

CITY OF SHREVEPORT

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PRESS RELEASE

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City Gets \$500,000 Grant for Civil Rights Museum

The U.S. Department of Interior and National Park Service announced today the City of Shreveport will receive \$500,000 for physical preservation of the Old Galilee Missionary Baptist Church for a Civil Rights Museum. More than \$12 million in grants were awarded for 51 projects in 24 states.

Shreveport's project was one of four in Louisiana to receive grant funding to preserve sites and highlight stories related to the African American struggle for equality in the 20th century. Shreveport received the largest grant issued within the state.

"I am thrilled that we were able to secure funding that will help us begin the process of restoring a site that will ultimately serve as a repository of the trials and triumphs of African American people in our city," said Mayor Ollie Tyler.

The grant will help restore the historic church which has been vacant for nearly 25 years, causing major deterioration to the facility. The museum will provide educational opportunities for residents and visitors to learn the historical journey of African Americans in this part of the state.

"We are extremely excited and pleased that the grant is being awarded," said the Rev. C.E. McLain, President of the North Louisiana Civil Rights Coalition. "We are looking forward to working closely with the City to bring to fruition all that the grant will afford toward the restoration of the Old Galilee facility, and working toward the first phase of the Civil Rights Museum."

-Shreveport-