

Crealde secures \$10K for African-American project



ART & SOUL

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Crealde School of Art in Winter Park is on the receiving end of a \$10,000 grant from the Winter Park Community Foundation.

The purpose: funding for an African-American heritage project, the first of its kind in Central Florida.

The Heritage Collection: Photographs and Oral Histories will collect historical family photos and videotape oral histories of African-American residents of west Winter Park.

The result of the project — a community-based history of this important African-American community — will be curated in 30 to 50 black-and-white photos, which will be displayed permanently beginning next year at the Winter Park Community Center. Excerpts from the oral history interviews will accompany the photos.

"It's important because there are no archives of west Winter Park now to commemorate their contributions as founding members of Winter Park," says Lesa Kramer, Crealde's program manager. "The people in that community want to make sure their heritage is archived."

A copy of the project also may be given to the Winter Park Historical Society, which currently has no photos from that neighborhood — something Kramer calls "surprising, and such a shame."

The project gets under way this fall

with a community meeting on Oct. 19 at the Winter Park Community Center. There, groups of teens will be paired with seniors from the community to create the Heritage Corps. All will be taught how to research and collect family photos and oral histories.

"We believe there are shoe boxes under beds housing great images," says Kramer. "We want to archive them before they're lost forever."

Crealde will make archival copies of the personal photos on-site, so residents won't actually have to part with their treasured mementos.

Peter Schreyer, Crealde's executive director and the project leader, and project historians Fairlyn Livingston and Kim Mould all are recipients of the Rhea Marsh/Dorothy Lockhart-Smith Winter Park Research Grant, through the Winter Park Public Library and Rollins College. Anthropologist and past Crealde program collaborator Ron Haben also will be part of the project team.



Photo by Peter Schreyer, 1995

Mr. and Mrs. Richmond Lawson, former funeral home owners in west Winter Park.