

# L. C. Anderson High School Marker Dedication Ceremony

*L. C. Anderson "Yellow Jacket" Heritage. . . Always Remembered, Always Treasured*



Saturday, July 17, 2021

Program begins at 10:00 am



## **Original L.C. Anderson Alumni Association (OLCAAA)**

Greetings:

As President of the Original L.C. Anderson Alumni Association (OLCAAA) I would like to welcome you to this historic event. We are gathered here today to unveil a State Historical Marker on the site of the last location of Austin's high school for African American students during the time of school segregation. The placement of this marker will serve as a reminder for us, and for future generations of the many contributions made by graduates of Anderson High School.

Although the school was closed in 1971, former classes continued to come together for reunions; and, from these beginnings in 1991 the OLCAAA was formed, resulting in several local alumni chapters being established in Texas and in other states. Through reunions, banquets, picnics and other activities, we strive to keep the memory of our school alive. Individual Classes, Chapters and the National Association continue to support Anderson's legacy of excellence by awarding scholarships to deserving students.

Today, we also celebrate the "rebirth" of this site with another school, Eastside Early College High School. We know that Eastside will educate and prepare its students to be successful in this ever changing world, just as Anderson did many years ago. This building will also house the "The Yellow Jacket Conference Center," a space dedicated to telling the story of what was, while helping to prepare students for what will be.

Those of us who attended Anderson will forever hold in our hearts fond memories of time spent there. On behalf of the entire OLCAAA, I wish to thank all those who provided their time, talent and resources to make this State Historical Marker possible.

Sincerely,

*L.M. Rivers, Jr.*

L.M. Rivers, Jr.

President, Original L.C. Anderson Alumni Association

**P.O. BOX 14162...AUSTIN, TEXAS 78761-4162**



# City of Austin

**Steve Adler, Mayor**

301 W. 2nd St., Austin, TX 78701  
(512) 978-2100, Fax (512) 978-2120  
[steve.adler@austintexas.gov](mailto:steve.adler@austintexas.gov)

To the Alumni of the Original L.C. Anderson High School:

Today, we celebrate the strong spirit of the Yellow Jackets and the commemoration of an important piece of Black History in Austin. In the 50 years since LC Anderson closed its doors in 1971, its graduates have helped make our city the warmly accepting place it is today. The strong community presence of LC Anderson alumni has allowed the school's community to remain intertwined with Austin on the whole.

This ceremony marks a rebirth of the LC Anderson campus, a historic Austin site that served as the only public high school for African American students during the era of segregation. The school acted as a hub of inspiration and leadership for Black students and their families.

The placement of a historical marker at LC Anderson High School is a time to remember the incredible impact this school and its alumni have had on our community and to honor the vital role LC Anderson played in shaping Black History in Austin. I am proud to know that the Yellow Jacket spirit is felt far and wide in our city.

Sincerely,

Steve Adler  
Mayor



# Austin Independent School District

Office of Superintendent



Dear L.C. Anderson High School Alumni,

The original L.C. Anderson High School was a historical and memorable campus. The school may have closed 50 years ago, but its legacy binds us together to this day.

Now, 50 years after the school's closing, we're celebrating the unveiling of the historical marker commemorating the school and its legacy. This marker will serve to educate and inspire future students, families, and our Eastside community, where the memory of L.C. Anderson will continue to impact generations to come.

And L.C. Anderson's name will live on, not only because of this historical marker but also because of Eastside Early College High School's new location at the original site, which will feature recreations of the original structure of the school and a dedicated space and gallery.

Austin ISD will continue to tell the story of L.C. Anderson and its amazing teachers, staff and students, many of whom have gone on to have an impact on their community.

Thank you to all the alumni and community members who have helped preserve the school's memory throughout the years. Because of you, this historical marker will help tell this school's story.

Stephanie S. Elizalde, Ed.D.  
Superintendent



# AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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*Superintendent*

June 18, 2021

The Original L. C. Anderson High School Alumni  
c/o Thelma S. Williams  
Corresponding Secretary  
NOLCAAA Executive Committee

Dear Original L. C. Anderson High School Alumni:

Congratulations on the unveiling of the historical marker commemorating the last location of Austin's only Black public high school. We appreciate and value your advocacy to ensure L.C. Anderson High School is remembered for generations.

