

ORIGINAL
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RESOLUTION NO.: R-2024-053

Approving the Honorary Naming of the community resource center located at 2611 Grant Street "Sarah Nance Community Resource Center"

WHEREAS, Sarah Ford Nance was born in Georgetown and married a lawyer, Butler Nance. She became a teacher to support her four children when her husband died in 1923. She taught in the elementary department of Booker T. Washington Heights School. When the department closed, she moved to Benedict College Training School. She served as head teacher at Ridgewood School from 1933 to 1948. In 1953 Booker T. Washington Heights was renamed Sarah Nance Elementary School. She retired from teaching after 28 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1998 the Sarah Nance Elementary School was renamed the Katheryn M. Bellfield/Booker Washington Heights Cultural Arts Center in honor of the neighborhood leader. However, citizens of Columbia continued to use the name Sarah Nance as a landmark reference. There is now a resource center connected to Katheryn M. Bellfield/Booker Washington Heights Cultural Arts Center which the Booker Washington Heights Neighborhood Organization approve naming the Sarah Nance Resource Center; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED this 16th day of July, 2024, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbia hereby approve the honorary naming of the community resource center located at 2611 Grant Street "Sarah Nance Community Resource Center".

Requested by:

Councilman Tyler D. Bailey

Approved by:


City Manager

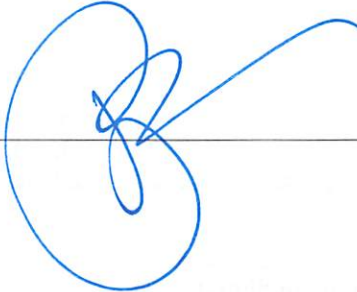
Approved as to form:


City Attorney

Introduced: 7/16/2024

Final Reading: 7/16/2024

Mayor



ATTEST:


City Clerk

APPLICATION



HONORARY STREET/FACILITY, ROOM AND SITE NAMING

Please see submission checklist for materials necessary for application.
SUBMISSION MATERIALS MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION.
Application form and materials are **DUE AT 4:00 p.m.** thirty (30) days prior to ceremony.

- Is the designation:
- Honorary Street Naming
(topper will be posted above standard city street signs)
 - Facility Naming (a marker of plaque will be posted inside and outside of facility)
 - Room Naming (a marker or plaque will be posted outside of room).
 - Site Naming

- Checklist:
- Application
 - Council Members (District and one At-Large Sponsor)
 - 3 Letter(s) of Support
 - 1) One letter expressing Community support
 - 2) One letter expressing Neighborhood/Neighborhood Association or Merchant Association support
 - 3) One letter expressing Councilmembers' support
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Applicant Signature*
Buddy Davis
Print Name
803-545-3085
Phone Number

E-mail Address
1111 Recreation Drive
Mailing Address
8/28/24
Date

Check and initial acknowledging application requirements.

- AD Signage wording cannot exceed twenty-six characters.
- AD Any changes to initial request must be made in writing no more than 30 days prior to ceremony.
- AD Signage wording and resolution must be finalized 30 days prior to ceremony.
- AD Applicant must provide letter(s) of support as outlined in the above checklist.

APPLICATION



HONORARY STREET/FACILITY, ROOM AND SITE NAMING

1. Name of individual or organization to be honored:

SARAH NANCE

2. Name of street, facility, room or site of proposed designation: Please list the intersecting streets and block numbers for honorary street naming's. No more than two signs are permitted per honorary street naming designation.

2811 Grant Street

Name of Facility

SARAH NANCE Community Resource Center

3. Attach sheet describing the significant contribution(s) this individual or organization has made in the community (no more than one page):

4. Location, date and time of unveiling ceremony if approved:

November 2024

5. District Council Member Sponsor:

Name: Tyler Brazley At-Large Council Member Sponsor:

Name: Ed McDowell

FOR STAFF USE:

