



July 8, 2021

Brandon McBride
ARC Executive Director
1666 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20009-1068

Dear Mr. McBride,

Since 1973, the Rome Area Heritage Foundation has been an icon in the greater Rome community supporting historic preservation, providing educational events, and giving grants. Protecting its heritage is one indicator of a city that cares about its future. An informed public benefits from understanding the work and vision of previous generations and the story told through their buildings and artifacts. It is toward that goal the members of the Rome Area Heritage Foundation strive to find, identify, and preserve the history contained in the heart pine, oak, bricks, stones, and stories that remain as guides into Rome's past.

The Fairview School was constructed in Cave Spring, Georgia in 1924 under a joint venture between Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington and in collaboration with the Floyd County Board of Education, community leaders and the families of the African American community. The First Grade Building was constructed in 1945, rediscovered in 2009, rescued from the kudzu and listed on the Georgia Trust's Places In Peril list of historically significant locations in 2011, became a National Historic Register Site in 2017, restored in 2019 and received an Excellence In Restoration award from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Fairview-E.S. Brown Heritage Corporation is applying for Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funding to hire a consultant to develop a master plan for the Fairview School historic site. The primary purpose of the master plan is to provide a blueprint for the preservation and reuse of the original Fairview School campus to develop the site to serve as an educational destination for students, residents, and tourists. However, the master plan will also provide The Fairview-E.S. Brown Heritage Corporation with use, business, and financial plans, a disaster plan, and an interpretation plan.

In the past, the Rome Area Heritage Foundation has given a number of grants to support efforts of the Fairview-E.S. Brown School. RAHF gave \$1500 last year toward the creation of Master

Plan. Fairview recognizes the need to have a Master Plan that meets the standards outlined in the Georgia Historic Preservation Division's "Master Planning Guidelines for Historic Sites". This plan is critical to assure the sustainability and long term relevancy of the Fairview School. Previously, RAHF donated \$5000 toward a new roof at the Fairview School.

The Rome Area Heritage Foundation recognizes the Fairview-E.S. Brown School as an important landmark in our community. It is vital that the school be preserved and enhanced for future generations. RAHF has supported the Fairview restoration for years and will continue to do so in the future. We highly recommend this project to sponsors and look forward to hearing about its success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeb Arp", written in a cursive style.

Jeb Arp

President, Rome Area Heritage Foundation