



**EXPERIENCE
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FOUNDATION**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2026

Tuskegee Airmen Mural to Be Unveiled in Rantoul

Rantoul, IL — The Champaign County African American Heritage Trail and the Experience Champaign-Urbana Foundation will unveil a new mural honoring the Tuskegee Airmen on Monday, August 31, at 2:00 p.m. at 707 Veterans Parkway in Rantoul. Community members, supporters, and media are invited to attend.

Created by multidisciplinary artist Dwight White II, the mural pays tribute to the service, courage, excellence, and sacrifice of the Tuskegee Airmen while recognizing Rantoul's meaningful place in their story through the former Chanute Field.

White brings this history into the present through a contemporary visual language shaped by memory, identity, and place. The work is intended to speak to public storytelling as much as public art, creating an accessible place where residents and visitors can encounter an important chapter of local and national history.

As the mural took shape, community members frequently stopped to watch, ask questions, and share their own stories. White sees that exchange as central to the purpose and power of public art: bringing people together, inspiring conversation, and connecting the past with the present.

The unveiling will include the official presentation of the mural, with remarks from representatives of the Champaign County African American Heritage Trail, invited elected officials, and members of the community.

The project carries particular significance as part of the celebration of America's 250th anniversary. It offers an opportunity to honor African Americans whose contributions remain essential to the nation's story while preserving Rantoul's connection to the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen for future generations.

The mural was made possible through grant support from the Illinois Arts Council. The project partners also extend their sincere appreciation to Sherwin-Williams, United Rentals, The H.O.Y.C.E. Center, 718 Real Estate, Tuskegee Airmen Mural Project Committee, Cargo Plumbing, the Village of Rantoul, Oesfreelancing Graphic Design, and family members of Tuskegee Airmen for helping bring the mural to life.

The completed work stands as more than a tribute. It is a place where future generations can discover this history, ask their own questions, and better understand what happened in Rantoul. As The H.O.Y.C.E. Center's Jennea Klingenberg has emphasized, the vision reaches beyond a single artwork to education and the ongoing work of telling this story for the community.

About the Experience Champaign-Urbana Foundation

This 501(c)(3) organization fuels destination growth through film, talent, and events. The Foundation invests in projects such as the Champaign County African American Heritage Trail to amplify culture, spark economic growth, and build a vibrant, inclusive region. For more information, visit <https://experiencecu.org/foundation>.

About the Champaign County African American Heritage Trail

The Champaign County African American Heritage Trail celebrates the lives and contributions of African Americans in the Champaign County area. Its mission is to educate today's residents and visitors about the rich cultural history of a people whose stories have been largely unrecognized, but who directly shaped the place we call home. For more information, visit <https://www.ccafricanamericanheritage.org/>.