

## Sarasota African American Cultural Coalition



### Renovation of the Historic Leonard Reid House

The Sarasota African American Cultural Coalition (SAACC) is an organization dedicated to preserve, celebrate, and share the cultural, artistic, and historical heritage of African Americans in Sarasota and beyond. Consistent with this mission, they are committed to the renovation of the Leonard Reid House. This historically significant house was recently relocated to city-owned property in the Newtown community, to be the centerpiece of Sarasota's first free standing African American arts, cultural, and history center.

The Reid House, built in 1926, was home to the founder of Payne Chapel AME Church, Sarasota's second Black church. Reid was a highly respected leader in the early African American community, with his daughters instrumental in educating generations of Newtown children. The Renovation of the Historic Leonard Reid House Initiative has a projected total cost of \$511,500. The Impact100 SRQ funds of \$110,500 will cover architectural services, the security system, fire alarm, window restoration, interior renovations, roof and chimney repairs, lighting, and painting. The City of Sarasota leases the home to SAACC and has committed \$400,000 toward other renovations including air conditioning, entryway restoration, ADA compliant ramps, and parking facilities. When renovations on the house are completed, the 1400 square feet building will provide a venue for discussions about the arts, culture, history and entrepreneurship.

In addition to being a cultural center, the house will serve as a leadership and mentoring academy. The facility will add vibrancy and richness to a community whose history was almost forgotten. Residents and visitors will enjoy programs and performances. The building's projected uses include permanent and temporary exhibitions, a small library, outdoor festivals and special events, and trolley tours which visit 15 historic markers in the Newtown area. Seen by SAACC as the flagship historical piece of a 2-phase plan, the Reid House will eventually be accompanied by a second building to serve as the main museum.

A fundraising team and development staff will develop and execute a plan for sustainability. The plan will include a process for securing major gifts, grants, corporate and individual donations, naming opportunities, and earned income from outdoor special events, exhibits, tours, educational events, and community sponsored activities that require organizations to lease the space.

There is a need for a facility that houses permanent and temporary exhibitions about Black life and history, performance space, classrooms for demonstrations and workshops. The Reid House will welcome audiences of all ages to explore the beauty of diversity.