

# Crosby-Garfield Building Damage



## Learning Together Recovery Update Week Three

Dear Friends,

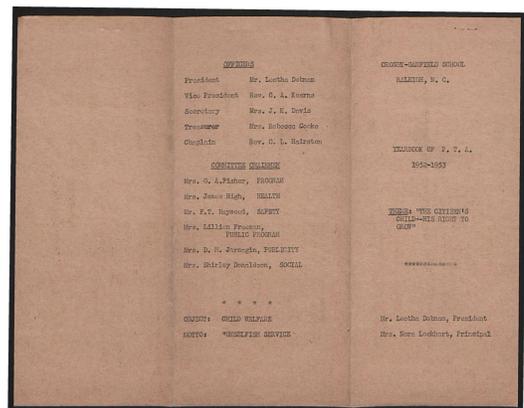
As we work to recover from the impacts of losing access to our space due to the recent damage to the Crosby-Garfield Building, we wanted to take some time to reflect on the importance of the building we've called home since 1988. The Crosby-Garfield Building is historically significant and has served the Southeast Raleigh community in many forms for over 100 years.

Since its beginnings as a segregated school for African American children in 1878 to its current multiple uses, the Crosby-Garfield building has stood watch over the changing culture of Raleigh. It has remained an anchor in the ever-changing landscape of Southeast Raleigh, adapting to meet the needs of its citizens.

The Crosby-Garfield building has recently been home to Head Start, Learning Together, and Wake County's Social & Economic Vitality (SEV) program, each program providing a much-needed service to the community. Over 100 children attended Head Start classes, a federal program that provides early childhood education for families in poverty; and over 70 children attended Learning Together's super-inclusive early childhood program. Through the Crosby Advocacy Group, SEV provided regular opportunities for residents and partners to exchange information about critical community concerns and work together to address challenges through shared resources and solutions.



The Garfield School (left) and The Crosby School (right), circa 1912.



Yearbook of the P.T.A. Crosby-Garfield School, 1953.

## A history of the Crosby-Garfield Building:

- 1878 – The East Raleigh School, a segregated school for African American students, opens on Davie Street
- 1881 – The East Raleigh School moves to Swain Street and is renamed the Garfield School
- 1897 - The Crosby School, named for its benefactor, Henry C. Crosby, an African American educator associated with Shaw University, opens in the former residence of Governor Jonathan Woth on Lenoir Street
- 1910 – The Garfield School is sold and a new building is erected adjacent to the Crosby School.
- 1920 – The Garfield School and The Crosby School are consolidated into the Crosby-Garfield School.
- 1935 - Fire damages the Garfield building and the Crosby building is demolished.\*
- 1939 – The new modern Crosby-Garfield Building, planned by noted Raleigh architect William Henley Deitrick as part of a publicly funded ensemble for Black citizens (along with Chavis Park and Chavis Heights), is built. The Raleigh Times of December 31, 1938, lauded its design as “the most modern and up-to-date elementary school in North Carolina.”
- 1988 – Learning Together moves into the Crosby-Garfield Building
- 2018 – Wake County opens Social and Economic Vitality offices in Crosby-Garfield Building

\*Between 1935 and 1939 when the new building is being constructed, students attended Hunter Elementary School on Davie Street. Lucille Hunter, the school’s namesake, was a North Carolina educator whose parents were previously enslaved. At the time of her death in 1926 she was teaching at the Crosby-Garfield School

[View a few Crosby-Garfield Building historic documents](#)

This simple, non-descript building in Southeast Raleigh has transformed a multitude of lives throughout its history. We hope it recovers from the events of June 26th and continues to house the diverse programs that support the Southeast Raleigh community.

With gratitude,

**Learning Together**

**Learning Together is facing significant financial impacts from losing access to our main campus due to the recent [damage to the Crosby-Garfield Building](#). We are maintaining staff pay and benefits at full time while at the same time receiving reduced tuition fees from families. Financial donations will make the most impact in our recovery at this time. If you can, please make a donation today.**

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**Learning Together**

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