



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF DALLAS ANNOUNCES ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY PROJECT,
THE RESTORATION OF THE HISTORIC JUANITA J. CRAFT CIVIL RIGHTS HOUSE & MUSEUM
LOCATED IN FAIR PARK**

DALLAS – SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 – The Junior League of Dallas (JLD) recently announced that its Centennial Anniversary project will be the restoration of the Juanita J. Craft Civil Rights House & Museum, a historical home in the Fair Park neighborhood in South Dallas once owned by Juanita J. Craft, one of the most significant civil rights figures in Texas and the second African American woman to serve on the Dallas City Council. The Centennial project, in partnership with the City of Dallas' existing efforts to restore the home, will be completed in March 2022. Craft's home served as a popular gathering spot for civil rights leaders and activists, such as President Lyndon B. Johnson, Martin Luther King Jr., President Jimmy Carter, musician Duke Ellington, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, when they passed through Dallas. Based on its legacy, the JLD is working closely with the City of Dallas to secure the home's designation as a historical landmark on the Civil Rights Trail, which would be the first in the State of Texas.

"The Juanita Craft House honors a Dallas legend who devoted her life to fighting for civil rights," Dallas Mayor **Eric Johnson** said. "Our city is better because of Juanita Craft's actions, her legacy, and the example she set. And we will all be better for a visit to her house when it reopens."

In 2018, the City of Dallas turned the Juanita Craft House into an educational museum, but efforts came to a halt when a sprinkler pipe burst in the attic and flooded the home. The cost estimates for the restoration are estimated at \$1.4 million. The City of Dallas has been raising funds for the restoration project and to-date has raised \$750,000. In honor of its 100th year, the JLD Centennial Committee is raising funds to help complete the much-needed renovations and reopen the museum to the public. Funds raised will also establish educational programming at the Juanita J. Craft House, develop school curriculum and ongoing partnerships with the African American Museum and Fair Park. Because the project is still in the planning phase, the amount of the JLD Centennial Committee donation may fluctuate based on final construction estimates and curriculum expenses.

"We have been working closely with the City of Dallas for more than two years to determine how we could help save the Juanita Craft House and restore it as a place for visiting students and others to learn more about Civil Rights history in Dallas. The City's mission was something we wanted to be a part of as an extension of the League's ongoing diversity and inclusion initiatives, and we decided to move forward with this as our Centennial project last year," said **Margo Goodwin**, Junior League of Dallas Centennial Co-chair. "We are eagerly anticipating the reopening of the Juanita Craft House to visitors in early 2022 and to making this a special place for the public to enjoy in the decades to come."

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Since Ms. Craft's death in 1985, the City has owned and operated the Craftsman style bungalow, situated in the Wheatley Place Historic District in South Dallas. "The home, a City of Dallas landmark, has been plagued by expensive repairs, limited investment and a catastrophic flood in 2018," said **Jennifer Scripps**, Director of the Office of Arts and Culture and JLD Sustainer. "With the partnership of individuals and organizations like the Junior League, the City of Dallas is taking steps to bring this landmark back to life."

Junior League of Dallas Centennial Co-chair **Andrea Cheek** noted: "For each milestone anniversary, the League traditionally selects a special project to support, including the Juanita J. Craft House and Museum, to mark the Centennial year. Funds raised for this special anniversary project are above and beyond the existing commitments to the nearly 40 agencies the JLD supports each year with its trained volunteer service commitments and financial support."

ABOUT JUNIOR LEAGUE OF DALLAS

The Junior League of Dallas cultivates leaders who collectively address the critical needs of the community. Founded in 1922, the JLD is one of the largest Junior Leagues in the world, as well as the largest and oldest training organization for women in Dallas. Active members range in age from 22 to 49 with approximately 85% percent of women employed outside of the home. The JLD provides leadership opportunities to nearly 5,000 women each year through more than 26,000 cumulative hours of experiential and formal training. Uniquely member-run, the JLD provides over 130,000 hours in volunteer service and approximately \$1 million in funding to area nonprofits each year. For more information, please visit www.jld.net or Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter.

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