



November 25, 2022

The Honorable Jerome Rice
Mayor of Spartanburg, SC

Councilmember Janie Salley
Spartanburg City Council
District 5

Mr. Chris Story
City Manager, Spartanburg, SC

Dear Mayor Rice, Councilmember Salley and Mr. Story:

My name is David Wood, I am the CEO of the Spartanburg County Historical Association. Our organization was founded in 1957, and our mission is “to preserve and promote the rich history of Spartanburg County through education, community engagement, and sustainability.” The SCHA believes in the power of history to inspire the imagination, stimulate thought, and transform society. In its role as a community anchor and informal learning partner, the SCHA provides diverse access initiatives for those seeking to equally participate in and experience the community’s cultural treasures.

We are seeking \$203,000 in funding to preserve the oldest home in the city, the Seay House. Our goal is to not only restore the physical building, but to also return this historic gem to a place of prominence and pride in the community. Funding for this project is essential to ensure its use for future generations.

The education staff at the SCHA has recently hosted a school group at the Seay House and specific programming has been planned for Women’s History Month in March 2023. We currently partner with Luther Norman and his Youth Sports Bureau to care for the grounds throughout the year. Your financial support will allow us to develop interactive lesson plans and provide students with immersive learning experiences where they can apply lessons from the past to the future. We have had initial conversations to establish a partnership with Ms. Nicke Haney, Executive Director for the Brown Girls Read Tutorial Program, to use the Seay House for programming and community support. Studies have shown that reading and writing, in combination, helps to decrease stress levels of young people while increasing standardized test scores. This is becoming more and more critical when 34% of 4th graders are functioning on a basic proficiency level in reading and the suicide rate amongst kids between the ages of 10 – 24 has increased 43% since 1999.

On the National Assessment of Educational Progress – the only standardized test given consistently to urban regions across the country – South Carolina ranked 39th. Of those students in grades K - 4, only 34% are reading at grade level. It would seem as if our students were not prepared for future academic success, as demonstrated by the four-year high school graduation rate of 66%, compared to 82% nationwide. Also, the World Literacy Foundation stated that kids who become illiterate adults are more likely to be trapped in the cycle of poverty with limited opportunities for employment or income generation.

To change these statistics, the SCHA and Brown Girls Read is partnering to provide a safe environment that is conducive to lifelong learning that can be shared between the senior citizens and youth in the surrounding communities, i.e., Spartanburg Terrace, Park Hills, and Prince Hall.

We will develop an outreach plan to the neighborhood association, local schools and other community organizations to promote informal learning and hands-on activities that inspire critical thinking, creativity, safety and collaboration.

The SCHA is passionate about helping children realize their highest educational potential. With this funding, our project would provide students with a safe and meaningful environment in their community to gain skills for success in the future.

Thank you for your consideration and for providing organizations like ours with opportunities to make a difference in the community.

Sincerely,
David Wood

David Wood
President & CEO
Spartanburg County Historical Association

Email: david@spartanburghistory.org
Ph: 864-278-9664

e-copy: Ginger Davis, Chair SCHA Board of Directors
Nicke Haney, Founder of Brown Girls Read

Project Note: All contractors (with the exception of the pre-fab pavilion) will be Spartanburg City/County businesses.

Seay House			
Project		Cost	Notes
New Fencing	~ 120 ft. of 6 ft. Black Vinyl Coated Chain Link	\$ 6,000	Superior Fence & Rail
Tree Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full removal of large dead oak • Full removal of various dead and/or threatening smaller trees around property • Trimming the dead out of all major trees on property • Removal of large limb on oak threatening house and removal of dead limbs throughout tree 	\$ 6,000	Hub City Tree
Cedar Shake Roof	~1600 ft. Removal and replacement of 3/4" cedar shake roof	\$ 55,000	Guy Roofing This is a critical element in order to preserve the house
Trim & Siding	General repairs	\$ 1,500	
Electrical	Updates and improvements in the house	\$ 2,500	True Electric
Lighting	Updates and improvements in the house and on the grounds	\$ 5,000	
Artifact Case	Replace current case to showcase Seay artifacts	\$ 3,000	Gaylord Archival Supply
Security	Upgrades to current system	\$ 10,000	ADT & On-site
Interior Graphic	Replace and add to current story	\$ 600	Sign Force

Panels	panels		
Outdoor Signage	Replace all signage	\$ 800	
Phone/Internet	Upgrades to current system	\$ 2,560	
Utilities - water, electricity			
HVAC		\$ 6,000	
Outdoor Education Pavilion	~ 720 sq. ft. main structure 36' x 20'	\$ 11,400	Smith-Built
	~ 1,000 sq. ft. Concrete Slab	\$ 5,000	
	Electrical - receptacles, fans & lights	\$ 2,500	True Electric
	Plumbing	\$ 1,000	Roger Owens Plumbing
Project Directors		\$ 14,680	
Program Staff		\$ 15,000	
Program Supplies & Materials		\$ 16,000	
Nutrition Program		\$ 4,500	
Reading Program Support		\$ 7,500	
Community Engagement Projects		\$ 5,000	
Marketing	Outreach to neighborhood associations, schools & public	\$ 7,500	
Insurance		\$ 3,960	George Johnson
On-Going Annual Maintenance	Upkeep, landscaping/lawn care, cleaning supplies	\$ 10,000	Youth Sport Bureau, Others

TOTAL		\$ 203,000	
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