

## SIGNIFICANCE OF ROSENWALD SCHOOLS

Beginning in 1912, the Rosenwald school building program, under the auspices of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute (now Tuskegee University), began a major effort to improve the quality of public education for African Americans in the South. By 1928 one in every five rural schools in the South was a Rosenwald school; these schools housed one third of the region's rural black schoolchildren and teachers. Thousands of Rosenwald Schools have been abandoned and lost over the years, but many have been given new life as thriving community centers, studios, museums, and even private homes.

Attending a Rosenwald School put a student at the vanguard of education for southern African-American children. In 2002, the National Trust joined forces with grassroots activists, local officials, and preservationists across the country to help raise awareness of this important but little-known segment of our nation's history, placing Rosenwald Schools on its 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list. Of the 3,537 schools, shops, and teacher homes constructed between 1917 and 1932, only 10-12 percent are estimated to survive today.



## WAYS TO GIVE

Langston Education and Arts Development, Inc. (LEAD) is a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization. Your gift is deductible to the extent provided by law. Please consult your tax advisor.

Make checks payable to Langston Education and Arts Development, Inc. Checks may be mailed to:

**P. O. Box 111, Johnson City, TN 37605-0111**

To make a donation online, visit our website: [leadlhs.org](http://leadlhs.org)

To discuss other ways to give or to meet with a member of our campaign staff, please contact: **Carla Forney**, [cforney3794@icloud.com](mailto:cforney3794@icloud.com), (423) 426-1044.

## ABOUT LEAD

LEAD is an acronym for Langston Education and Arts Development, Inc. Founded by alumni of Langston High School in Johnson City, Tennessee along with many friends and supporters from the community. The organization seeks to preserve the cultural relevance and heritage of the Langston High School site and hopes to utilize the building as a multicultural community center for educational and artistic programs. Once the renovation is complete, LEAD members are committed to providing youth programming focused on computer science, theatrical arts, and mentoring in the facility. Further, the site is a highly-visible structure that serves as a gateway to the downtown Johnson City community, which will substantially impact improvements to downtown aesthetics and redevelopment.

### OUR MISSION

To preserve the integrity, legacy and historical value of the Langston High School campus for the posterity and enhancement of the community.

We are committed to providing responsive educational and multi-cultural opportunities designed to bring diverse groups of people together in a safe learning environment.

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## HISTORY OF LANGSTON HIGH SCHOOL

In 1892, Johnson City began a school building program and one of the three new schools was established for colored children, named Langston Normal School for noted black leader John Mercer Langston, a Congressman from Virginia. Dr. Hezekiah Hankal, one of the Founding Fathers of Johnson City, was instrumental in securing approval for the new school. Born a slave in 1825, Dr. Hankal was fluent in Dutch and several foreign languages. He gained notoriety for his extraordinary medical skills during the cholera epidemic of 1873, establishing an interracial medical practice that continued until his death in 1903. Dr. Hankal was elected alderman in Johnson City in 1887 and, in addition to Langston School, helped start a number of historic black churches throughout Northeast Tennessee.



## GOAL

The Langston High School campus is located just off the Watauga/Unaka exit from Interstate 26 in Johnson City. The original design for the renovation of the facility exceeds the City's budget for the project by \$500,000. LEAD's goal is to accomplish a capital campaign of \$500,000 for the renovation so that the original design can be implemented and so that the facility will be well-suited to serve as a multicultural center to house educational and arts programming.

## NEED

America and our region are becoming more racially and ethnically diverse every year. Studies show that this rapid multicultural growth will continue for the next several decades. Johnson City and the surrounding region as a whole lack a focal point and home for multicultural programs and endeavors. A multicultural center will create a welcoming environment for the increasing diversity in our population, a vital element of economic development, especially illustrated by our regional employers' need to retain a diverse workforce.

## PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

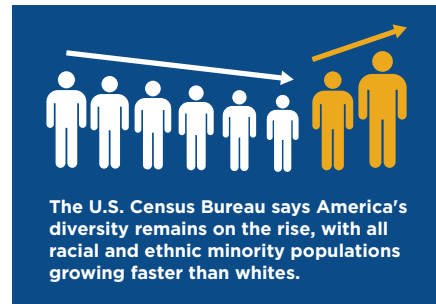
Public-private partnerships are of great importance to our community. Our region is passionate about coming together to accomplish great things, leveraging synergies between the strategic goals of our government leaders and the leadership of private citizens in our community who are dedicated to investing in making our home a great place to live, work and play.

LEAD and the City of Johnson City are proud of our cooperative efforts and our positive working relationship. In order to make this unprecedented public-private partnership a success, we need your help. We need the commitment of private and corporate citizens in our region through monetary support of the project to meet both our campaign goal and the ultimate goal to preserve the historical campus of Langston High School as a place to support the multicultural diversity of our region into the future.

## VISION

It is LEAD's vision that a renovated Langston High School campus serve as a hub and a home for multicultural programming for Johnson City and the region. The goals of LEAD are to provide an impactful learning, developmental, continuing educational environment and experience that would:

- Encourage positive and personal interaction between participants and leaders in the multicultural community.
- Create, promote, and develop cutting edge and competitive programs that would focus on interactive activities across various fields of interest such as, Science and Engineering, Computer Science, Performing Arts, and Mathematics differing from the classical school classroom settings.
- Promote programs that will continue to be advantageous to the community, encourage competitive, positive attitudes and leadership skills in our future generations, and create sustainable economic success for our City.
- Stand as a steering force for community rehabilitation, improvements and growth, particularly through networking and community building opportunities among diverse sectors of the region.



Studies show diversity spurs economic development while homogeneity slows it down. An increase of diversity has a positive impact on economic growth.



Washington County has the largest minority population in northeast Tennessee—it is the only county whose minority population is at least 10%.

JOHNSON CITY	15.8%
BRISTOL	7%
KINGSPORT	5.2%

Johnson City has a minority population 2X-3X larger than any other city in northeast Tennessee

JOHNSON CITY, TN - 15.8%

ASHEVILLE, NC - 22.3%

GREENVILLE, SC - 38.4%

ATHENS, GA - 32.6%

EUGENE, OR - 18.5%

ANN ARBOR, MI - 30.2%

BOULDER, CO - 16.6%

COLLEGE STATION, TX - 34.2%

In order to keep up with our region's benchmark areas for economic development this area needs to attract and retain a more diverse population.