



ATHENS AREA BLACK HISTORY BOWL

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May 15, 2018

Heather Benham
Executive Director
Athens Land Trust
685 North Pope Street
Athens, GA 30601

Dear Ms. Benham,

The Athens Area Black History Committee endorses the Athens Land Trust's West Broad Rising initiative, which calls for renovation of the site's buildings and continuance of the Community Garden. We support the proposal's entrepreneurial emphasis and its strong vision for cultural and educational opportunities for youth and adults in the community. We also support the renovated facilities being readily available for community meetings and activities, and affordable to deserving grassroots partners who might wish to be housed at the location.

Dating back to the early 1890s, the West Broad campus represents an especially important part of the local African American community rich educational legacy. Our Committee, along with the Athens High Industrial School/Burney-Harris High School Heritage Committee, looks forward to assuming the lead role in developing a proper representation and display of that legacy at the site. We look forward to working with the Clarke County School District and the Athens Land Trust as this project moves forward.

Sincerely,

Fred O. Smith, Sr.
Committee Co-Chair