It is truly a time to reflect and recommit to our Austin ISD mission to prepare every student with the knowledge and skills to thrive in college, career, and life.

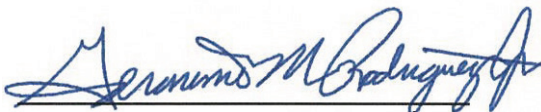
Part of the knowledge is to recognize the racist and discriminatory actions taken by the Austin ISD system to ensure the power structures were maintained that disproportionately affected Black and Hispanic children across our city.

The Original L. C. Anderson High School was opened near the turn of the century in Austin, and was closed by the school board in 1971 following a federal district court ruling for desegregation. This year marks the 50th year of the closing of the school. This is not a celebratory event but a time of remembrance for the students, alumni, and community.

Today, we recognize the dignity and respect for each of you and for every Austin ISD student we have and will serve. In the 2021–22 school year, the property will reopen as the Eastside Early College High School at the L.C. Anderson Campus, dedicated to the community and the students who came before to reach their fullest academic potential.

Thank you again for your efforts in ensuring we remember our history. Austin ISD joins you in raising your voices so this legacy will be honored.

With gratitude,



Geronimo M. Rodriguez, Jr.  
President, AISD Board of Trustees

## Program

**Mistress of Ceremony ---Jo Ann Foster Lewis, Class of 1968**

***L. C. Anderson “Yellow Jacket” Heritage. . . Always Remembered, Always Treasured***

Welcome.....	John Mays, Class of 1968
Prayer.....	Rev. Dr. Jimmy Hunter, Class of 1970
Occasion .....	Alexander Porter, Class of 1950
Introduction of Guests.....	Estelle Solomon Brooks, Class of 1958
Remarks .....	Congressman Lloyd Doggett, TX-35
Reflections: Austin ISD .....	Dr. Stephanie Elizalde, Superintendent of Schools, AISD
	Latisha Anderson, Trustee, District 1, AISD
Class of 1952.....	Johnnie Coleman Overton
Class of 1954.....	Johnnie Rucker Van Dyke
Class of 1971.....	Rev. Ambres Kearney
Classes after Closure.....	Stella Wilson Roland
Musical Selection.....	“A Change is Gonna Come” ..... James Robinson
2021 OLCAAA, Austin Chapter “Yellow Jacket” Legacy Scholarship.....	Jo Ann Foster Lewis, Class of 1968
Musical Selection.....	“Greatest Love of All” ..... James Robinson
Legacy Program .....	Dr. Anthony Mays, Chief of Schools, AISD
History of Marker .....	Barbara Spears-Corbett, Class of 1970
Unveiling.....	Thelma Spruell Williams, Class of 1969
	Eugenia Conley Gaines, Class of 1957
Recognition .....	Barbara Spears-Corbett, Class of 1970
	Rebekah Dobrasko, Preservation Austin
	Matias Segura, Chief of Operations, Austin ISD
Remarks .....	L. M. Rivers, Class of 1969
	OLCAAA President
School Song .....	Dr. Beulah Agnes C. Jones, Class of 1949
Evening Prayer .....	OLCAAA Ensemble
	Edith Davis McKinney, Class of 1954
	Roslyn Martin-Sessum, Class of 1957
	Eleanor Davis Thompson, Class of 1961



The background image shows a school campus. In the foreground, two young men are walking on a paved path. One is wearing a black shirt and pants, the other a white and blue jacket and dark pants. In the background, there is a large brick building, several trees with green and yellowing leaves, and a group of students sitting on a low wall. An American flag is visible on a pole in the upper right.

