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DC History Center Announces Project at the Randall School

OCTOBER 28, 2022, WASHINGTON, DC — This fall, the DC History Center is kicking off an effort to gather, preserve, and share the history of the Randall School in Southwest DC in conjunction with the redevelopment and historic preservation of the site. The project will culminate with the installation of a series of displays in the new courtyard of the former school building.

The team is seeking to honor and elevate the stories of people who attended and worked at Randall School and lived nearby.

"The physical restoration of the Randall School was always an important aspect of the project, but our goal with this effort is to share some of the personal stories of the everyday people who were students, teachers and residents in the neighborhood before Urban Renewal, to make this history a part of the building's new life as a museum. While the building has been beautifully restored, it is the story of those impacted and influenced by it that is most important" said Mark Rivers, EVP for Lowe, the developer of the project.

"The story of the Randall School is one of endurance and perseverance," says Laura Brower Hagood, DC History Center Executive Director. "So much of the Southwest neighborhood that once stood is gone now, but the school building remains and will soon see new life. This project will ensure that the stories of the people who lived, worked, and learned here are preserved and shared, even as the neighborhood continues to change."

The school building at 65 I St SW first opened in 1906 as Cardozo Elementary School, and became Randall Junior High School in 1924. During the time of racial segregation, the school served Southwest DC's African American population. The building is one of few remaining from the neighborhood's pre-urban renewal history. On Oct. 29th of this year, the new Rubell Museum DC will open at the site with the adjacent 492-unit Gallery 64 apartment building to follow in early 2023.

The DC History Center is organizing two community meetings this fall, followed by individual interviews. The community meeting dates are:

- Sunday, November 6, 2 - 3:30 pm
- Wednesday, November 16, 6 - 7:30 pm



Both meetings will be held at the Southwest Library at 900 Wesley Pl SW, in Meeting Room 1. The stories shared at these meetings will become part of a series of displays to be installed in the courtyard between Gallery 64 and the new Rubell Museum. The courtyard will be open to the public from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

To receive updates on the process, provide your [contact information through this brief form](#). Get out your photo albums, and please spread the word to friends and neighbors. Questions or suggestions on who the team should talk to? Contact Maggie Downing at mdowning@dchistory.org.

About The Randall School redevelopment project

The 500,000-square-foot redevelopment of the former Randall Junior High School includes the preservation and repurposing of the existing historic building into the Rubell Museum DC, a world-class contemporary art museum, and the development of Gallery 64, a 492-unit, 12-story apartment building. With the new museum as its cornerstone, Gallery 64 will be infused with art and culture.

About DC History Center

The DC History Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization that deepens the understanding of the city's past to connect, empower, and inspire. As the only community-based nonprofit focused on the District of Columbia's history, the organization's vision is to reach into all eight Wards to preserve and elevate the stories of Washington's diverse people, neighborhoods, and institutions. Visit www.dchistory.org and follow [@dchistory](#) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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