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Arabia Alliance To Throw Inaugural Bruce Street School Fundraising Brunch on 2/17

All funds raised go towards the preservation and transformation of Lithonia's Bruce Street School, DeKalb County's first public school for African American children.

Lithonia, GA – Get a taste of what community-driven preservation is really like. Join the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance, the nonprofit stewards of Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area, for a tasty brunch of curated bites and signature mimosas. This **fancy brunch** will be held by the historic Bruce Street School ruins at the **East DeKalb at Bruce Street Senior Center on 2/17 from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm**. All funds raised will go towards the preservation and revitalization of Lithonia's Bruce Street School, DeKalb County's first public school for African American children.

The history of the Bruce Street School's grassroots education goes back to the late 19th century. The old stone schoolhouse ruins that remain today stand as a legacy of African American education in the Jim Crow South. Built with local Arabia Mountain granitic gneiss, this stone structure dates back to the 1930s when the trustees of what was then the Yellow River School, the local school for Black students, bought land on Bruce Street and began raising money for a new schoolhouse. After serving a generation, the school closed in 1955 when the Georgia legislature, in an attempt to avoid desegregation, built "equalization schools" throughout Georgia. The pupils moved across the street to the "new" Bruce Street School that still stands today. After it was closed, the stone school suffered a fire and crumbled into disrepair. Students who attended the Bruce Street School 70 years ago are still alive today, some of them frequent visitors of the Bruce Street Senior Center where the Fundraising Brunch will be held.

Save the date for this fundraiser brunch on 2/17! An invite with RSVP and event link will be coming soon. Funds raised will help prepare the Bruce Street School ruins for a larger transformation into an outdoor museum with a community amphitheater, food forest and historical interpretation of Black education in the Jim Crow South. For more information or to donate, [click here](#).

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The Bruce Street School in operation (above) and what's left of the schoolhouse today (below)



About the Arabia Alliance

The Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance is dedicated to protecting, connecting and sharing the unique history, rich culture and engaging landscapes of the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area (AMNHA) for the benefit and enjoyment of all. The staff and volunteer board of the Arabia Alliance work with partners across AMNHA to ensure that everyone can benefit from the cultural and natural resources of the National Heritage Area. For more information, visit www.arabiaalliance.org.