## Marker Inscription

### L C ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL AND INTEGRATION OF AUSTIN'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**TO ACCOMMODATE AN INCREASING AFRICAN AMERICAN POPULATION, THE AUSTIN PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (AISD) BUILT E.H. ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL IN 1909, RENAMING IT L.C. ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL IN 1938. THE SAME YEAR, THE AUSTIN CITY PLAN RESTRICTED CONSTRUCTION OF FUTURE AFRICAN AMERICAN SCHOOLS TO THE SEGREGATED NEIGHBORHOOD EAST OF EAST AVENUE. POST-WAR POPULATION GROWTH AND THE NEED TO IMPROVE ITS "SEPARATE BUT EQUAL" FACILITIES LED AISD IN 1953 TO BUILD A LARGER, MORE MODERN BUILDING FOR ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL. L.C. ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL BECAME A SOCIAL CENTER FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY, HOSTING ATHLETICS, PLAYS, CONCERTS, AND GRADUATIONS, AND DESPITE ITS DISADVANTAGES THE STUDENTS EXCELLED IN ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS, AND MUSIC.**

**IN 1955, THE U.S. SUPREME COURT'S SECOND BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION DECISION ORDERED SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE TO DESEGREGATE "WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED." AUSTIN IMPLEMENTED A "FREEDOM OF CHOICE" PROGRAM, ALLOWING STUDENTS TO CHOOSE WHERE THEY ATTENDED SCHOOL, BUT IN 1968, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE DECLARED AISD NONCOMPLIANT WITH THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964. IN 1969, AISD ATTEMPTED TO INTEGRATE ANDERSON, BUT ONLY 17 WHITE STUDENTS ENROLLED. IN 1971, WHEN A U.S. DISTRICT COURT REDREW ATTENDANCE BOUNDARIES, ONLY 40 WHITE STUDENTS ATTENDED – MANY WHITE PARENTS WOULD NOT ALLOW THEIR CHILDREN TO ATTEND ANDERSON. IN 1971, AISD, WITH THE COURT'S APPROVAL, CLOSED ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL AND ORDERED THE BUSING OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS TO PREDOMINANTLY WHITE HIGH SCHOOLS WITHIN THE DISTRICT. THE CLOSURE OF L.C. ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL AT THIS LOCATION, AUSTIN'S ONLY BLACK PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL, FELT LIKE A DEATH, DIMINISHING THE COHESIVENESS WHICH MADE THE HISTORIC L.C. ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL SUCH A FOCAL POINT FOR THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY.**





**SHERYL COLE**  
*State Representative • District 46*

June 24, 2021

Dear Original L. C. Anderson High School Alumni and Executive Committee,

I write to you today to celebrate the unveiling of this new historical marker to commemorate the location of the Old L.C. Anderson High School on the 50th anniversary of the closure of the school. For over 80 years, from 1889 to 1971, L.C. Anderson thrived as the premier school on Austin's East Side. In 1971, the school was ordered closed by a federal judge as part of desegregation, and a new, integrated L. C. Anderson High School was opened in 1973 at the current site in Northwest Austin.

The Original L.C. Anderson High School had an eighty-two year history of excellence in academics, fine arts, college and career preparation and athletics. On behalf of my office and the State of Texas, I congratulate the Original L.C. Anderson High School Alumni, and I am honored to be asked to commemorate this historic anniversary and celebrate the Rebirth of this campus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheryl Cole".

Sheryl Cole

State Representative, House District 46

**JEFFREY W. TRAVILLION SR.**

COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

Office: 512-854-9111

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700 Lavaca St. Ste 2.200

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1748

Austin, Texas 78767



July 17, 2021

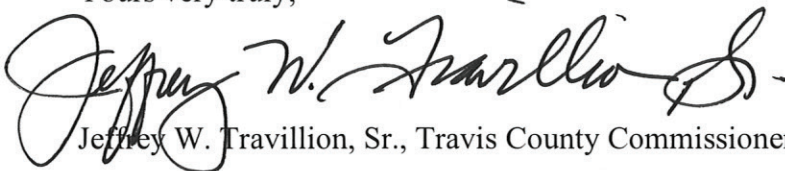
Dear Original L.C. Anderson High School Alumni:

I am honored to extend greetings to the Alumni of the Original L.C. Anderson High School as they and the East Austin community gather to celebrate the unveiling of the Historical Marker being placed at the site of this historic and truly remarkable educational institution. An institution that is now and will continue to be an integral part of Austin and Texas history.

As Austin's only Black public high school, the Original L.C. Anderson High School served as the literal center and lifeblood of East Austin for many years and was one of its most important institutions in this community. Austin and Black Austinites, in particular, should never forget the great academic achievements, powerful athletic teams, the fantastic marching bands and majorettes, the phenomenal educators, and the wonderful student body that made the "Yellow Jackets" a source of great pride in Austin, Travis County, and the State of Texas.

