

THE ROSENWALD CENTENNIAL PROJECT:
**2024 Overview of proposed Historical
 and Edutainment Events for Walker County...**

Working closely with the Houston Informer Foundation, Inc (HIFI), Butler/Wiseman, llc. , and local area Walker County Texas residents and businesses, we are excited to inform you of three exciting events (and one historical correction) coming to Huntsville Texas in 2024.

FEBRUARY:



Texas Medieval Merriment Festival, is scheduled for Friday-Sunday February 16-18, 2024, at Walker County Fair Grounds.

This event holds special significance to thousands of avid “medieval” and renaissance costume-play attendees from all over the state. Last year’s TMMF venue was on our small 2 acre farm— *and we had over 2000 visitors that weekend.* A fact that prompted us to move to a larger venue perfectly suited to this type of festival...offering great parking and over 100

Vending booths with power and water. This year’s festival will benefit the Houston Informer Foundation, Inc with the medieval revival of the “Huntsville Informer” as a handout and “Merriment Village Town Cryer.” More info: www.TexasMedieval.com

APRIL:

“Back to Our Roots” Earth Day Music Festival on Earth Day Sunday, April 21, 2024, 3-8pm at Rosenwald School Acres, 639 Rosenwall Rd, Huntsville, TX 77340. www.EarthDayJamFest.com.

This free “Old-School Music” festival on the “old school” grounds celebrates the land and the memories of the founders of Walker County’s first Black public primary school. Walker County’s Rosenwald School Road (currently misspelled) once dead-ended at this oasis of education for black families in the early-mid 1900’s.

Rosenwald School Acres*
“Back to Our Roots”
EARTH DAY MUSIC FESTIVAL


Sunday • APRIL 21, 2024 • 3-8pm
 Rosenwald Acres • 639 Rosenwall Road, Huntsville TX 77340
(At FM-2821's blinking light, then north past George Wilson Road)





FREE ADMISSION!

VENDOR BOOTHS \$50 & \$75

Plus... “Country Club in the Woods”
Saturday Night Soiree!
***Saturday • April 20 • 7-11pm**
 *Food, Music, Bonfire, Big Screen
 Outdoor Movies & Stargazing (\$5)
 (Overnight Camping: \$15)


AWESOME
...+ other sponsors online

EARTHDAYJAMFEST.COM

“Back to our Roots” has been sponsored by grants from H-E-B, Awesome Without Borders, numerous local organizations, individuals and Huntsville businesses. With this support we have been able to benefit the Samuel Walker Houston Museum and allow the community to feel welcomed once again on their beloved school grounds. Proceeds from this festival benefit the continuing non-profit historic education and preservation projects of the **Houston Informer Foundation, Inc.** (see *“Steppin’ Back in Time”* below); **the Kittrell-Wilson Cemetery Restoration** (where founders/caretakers and alumni of Rosenwald School#1 are buried) and the community utilization and environmentally friendly modernization of Walker County’s original **Tuskegee - Rosenwald School Acres.** (www.rosenwaldacres.com)



JUNE:

“Steppin’ Back in Time: “Huntsville Heroes” Juneteenth Photo Exhibit, June 2024.a Houston Informer Foundation Inc Historical project for the Huntsville Informer...

This East Texas expansion of HIFI’s hugely successful traveling history Photo Exhibits in Houston will continue in 2024 in the Huntsville area. The exhibits highlight the accomplishments of off-over-looked Texas historical figures who —despite Jim Crow—were determined to improve the lives, educational access and business opportunities of East Texas’ African-American communities.

The Texas Freeman newspaper first hit the streets in 1893 later evolving to the Informer and Texas Freeman the newspaper became the hub of a multi-city chain... chronicling/reporting the news for Black communities in **Houston, Dallas, Galveston, Huntsville, Beaumont, Austin, New Orleans and greater East Texas--** unifying the communities they served. By the 1950s, the paper became a major player in advancing the call for civil rights for citizens of African descent. The Huntsville and Texas Freeman will be revived and honored at all three events here.

The exhibit will be promoted at our two earlier festivals and in those events handouts and advertising dispatches. It will be curated by *Linda Moten*, of the Samuel Walker Houston Museum and both SWH Elementary and High School alumni organizations.

We propose the HIFI HUNTSVILLE HEROES Juneteenth exhibit to highlight local African American historical figures plus the contributions of Julius Rosenwald as outdoor whole or segmented displays at 4 of several proposed locations in the County: the Huntsville Library, Walker County Courthouse; H-E-B’s announcement Corner (at 30 and Hwy 75) and / or the lawns of these museums: Sam Houston University Museum, Samuel Walker Houston Museum, Walker County Museum.

ONE FINAL HISTORICAL PROJECT:

Correct the misspelled “Rosenwall Road.” ...Return it to its historically accurate “Rosenwald Road” ...honoring the name and legacy of Julius Rosenwald—an early 20th century multimillionaire philanthropist who joined with Tuskegee Institute to make a huge impact on the educational history of Huntsville/Walker County Texas. (More info: [RosenwaldAcres.com](https://rosenwaldacres.com)).

