dupré Little, executive vice president of Lowe's human resources and chair of the Lowe's Foundation. "Preserving the



historic Siloam School means saving and restoring a critical piece of Charlotte history that will educate generations to come, and Lowe's is proud to be a part of this powerful work."

"The \$1 million fundraising goal for the project includes restoring, relocating and preserving the school, as well as developing a history exhibit about the Siloam School and Rosenwald schools generally," said Adria Focht, president and CEO of The Charlotte Museum of History. "This will provide our community with a tangible experience of this history. It's a story that we need to understand so that together we can build a more just and equitable community."

The museum also announced today the next step in the project – the launch of a formal Request for Qualification (RFQ) process. Led by experts in preservation and architecture, the RFQ process will select an architect to lead the restoration and relocation of the historic school.

About the Save Siloam School Project

The Save Siloam School Project includes moving the building, preparing the new site, restoring the structure and upfitting the school with electricity, HVAC and modern safety systems. The museum also plans to give tours of the building and to make the space available as a community resource. A historical marker will be placed at the school's original location.

The effort to save the Siloam School is a partnership of The Charlotte Museum of History, the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, Tribute Companies, the Historic Landmarks Commission, Aldersgate Retirement Community, Charlotte Rotary, Lowe's, Walmart and Silver Star Community Inc. Silver Star has been working to save Rosenwald Schools in Mecklenburg County for years and was the earliest champion for preserving the Siloam School.

About Rosenwald Schools and the Siloam School

The Siloam School was one of thousands of Rosenwald schools built throughout the segregated South in the early 1900s to educate African American children. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places and is endangered due to disrepair.

The school building currently sits on its original site, near an apartment complex close to the UNC-Charlotte campus. The apartments, as well as the old school, are owned by Tribute Companies.

In the early 20th century, educator Dr. Booker T. Washington conceived of a program to build high quality, free schools for African American children throughout the segregated rural South. He enlisted the aid of Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Co., to finance the effort, and on Oct. 30, 1917, they created the Julius Rosenwald Fund.

The program offered matching funds and architectural plans to communities that wanted to build schools for Black students. The partnership produced more than 5,000 schools in the South in the early 1900s – 813 of them in North Carolina. By 1928, one-third of the South's rural African American school children and teachers were served by Rosenwald Schools.

It does not appear that the Rosenwald Fund paid for the construction of the Siloam School. It is likely that the local community absorbed the costs to build the school in the Rosenwald tradition, and it used a Rosenwald School floor plan. During the Jim Crow era, Mecklenburg County had 26 Rosenwald schools for African American children, more than any other county in America.



How to Support the Save Siloam School Effort

People can support the Save Siloam School project by making a tax-deductible donation to the project at charlottemuseum.org/siloam or by sending a check to The Charlotte Museum of History at 3500 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC, 28215. Write "Save Siloam School" in the memo line. Call [704-568-1774](tel:704-568-1774) or email info@charlottemuseum.org for more information.

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 and follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). The museum is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

About Lowe's in the Community

As a FORTUNE® 50 home improvement company, Lowe's is committed to creating safe, affordable housing and helping to develop the next generation of skilled trade experts through nonprofit partnerships. Across every community we serve, Lowe's associates donate their time and expertise through the Lowe's Heroes volunteer program. For the latest news, visit Newsroom.Lowes.com or follow [@LoweMedia](#) on Twitter.

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