The placing of this historical marker will provide a time for reflection on great memories, friendships, accomplishments, and the lives and community forever enhanced by the Original L.C. Anderson High School. Let us also recognize that the influence and impact of the Original L.C. Anderson High School will go on and that its place in history will never be forgotten. Congratulations again on the unveiling of this historical marker!

Yours very truly,



Jeffrey W. Travillion, Sr., Travis County Commissioner, Precinct 1



# City of Austin

Natasha Harper-Madison, Council Member  
District 1

301 W. Second St., Austin, TX 78701

512-978-2101 ■ Fax 512-978-2111

[natasha.madison@austintexas.gov](mailto:natasha.madison@austintexas.gov)

June 6, 2021

Dear Alumni of the Original L.C. Anderson High School,

The history of Black Austin is the history of Austin, and I write to you today to join you in your celebration of a permanent memorial marking the location of a vital piece of Black Austin's history.

The Original L.C. Anderson High School served as our city's only public high school for African American students throughout the era of segregation. Despite this time of explicit discrimination, this school and its campus served as an invaluable incubator of community spirit and leadership. Its graduates sustained that spirit along every step of their individual journeys and in all their continued contributions to the history of Austin and any other community they moved to. Half a century after the campus' closure, that Yellow Jacket spirit remains as strong as ever and will be on full display during the celebration of this new historical marker. And although the occasion commemorates the history of the Original L.C. Anderson High, it also honors the rebirth of academic excellence on these hallowed grounds. The spirit of the Original L.C. Anderson High School will augment the new Eastside Memorial Early College High School and International High School with a profound aura of brilliance, distinction, and success. 50 years later, Yellow Jacket pride still burns bright as a beacon in the both the history and the future of Austin.

Sincerely,

Mayor Pro-Tem Natasha Harper-Madison  
Austin City Council, District 1



**2021 OLCAAA, Austin Chapter "Yellow Jacket" Legacy Scholarship Recipients**

**Gabbie Black**

**Kari Brown**

**Chandler Crayton**

**Antonija Denise Greathouse**

**Cailinn Hilliard**

**Kameron Kincheon**

**Brooke Thompson**

**Rodrick Christopher Williams, Jr.**

**Four Scholarships for \$1,000.00 each given by Scholarship Committee Members:**

**Jeffrey Archer, Class of 1950  
In Memory of My Parents  
Mr. and Mrs. Otha B. Warren, Sr.**

**Jo Ann Foster Lewis, Class of 1968  
In Loving Memory of My Parents  
Kelly M. Foster, Sr., Class of 1939 and Thelma L. Scales Foster, Class of 1942**

**John D. Mays, Class of 1968 & Siblings  
In Memory of Our Parents  
Mitchell and Annie Marie Mays**

**Barbara Foster Wilson, Class of 1961  
In Loving Memory of My Parents  
Kelly M. Foster, Sr., Class of 1939 and Thelma L. Scales Foster, Class of 1942**

**Four Scholarships for \$1,000.00 each given by:  
The Original L. C. Anderson Alumni Association, Austin Chapter**

## School Song

Well here we are just to boost her,  
Dear old A. H. S.  
She's the greatest and the grandest,  
And her sons and daughters are the trues  
There's no other that can match her  
She just beats them all,  
Then give three cheers for her,  
Our dear old school,  
Rah! Rah! Rah!

### Chorus

O dear old A. H. S. we love you,  
Love you yes, we do, do, do,  
Let our hearts sing out in exultation,  
For we know you are our inspiration,  
When the days are dark and dreary,  
We are never blue or weary,  
It's ever onward, upward, forward marching  
A. H. S.

– Virgie Carrington DeWitty

## An Evening Prayer

If I have wounded any soul today,  
If I have caused one foot to go astray,  
If I have walked in my own willful way,  
Dear Lord Forgive.

Forgive the sins I have confessed to thee,  
Forgive the secret sins I do not see,  
Oh, guide me, love me and my keeper be,  
Dear Lord Forgive.

Amen.

– C. H. Gabriel & C. M Battersby

