

Mr. Troy Carter
650 Poydras Street, Suite 2525
New Orleans, LA 70130

Feb. 16, 2024

Dear Honorable Troy Carter,

This is a letter requesting that you support the development of a National Park for the Rosenwald Schools. The schools changed lives by giving Black children good education and schools when they would not have otherwise had it during days of segregation in the United States. I think the history of the Rosenwald Schools should be something everyone knows about and a National Park would help with that.

I am a 11-year-old Jewish kid who never had heard of the Rosenwald Schools until I learned about this writing project. I know firsthand that my own history matters and some of it is disappearing over time. For example, I am the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor. This history is sad but important to talk about so we can learn from history and do better by treating everyone equally well.

Important efforts to improve civil rights like the Rosenwald Schools that educated Black children in the early 1900s need to be remembered for generations because the Rosenwald Schools changed lives for the better and we can all learn from that model. Without a National Park for the Rosenwald Schools, we will lose information about this important American, racial justice history.

Currently, many of the 5,000 Rosenwald Schools are falling down and will be lost. So, if something doesn't happen to make the information about the Rosenwald Schools last then the entire history will be lost. The history is important because the schools showed us that even in times of despair there can still be kindness and important work to develop education. Education matters because everyone should be able to learn and follow their own interests. That is the main reason I support making a National Park.

Second, there are just a few National Parks dedicated to African American history. For example, we all learn a lot from the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Park in Maryland and the Pullman National Monument in Chicago. Without these National Parks, children and adults could not learn about the important history behind major events. This is just more proof that we need to make a way to remember all of this very important and meaningful part of American history that the Rosenwald Schools gave us.

Thank you for taking the time to read about why I think the Rosenwald Schools should become a national park. I hope you agree and we can build the Rosenwald National Park to inspire us all. Please contact me at _____ if you want to talk more about this.

Sincerely,

Emzi F