1912: Julius Rosenwald, then president of Sears and Roebuck, donated \$25,000 to Tuskegee Institute. That was when he discovered that southern states were not building public schools for their African American citizens. **In 1915,** he began a financial collaboration with Booker T. Washington and Tuskegee Institute and eventually donated \$63 million of his personal income to subsidize the building of 5,357 schools for African American students in 15 southern states. Texas received \$980,615 in grants to build 79 schools and over 500 supplemental buildings.

WALKER COUNTY’S 2 TUSKEGEE-ROSENWALD SCHOOLS: *Huntsville/Walker County was the only ISD in Texas that had multiple Rosenwald funded buildings.* In 1921, Huntsville’s gifted Professor Samuel Walker Houston, his cousin English professor John Wesley Wilson and John’s wife Amarentha Kittrell-Wilson began to plan, build and maintain the following institutions in Walker County, utilizing multiple Rosenwald Fund grants:

Rosenwald School #1: “an Oasis of Education.” The wagon trail that became a road once dead-ended at the historic Rosenwald School Acres gate. This newly reopened gate is the 102 year old location of Walker County’s first public grade school for colored children...Our annual EarthDay Festival and community events on the H-E-B sponsored stage allows families a chance to return to their gathering place.

The Samuel W. Houston Industrial and Training Institute opened its doors on Highway 30 (near the current Walker County Fair Grounds) in 1906— teaching marketable occupational skills: carpentry, plumbing, sewing, cosmetology, general maintenance, fine arts and music. Good works were recognized by Tuskegee Institute. The Rosenwald Fund awarded repeat grants. This allowed Prof. Houston to build multiple buildings—even creating Texas’ first boarding school for African American school children. The Samuel W Houston Museum, formerly the High, then Primary school on 10th Street in Huntsville, stands as a tribute to this great educator. (<https://rosenwaldacres.com/samuel-w-houston-museum-1>).

**The US Congressional
Julius Rosenwald and
Rosenwald Schools Act**
became law on January 13, 2021



THE ROSENWALD FUND

Julius Rosenwald
(1862-1932)

*Chicago businessman,
philanthropist and president
of Sears, Roebuck and
Company during the early
1900s. Rosenwald’s German-
Jewish family fled
persecution in Europe.*

*Rosenwald established the
Rosenwald Foundation for
“the well-being of mankind”*

*He funded 5,357 schools in
Black communities because
he believed that everyone
deserves the opportunity to
an education.*

“Rosenwald” Road is not a name change...only a clerical correction.

The US Congressional **Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald School’s Act**, signed in 2021, has recorded Huntsville’s two schools and their locations—one on “**Rosenwall**” Rd—in its national registry. The Rosenwald School Road’s original name was both a tribute and “Thank You” from a grateful community honoring the name of a compassionate businessman whose generosity made their beloved school possible—providing hope and opportunities for their children’s futures.

The Act—and a new blinking light at FM2821—means this is the best time for Huntsville/Walker County authorities to join the Us Congress’ commitment to this great man...*Correct the clerical error.*

(....**PERHAPS IN TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED AS PART OF THE COUNTY’S NEW PUBLIC
2024 “HUNTSVILLE HEROES” JUNETEENTH OUTDOOR EXHIBIT?**)

"Knowledge is Wealth."

JOIN US! Working closely with publisher/publicist Lorenza P. Butler and his NPO historical event planning teams at Houston Informer Foundation, Inc and Butler Wiseman, LLC; coordinating with Huntsville curator Linda Moten, SWH Museum curator; other area museums, schools, the county, city and the two Samuel W. Houston School Alumni organizations, local media, the library; educational/corporate partners plus amazing small business vendors, sponsors and individuals....2024 promises to be a memorable year.

We would love to discuss how best to collaborate with you and your resources for the success of these events so let me thank you in advance for your support for any—or all— of these projects.

You can find info on me at www.kijana.com and on my 44 year old production firm at www.wisemancompany.com. Please feel free to contact me directly at the digits below.

Thank you!

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Cc: *Lorenza P. Butler, Houston Informer Foundation, Inc,
Linda Moten, SWHouston Museum
Lynn Page, HIFI Project Coordinator
Kathy Burk, TMMF Vendor Coordinator
Carmen Herrera, HIFI Corporate Sponsorships*

Rosenwald References and Resource Links:

CBS MORNINGS Broadcast, June 2021...

The Impact of Rosenwald schools on education and how they changed the lives of Black Americans... <https://youtu.be/dVg-xOBw8kY>

Julius Rosenwald's Gifts to America's Well-Being

A short documentary on the life of Julius Rosenwald and his impact on America and underserved populations. ... <https://youtu.be/68JO3qo2oUU>

The Julius Rosenwald Legacy and the National Park Campaign

<https://rosenwaldacres.com/the-rosenwald-legacy>

The history of Huntsville/Walker County's Rosenwald School #1

<https://rosenwaldacres.com/the-rosenwald-school>