Council Member Sponsor(s): Approved Rejected

Public Works: Approved Rejected

Parks and Recreation: Approved Rejected

Support Services: Approved Rejected

Public Safety: Approved Rejected

City Council Approval Date: July 16, 2024



We Stand on the Positive Side of Change

3516 Randolph Street

Columbia SC 29203

(803) 447.3766

bookerwashingtonheights2015@gmail.com

June 23, 2024

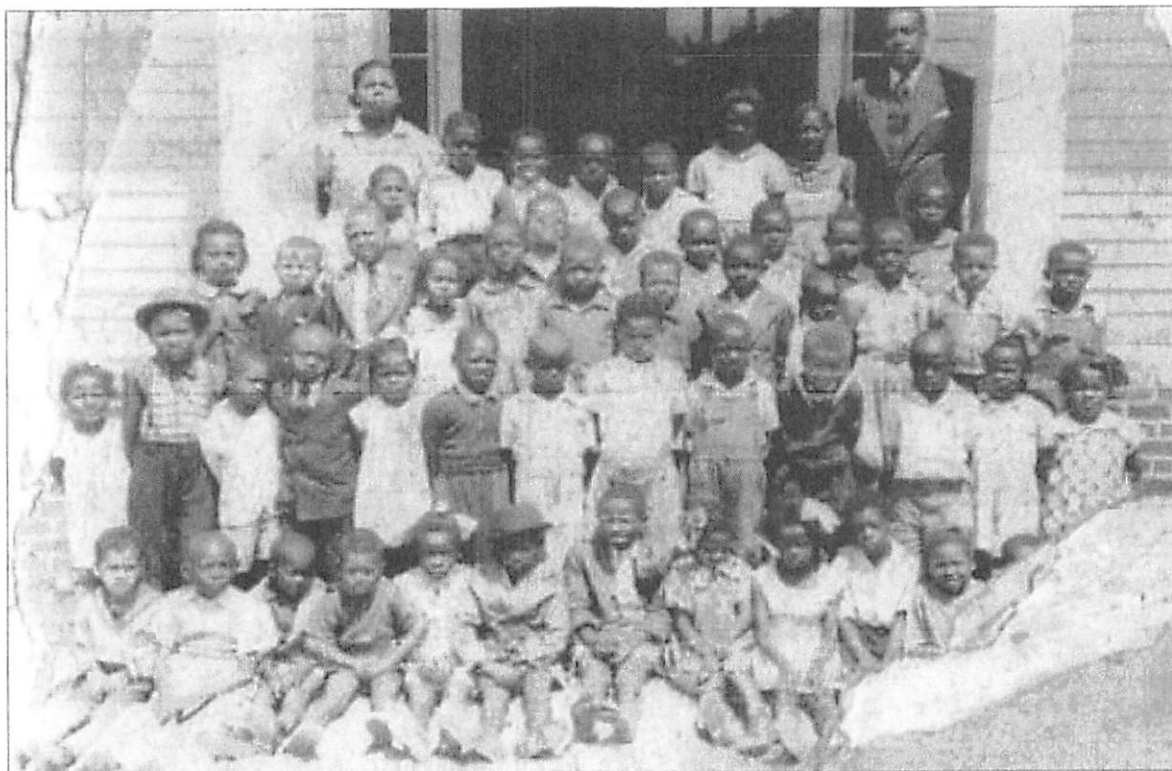
To Whom It May Concern:

From 1953 to 1998 the Katheryn M. Bellfield/Booker Washington Heights Cultural Arts Center was known as the *Sarah Nance Elementary School*. After the name was changed in honor of the neighborhood leader, Mrs. Katheryn M. Bellfield, people across the city still use the name *Sarah Nance* as a landmark reference.

We, the Booker Washington Heights Neighborhood Organization, approve the naming of the *Sarah Nance Resource Center*, which is attached to the Cultural Arts Center so that the building will continue to be a landmark in the Booker Washington Heights Community.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina E. Williams, President
Booker Washington Heights Neighborhood Organization



Booker T. Washington Heights School, c. 1938

Dr. Alphonzo Counts who retired from Richland One as principal of Burton Elementary School in 2000 is in the front row, second from the left. Doris Jumper is on the first row, eighth from the left. David Means is on the second row, eighth from the left. Principal W.H. Burton is standing in the back.

In 1953, the school was renamed for Sarah Ford Nance, an outstanding teacher. She had been born in Georgetown and married a lawyer, Butler Nance. She became a teacher to support her four children when her husband died in 1923. She taught in the elementary department of Booker T. Washington High School. When the department closed, she moved to Benedict College Training School. She served as head teacher at Ridgewood School from 1933 to 1948. All of her children went to college and her daughters became teachers. Nance retired after teaching 28 years.

