

**Garrison School Cultural Center
needs your help**

Friends of Garrison School Cultural Center

- Individual.....\$20 Family.....\$50
- Supporter....\$100 Other.....\$ _____
- Ruby Friend.....\$2,500
- Diamond Friend....\$5,000
- Platinum Friend.,\$10,000

Garrison School Cultural Center Giving Circle

- Regular Life.....\$10 per month
- Long Life.....\$20 per month
- Bronze Life.....\$50 per month
- Silver Life.....\$75 per month
- Golden Life.....\$100 per month
- Other.....\$ _____ per month

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (_____) _____ - _____

Did you attend Garrison School () Yes () No

If so what years? 19 _____ - 19 _____

What grade years? _____

Send your pledge or contribution to:

CCAAL, Inc.
502 N. Water St.
Liberty, MO
64068

Make checks payable to CCAAL, Inc.
Or pay by credit card at
www.CCAAL-GarrisonSchool.org

Would you like to speak with a member of the CCAAL, Inc. Board of Directors about your pledge or contribution? Please call Mr. A. J. Byrd at 816-781-7918 or Dr. Cecelia Robinson at 816-591-6199

**Garrison School – The African American
School in Liberty, Missouri**

African American residents in Liberty, Missouri, established Garrison School in 1877. That school stood until 1910, when according to the Liberty Advance, “the public school building for the African American children of the Liberty district burned.” In 1911 the community opened a new black school, which included much of the building you see today.



Garrison School soon earned the reputation as being one of the best schools for African American students in the state of Missouri. However the school only provided its students with a tenth grade education during most of its history. Garrison graduates had to ride buses into Kansas City to attend high school.

In 1954, as a result of Brown vs. the Topeka Board of Education, the court ruled “separate but equal education” unconstitutional, and the Liberty school district began to integrate its African American students. The building continued to serve the community as part of the Liberty school district.

In 2003, the Clay County African American Legacy Consortium purchased Garrison School from the school district. It has served as office space for the Clay County African American Legacy Inc. and as a recreational center for cultural and educational events. Garrison School is listed on both the National and Local Register of Historic Places.

**Learn more about the history of Garrison
School and the Clay County African American
Legacy, Inc. at**

www.CCAAL-GarrisonSchool.org



**“the public school building for the
African American children of the
Liberty district”
1910-1958**

*She has served our
community for more than
a century.*

*Now she needs your help
to serve the community
another century.*

Garrison School

The Clay County African American Legacy Inc. (CCAAL), a 501 (C3) community-based organization, was founded in 2000 during the Kansas City, Missouri, Sesquicentennial 150th “Celebration of the Heart.” The organization raised \$40,000 to build a Freedom Fountain Monument honoring African American contributions to Clay County on the old Courthouse Square in Liberty, Missouri. In 2003, it commissioned a public mural on the 3rd floor of the old courthouse and purchased historic Garrison School, the first school for black youth established in 1877, from the Liberty School District. During the 2014 Juneteenth celebration, Garrison opened the first African American Gallery in Clay County. Today, it is included among the main attractions of the historic Garrison District.

The current Capital Improvement Campaign for the interior and exterior renovations of Garrison School will help make it a historic tourist attraction that is aesthetically pleasing, and provide students participating in the two major educational programs, LURP (Lion and Unicorn Reading Program) and ASEM (After School Educational Mentoring), an exciting, learning adventure.

Since 2003, more than 4,000 students have participated in these programs hosted collaboratively with William Jewell College and the Liberty School District. Administrators estimate that LURP and ASEM return \$7 for every \$1 spent. Your investment in Garrison School strengthens our community.



Cultural Center



The Clay County African American Legacy Inc. is committed to cultural awareness and educating the community of the accomplishments of African Americans of Clay County, and their contributions to the rich history of the Northland. Garrison School provides a place for the CCAAL Inc. to provide the northland:

- Cultural and educational programs •
- Social programs •
- Permanent exhibits •
- Recreational opportunities •
- Clay County African American Gallery •
- Recreational opportunities •
- Community partnerships •



Capital Improvements for Garrison School Cultural Center

Our 104 year-old Garrison School needs interior and exterior restoration: foundation repair, a new roof, stage, floor and wall repair, new lighting, and better acoustics for performances.

We Need Your Help

During the past 16 years, Garrison School Cultural Center has received major funding from grants, corporate sponsors, and individual donors.

This funding has helped with quality enhanced cultural programming that includes: art exhibits, open house tours, lectures, film screenings, plays, the installation and dedication of two exterior murals, and annual programs. The benefits from these resources have also helped with capital improvements and monthly operational costs. However, we still need your financial help in order to sustain this facility.

Another avenue of support is your gift of time. As widespread interest in the Garrison School Cultural Center has increased, we need to add docents for conducting scheduled tours. Please call (816) 591-6199 to discuss possibilities for sharing this cultural treasure with more visitors.

Goals

- To educate the northland and greater Kansas City community of African American contributions to Clay County
- To encourage cultural literacy through interpretive programming
- To develop relationships and reduce barriers within the broader community
- To preserve the history, celebrate the culture, and promote human relations

Partnerships: WWI National Museum, William Jewell College, Liberty Missouri School District, Kansas City Missouri School District, Kansas City Zoo, Clay County Missouri Department of Historic Sites, Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area, The City of Liberty, The Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group, The Liberty Chamber of Commerce, and the Clay County Historical Millennium Board.