



Eureka School Groundbreaking

Hattiesburg took a step forward to look back on the history of the historic Eureka School at the restoration groundbreaking held on February 13th.

"There are few places if any that form memories like our schools," said Dr. Aubrey Lucas of the Hattiesburg Convention Commission. "Our schools were and are places of growth in all areas of our life."

The historic Eureka School is one of 19 projects throughout the state to receive a share of \$1.5 million from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. This \$160,000 grant is being used for one of the early construction phases on Eureka, restoring the school's front portico and replacing stucco around the windows. In addition, the Convention Commission has also allocated \$500,000 to begin renovations on the historic school.

"Eureka means so much to those who taught at and attended the school" said Convention Commissioner and Euro Alumni Member Lola Williams. "Restoring it to its old glory means the beginning of a new part of a dream."

The Eureka School was built in 1921 and became the second modern brick school for African Americans in Mississippi. Eureka continued as a school until 1987, when it was turned into a community education center. Today, EURO, the school's alumni organization, is the main user of the facility. The Eureka School was designated as a Mississippi landmark in 2005.

"We're excited to be underway on the historic Eureka School Project," said Hattiesburg Convention Commission Executive Director Rick Taylor. "This school is a landmark that must be preserved for all of Mississippi to enjoy."

When the renovations are complete, the school will open as an African American Heritage and Cultural museum and will focus on the Civil Rights Era, particularly the Freedom Summer of 1964. For more information, visit www.HattiesburgEureka.com.

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