



THE
JUDITH ALEXANDER
FOUNDATION

GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

With grateful appreciation to our sponsors and supporters –

Drew Fransen, Hotel Indigo
Ross Henderson, Photographer
Charles Ellis, Creativ Landscaping
Lilly Heidari, grant writer
Trevor Beemon, Director, Cobb Landmarks
Dr. James Newberry, Curator,
Kennesaw State University

Cover Photo © Melinda Blauvelt, 1972, Vinings GA
Courtesy of the Artist

HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION
for
NELLIE MAE ROWE'S
PLAYHOUSE



Saturday, June 1, 2024
2:00 pm

NELLIE MAE ROWE AND HER PLAYHOUSE

Nellie Mae Rowe (1900 – 1982), a self-taught African-American artist, lived near this site for 45 years. Rowe began creating art as a child. After retiring in the 1960s, she devoted herself to artmaking, associating it with childlike play. Using assemblage and repurposing techniques, she explored politics, race, her faith, and her experience as a woman. Rowe adorned her yard and home – her “Playhouse” – with colorful drawings, installations, and sculptures. During the 1970s, many locals and visitors toured Rowe’s Playhouse. Rowe experienced harassment and vandalism due to racial prejudice and lack of understanding of her art. Toward the end of her life Rowe’s work received national attention. Shortly after her death her Playhouse was demolished. Rowe’s art has since been exhibited worldwide and included in collections such as Atlanta’s High Museum of Art and New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Erected by the Georgia Historical Society, Vinings Village Homeowners Association, and The Judith Alexander Foundation.

We welcome Special Guests –

Roberta Bates, Nellie Mae Rowe’s oldest living relative
Thunderbolt Patterson, Inspiration to Nellie Mae Rowe,
WWE Hall of Fame inductee

Katherine Jentleson, Senior Curator of American Art,
Merrie and Dan Boone Curator of Folk &
Self-Taught Art, High Museum of Art

Michael Rooks, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art,
High Museum of Art

Camille Love, Executive Director, Mayor's Office of
Cultural Affairs, City of Atlanta

Cal Dortch, Vinings Historian & Board member,
Vinings Village Homeowners Association

Jerica Richardson, Cobb County Commissioner, District 2

Jason Estevez, Georgia State Senator, District 6

Erick Allen, former Georgia State House Representative

PROGRAM

Welcome and Introductions

- Melissa Johnson, President, Vinings Village Homeowners Association
- Woodie Wisebram, Board member, Vinings Village Homeowners Association

Invocation

- Minister Ray Tiyaamiyu

Words about Nellie Mae Rowe

- Judith Alexander Augustine, Director,
The Judith Alexander Foundation
- Xenia Zed, Board member,
The Judith Alexander Foundation
- Cathi Perry, great-grand niece of Nellie Mae Rowe,
President, The Judith Alexander Foundation
- Thunderbolt Patterson, Inspiration to Nellie Mae Rowe

Spoken Word

- Cheryl Mashack, great-grand niece of Nellie Mae Rowe
and Board member, The Judith Alexander Foundation

Unveiling and Reading of Marker

- Breana James, Historical Marker and Program
Coordinator, Georgia Historical Society
-

Reception Immediately Following at Hotel Indigo

Featuring music by Marie Emerson
Zion Baptist Church, Marietta, GA

