



City of Dallas

Juanita J. Craft Civil Rights House Update

**Quality of Life, Arts, and Culture
September 21, 2020**

Jennifer H. Scripps, Director
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Office of Arts and Culture
City of Dallas

Presentation Overview

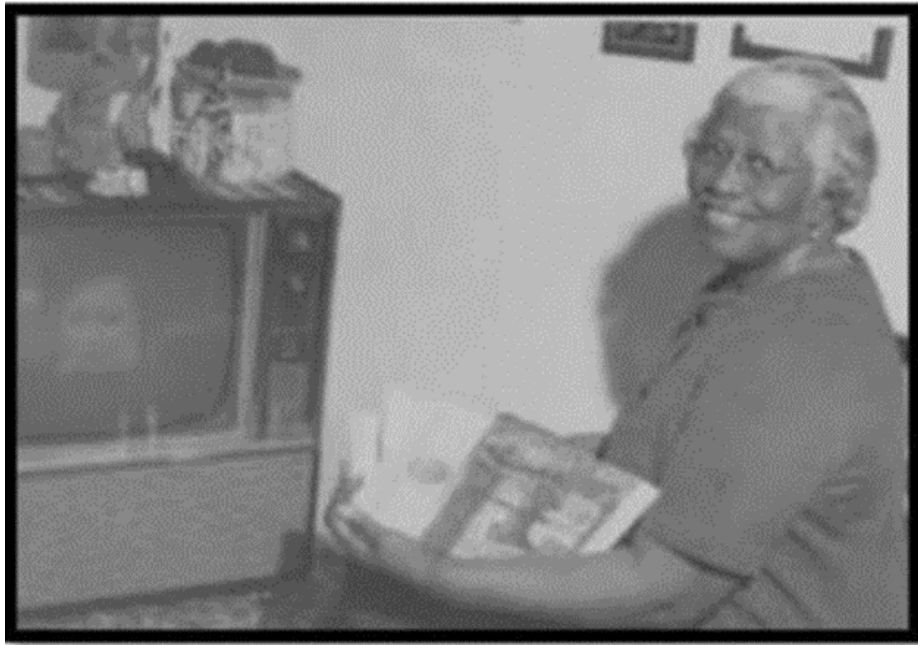


- Purpose
- Background
- House Restoration
- Community Partnerships and Fundraising
- Next Steps





- Update Committee on status of Craft House project
 - Architecture & Construction
 - Governance
- Discuss next steps



Mrs. Craft holding an official invitation to the inauguration of President Carter January 20, 1977

- Ms. Juanita Craft established a legacy in Dallas of advancing civil rights over five decades on a national, regional, and local stage as an organizer, activist, and Councilwoman

Background



- Her home at 2618 Warren Avenue in South Dallas served as a focal point for an extensive array of civil rights activities from 1950 to 1985



Background



- Upon her death on August 6, 1985, she willed her home to the City of Dallas
- Designated as a Dallas Landmark on May 10, 2000
- Managed by the South Dallas Cultural Center, but has not historically had onsite staff



Background



- In May 2018 - fire sprinkler system failure caused catastrophic flood at the home over Memorial Day weekend
- In Summer 2018 - City performed environment assessments (including materials testing and air quality testing) and Existing Conditions Survey and Infrastructure Assessments
- In January 2019 - City completed interior work in the Little House, painting, and replacing buckled flooring and blinds
- In April 2019 - Historical Elements were removed and categorized from the Big House and Asbestos Abatement and Mold Remediation completed



Background



- \$250,000 committed in FY20 capital budget
- Council accepted National Park Service's African American Civil Rights Grant for \$500,000
- Staff briefed QOLAC in November 2019



House Restoration



Rear of home

- Spring 2020
 - Advertised RFQ and RFP for historic preservation architects
- Summer 2020
 - Contracted McCoy Collaborative Preservation Architecture to prepare schematic designs and begin pre-construction probes



Community Partnerships (1 of 3)



- Friends of Juanita Craft House and Museum established
 - **Proposed Mission:** To restore and preserve the home and legacy of Honorable Juanita Craft in pursuit of continuous community programming and nation museum status on the Civil Rights Trail





• Members of the Friends Group

Candace Thompson, Chair
Stevie Downer
Cannon Flowers
Jesse Hornbuckle
Sarah Jackson
Linda Lydia
Trinity Ojo
Patricia Perez
Renita Smith
Chandler Vaughn

Baylor Scott & White Outreach
Event Organizer, Community Volunteer
Former Cultural Affairs Commissioner, At-Large
Cultural Affairs Commissioner, D4
Junior League of Dallas
Dallas NAACP
Metropolitan Capital Advisers, Community Volunteer
Craft Kid, Community Volunteer
Junior League of Dallas
Juanita J. Craft Foundation and Estate Executor



Community Partnerships (3 of 3)



- Junior League of Dallas (JLD) announced the Restoration of the Juanita Craft House as their Centennial Anniversary Project



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Fundraising and Grant Opportunities



- Grant applications have been submitted to several organizations
- JLD Centennial Committee is raising funds to help complete the renovations and reopen it to the public



- Complete Pre-Design and Schematic Design
- Advertise for Interpretative Planning
- Continue to fundraise for garden design and programming
- Re-opening to the public in Spring 2022



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