

Creating the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park



"All the other pleasures of life seem to wear out, but the pleasure of helping others in distress never does."
JULIUS ROSENWALD



January 13, 2021

BREAKING NEWS:

President Signs Rosenwald Legislation, Key Step Toward Creation of National Park

Washington, DC -- The Campaign to Create the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park today announced a key step forward with President Donald Trump signing The Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools Act of 2020. The new law requires the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a special resource study of the sites associated with the life and legacy of Julius Rosenwald, with a special focus on the Rosenwald Schools.

Sponsored by Representative Danny Davis (D-IL-7) in the House and Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) in the Senate, the legislation was adopted by both Houses of Congress in December with overwhelming bipartisan support. Late Congressman John Lewis, a civil rights leader who attended a Rosenwald School in Alabama, was one of the eight lead sponsors of the House Bill. His name is on the final law.

"It took a real team effort to gain passage of The Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools Act of 2020, from members of Congress and their staffs to our partner organizations," Rosenwald Campaign President Dorothy Canter said. "We are thankful for all of the support that led us to this point. Now, we can concentrate on the next steps to make the Rosenwald Historical Park a reality."

Two of the partner organizations that played pivotal roles in passage of the legislation were the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

"Passage of H.R. 3250 is the critical first step towards commemorating the legacy of a true American hero, Julius Rosenwald," said Alan Spears, Senior Director of Cultural Resources at NPCA. "His philanthropy, guided by his faith, helped make a way out of no way for many, especially for African Americans during a period of intense racial inequality."

Rosenwald, leader of Sears, Roebuck & Company and noted philanthropist, contributed to the construction of 5,357 African American schools and related buildings in 15 Southern states in the early part of the 20th century. He also created the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which made substantial contributions to improving African American life.

The Campaign envisions a National Historical Park with a visitor center in Chicago that would interpret Rosenwald's contributions to Sears, Roebuck as well as highlighting his innovative and important philanthropic activities. The Park also would include a small number of Rosenwald Schools in their original locations in the South, to be selected by the NPS.

Please join the Campaign by visiting our website at www.rosenwaldpark.org or contacting Dorothy Canter at dorothycanter@rosenwaldpark.org.

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D O N A T E

We need your support to continue.

For questions and suggestions, please write to info@rosenwaldpark.org.