

Rutherford - Civil Rights Center Funding Request \$5M

Contact Information:

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Summary of Intended Use of the Funds: New Construction

Justification of Request/ Public Benefit:

Established in November 2015, the mission of the Center for Civil Rights History and Research at the University of South Carolina is to chronicle, preserve and share the momentous contributions of the Palmetto State to the American Civil Rights Movement. Unlike museums and other organizations directed to tourist activities, the Center is focused on archiving and research, to expand what students and citizens are learning and digesting about civil rights.

The future permanent sites of the Center, the Booker T. Washington High School Auditorium Building (under renovation) and adjacent Center for Civil Rights Building (new construction), will be the central location of outreach when complete. The renovation has been covered by federal grants. The new construction cost is estimated at \$24 million. Currently \$8 million is on hand (\$6M USC, \$1.5M Federal, \$500K Fundraising). Operating Endowment funds have been provided through Federal grants of \$3.6M to date, with more pending; and fundraising from Boeing, Williams Companies, and Blue Cross of \$2.8 million to date. The existing private donors and the pending ones are prepared for more endowment funds as well as funding towards construction. **This funding will answer the question from several corporations as to the amount of state support being added to University, Federal and Private funding. State funding will enhance the Center's private fundraising efforts.**

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Extra detail if needed.

Established with the founding collection of the papers of Congressman Jim Clyburn, the Center uses unique collections housed in University Libraries — including local television footage, unpublished photographs, and personal papers of activists, lawyers and journalists — to deliver educational programming for students and educators; organize public engagement through conferences, workshops and lectures; and serve as a valued repository of primary documents for civil rights scholars and university students. As part of its mission, the Center is working to expand its archival collections, train public school teachers, conduct oral histories, host programs, and develop exhibits on the history of civil rights in South Carolina. In addition, the Center aims to inform public-policy discussions about community development, voting rights, public education, public health, and other far-ranging societal issues as it becomes a national model for interdisciplinary work in civil rights research, education, programming, and advocacy.