

## **The Education Opportunity Gap from Past to Present and Beyond: Rehabilitating the Mars Hill Anderson Rosenwald School**

Friday, October 15, 1 – 2 PM

[Register here for this free Zoom event.](#)

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century educator Booker T. Washington and philanthropist Julius Rosenwald collaborated to advance African American education. Between 1917 and 1932, nearly 5,000 Rosenwald Schools were built to educate Black children in the South.

Of the 500 schools still standing today, 125 are in North Carolina – and one of them is right here in Western North Carolina. The Mars Hill Anderson Rosenwald School was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in May 2018. Now, thanks to a major fundraising effort and thousands of volunteer hours, the rehabilitation of the historic structure is 99% completed. Once opened, the Mars Hill Anderson Rosenwald School will serve as a Community Cultural Center and Interpretive Museum to promote a fuller understanding of southern Appalachian Black history and to enhance education at all levels.

During this Zoom event, The Friends of the Mars Hill Anderson Rosenwald School will take you on a short journey through the fascinating history of the school as they share the importance of “Our Story, This Place” and why it matters. The journey will focus on time periods: Prior to 1928, 1928-1965, 1965-2009, 2009-2021, and 2021-Beyond. Program participants will share their perspective on becoming a Friend and will elaborate on one or more of the stated time periods.

Willa Wyatt, Chair, will welcome attendees and OLLI member Wallace Bohanan will moderate the discussion. Participants will be members of the Mars Hill Anderson Rosenwald School and will include one or more of the following: AD Reed, Bishop William Ray, Dan Slagle, David Wyatt, Dorothy Rapp, Fatimah’ Shabazz, Kevin Barnette, Les Reker, Maia Sturdam, Neezi Jackson, Omar McClain, Oralene Simmons, Ray Rapp, Richard Dillingham, Sandy McCall, Sarah Hart, Wallace Bohanan, Will Hoffman and Willa Wyatt.

The Friends have created a notated history book, “The Historic Mars Hill Anderson Rosenwald School: Our Story, This Place.” It will soon be available for sale. For more information about the school, visit: <https://andersonrosenwaldschool.com/>

Once you register, you will receive a link to join the program.