An addition of eight classrooms by Urquhart Associates was completed in 1954. A lower level was added in 1956.

John R. Stevenson was named principal of Sarah Nance and Farrow Road in 1964. He served until 1967 including a leave of absence to complete his doctoral work at Teachers' College, Columbia University. Stevenson's faculty included Emma Sessions (head teacher), Barbara Weston, Henrietta Marshall, Mattise Taylor, Bertha W. Stewart, Thelma O'Neal, Joye Marie Pindar, Harry Adams, Viola Richardson, Mary Williams, Naomi Dreher, Crawford Cornelius, Bobby Young, Bessie Williams, Priscilla Kershaw, Jostino Coaxum, Marian Counts, Marie Johnson, Carolyn Brown, and Mr. Jacobs. Mr. Switzer was the head custodian. Lillie M. Garrett was the cafeteria manager.

Kenneth R. Law served as principal from 1967 to 1974 when Celia Phelps Martin became principal. Martin began her career teaching English and French at Perrin-Thomas Elementary School in 1952. She was made head teacher at Perrin-Thomas in 1964 and principal in 1965. In 1971, she became Waverly's principal then moved to Sarah Nance in 1974. She retired in 1982.

Since 1982, the principals have been

Sarah Nance Elementary School



Booker Washington Heights School, 1936



William H. Burton
Principal c.1936-1964

Sarah Nance Elementary School began life in 1904 as a one-room, one-teacher county school at the corner of Beaumont and Douglas Streets. It was originally named for Booker T. Washington, and Mr. Blocker was the first teacher.

The school was replaced by a new school named Booker Washington Heights School in 1926. The laying of the cornerstone was held on September 12, 1926, at 3:30 pm. Invocation was by Rev. E.A. Adams, pastor of Bethel AME Church. Rev. H.W. Long, pastor of First Calvary Church, introduced the speaker, Rev. C.H. Brown, pastor of Second Calvary Baptist Church.

Mrs. Corrie Brewster sang a solo. The cornerstone was laid by Bee Hive Lodge, Knights of Pythias, assisted by the Knights of Columbus. Master of Ceremonies was Rev. L.C. Jenkins, pastor of St. John Baptist Church. Mrs. M.E. Dunmore was the principal.

Booker Washington Heights School came into the Columbia City Schools system in 1928 and was moved to seven acres at 2611 Grant Street. Dunmore continued as principal of the school and her annual salary was \$800. She was followed by Mr. Cochran.

In 1936, there were 278 students in grades 1-6, one teacher for each grade. W.H. Burton was the principal and Emma Sessions, the head teacher. At the close of the 1937 school year Burton was told by Superintendent A.C. Flora that Carver School was full and there was no place for his sixth grade students to go. That summer Burton and a crew of his sixth grade students including Alphonso Counts dug out the basement and built two classrooms, a cafeteria, and a workshop. When school started in September, Booker Washington Heights School included the seventh and eighth grades.

Albert Thompson taught at the school in the early 1940s. During this time, he and the NAACP Legal Council Team headed by Thurgood Marshall successfully filed a civil rights suit in the Federal Court of



John R. Stevenson
Principal 1964-1967



Kenneth R. Law
Principal 1967-1974



Columbia Police Chief Charles Austin (r) presents citation to Sarah Nance Elementary School in 1995.



This mural entitled "Heroes" was painted on Sarah Nance Elementary School by Ralph Waldrop in 1981.



Sarah Nance Elementary School, 1999

- Ginie Studstill (Riga), 1982-1983
- Dr. Eugene George, 1983-1988
- Jerry T. Hollis, 1988-1995
- Barbara Harvey, 1995-1996
- Debra Bailey, 1996-1998
- Dr. Evelyn Cohens, 1998-2001

In 2001, Sarah Nance Elementary School and Watkins Elementary School merged and moved to a new building at 2525 Barhamville Road. This school designed by Stevens & Wilkinson and built by Taylor Brothers Construction (site work) and Contract Construction (building) cost \$8.2 million. The new school was named Watkins-Nance Elementary School, and the principal was Dr. Cohens. Enrollment in 2001 was 204.