

Fountain (Stone) Hall
Morris Brown College
643 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive NW
Atlanta, GA 30314

OFFICERS:

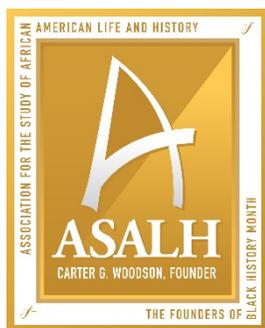
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Nehemiah 2:18

*Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that they had spoken unto me. And they said, "Let us **rise up and build.**" So, they strengthened their hands for his good work.*



**CROWNING OF
FOUNTAIN (STONE) HALL
COUNTDOWN TO PRESERVE
OFFICE OF DR. W.E.B. DU BOIS**

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2020

CONTACT:

Dr. R. Candy Tate
ASALHAtlantaBranch@gmail.com; 404-932-4377
www.FountainHallATL.org

ATLANTA GA August 14, 2020—The Atlanta Branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) announces a kickoff event of the “Crowning of Fountain (Stone) Hall” at Morris Brown College, **Friday August 21, 2020 at 11 a.m.** ASALH’s goal is to preserve Fountain Hall, which was the office of Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois while he taught at the historic Atlanta University.

This event announces the initial construction activities for the Fountain Hall Roof Replacement Project. This first step in historic preservation will take place on the quadrangle of Morris Brown College (643 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Atlanta, GA 30314). The launch event will be a virtual experience for the public, with onsite broadcast limited to area media outlets.

Press seating is limited Friday, August 21; please contact ASALHAtlantaBranch@gmail.com to RSVP.

“In this COVID-19 pandemic environment, safety is our first concern,” shares President Kevin E. James, “but our ‘good trouble’ needs to be shared. Morris Brown College is on a comeback, and the ‘hard reset’ starts with our iconic Fountain (Stone) Hall, built in 1882. We want to share our excitement, honor our sponsors, and give Atlanta, Georgia and the world an opportunity to join in the preservation of Fountain Hall and the site of Dr. Du Bois’ Atlanta University office, where the ‘Souls of Black Folk’ (1903) was penned.”

Dr. R. Candy Tate, Chair of the Atlanta Branch Hallowed Grounds Committee agrees, “This historic structure is the “Crown Gemstone” of Atlanta’s Diamond Hill on the highest vista of the vibrant westside communities. We will also restore the clock tower and bell which serves to encourage alumni Brownites to return to enjoy Fountain Hall as a gathering place for homecomings. We will resume dramatic and musical performances in the old chapel auditorium.”

The preservation goals are to repurpose and modernize the interior spaces and restore the classrooms and office of Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, the chapel, art studios, and gallery. The Atlanta Branch is looking for strategic alliances to connect Morris Brown College and Atlanta to Dr. Du Bois' legacy of human and civil rights and global economic and social justice impact.

The first of two \$500,000 African American Civil Rights grants from National Park Service will be used to replace the roof and preserve the clock tower as the first phase of the historic preservation plan for this National Landmark Building. "ASALH Atlanta Branch's goal is to be a leader in preservation efforts around the city," states Tate. "For the redevelopment of Fountain Hall, we are preservation partners with Morris Brown College, bringing national and local professional expertise."

Collaborating with the National Park Service and the National ASALH Office, other strategic partners include: National Trust for Historic Preservation African American Heritage Action Fund, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, the Atlanta History Center, Historic Atlanta, and the City's Office of Design—Historic Preservation.

#thehardreset
#RestoreMorrisBrown
#RestoreFountainHall

About the Atlanta Branch of ASALH

The Atlanta Branch was founded on October 4, 2014. After a year of preparation and meeting ASALH national requirements, the branch charter was installed in Atlanta on September 24, 2015, during the Centennial Conference. **Our mission is "Promoting the Study of Black History: Bridging the Gap Between University and Youth."** The Branch strives to support the legacy of Dr. Woodson through association with ASALH by encouraging post-secondary institutions to engage in youth programs, a Veterans History Project, and Hallowed Grounds, out Historic Preservation initiative. www.ASALHAtlanta.org

Founded in 1915 by Dr. Woodson, the father of Black History, ASALH is dedicated to upholding his values: to create and disseminate knowledge about Black History. In short, the association is the nexus between the Ivory Tower and the global public. The Centennial Annual Meeting & Conference in Atlanta, Georgia September 23-27, 2015 was a treatment to the dedication of ASALH leadership and the continuous worldwide interest and support for the next 100 years. www.asalh.org

About Morris Brown College

Morris Brown College was founded on Christian principles in 1881 by the African Methodist Episcopal Church and is chartered by the State of Georgia as a private, coeducational, liberal arts college engaged in teaching, research, and public service in the arts, humanities, social and natural sciences and professional programs. The mission of Morris Brown College is to provide educational opportunities in a positive and nurturing environment that will enable its students to become fully functional persons in our global society. The College prepares graduates to live meaningful and rewarding lives, thereby enabling them to make socially constructive and culturally relevant contributions to society.

Morris Brown College, in its commitment to academic excellence, provides experiences that foster and enhance intellectual, personal, and interpersonal development for students who have

demonstrated the potential to compete in a challenging undergraduate liberal arts program of study.
www.MorrisBrown.edu

Additional Media

<https://www.atlantaga.gov/government/departments/city-planning/office-of-design/urban-design-commission/fountain-hall>

<https://www.georgiitrust.org/places-in-peril/fountain-hall/>

<https://www.ajc.com/news/morris-brown-wins-national-grant-repair-historic-fountain-hall/vAn8Va4bTdCU6Jsdc9IMJJ/>

<https://saportareport.com/renovation-of-historic-fountain-hall-gets-major-boost-with-grant-for-a-new-roof/>

<https://atlanta.curbed.com/2020/1/3/21048362/morris-brown-college-historic-fountain-hall-atlanta-restoration>

<https://www.change.org/p/restore-renovate-historic-fountain-hall>

<https://www.atlantamagazine.com/tag/fountain-hall/>

<https://atlantaintownpaper.com/2019/11/fountain-hall-included-on-places-in-peril-list-for-2020/>

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