



Marfa Schools  
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Congressman Will Hurd

317 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

July 20, 2020

Dear Congressman Hurd:

The Board of Trustees for Marfa Independent School District writes today in support of designating the Blackwell School as a National Historic Site. We feel compelled to add our voice to the calls of support because the history of the Blackwell School is deeply entwined with the Marfa school district, and we are the current owners of the property in question.

After many years of disuse and neglect of the original 1909 schoolhouse and the adjacent 1931 classroom, Marfa ISD entered into a 99-year lease with the Blackwell School Alliance to allow the Alliance full control of the buildings and half-lot on which they stand for the purposes of restoration, preservation, and education about what the Blackwell School was. We did so then, and we stand by the decision today, with full knowledge of the complex, conflicting, and often painful history associated with the Blackwell School.

In addition to its importance in our local history, the Blackwell School's spectrum of experiences of students and teachers—contained in extensive written and oral archives—constitutes an important record of life in a segregated school in the context of the history of Texas and America. The Blackwell School is closely associated with the broad patterns of our local, state, and national history in the area of school segregation. Mexicans and other members of the Latin American diaspora have placed a high value upon education as a means of economic, political, social maintenance, and upward mobility. Equitable opportunities and access to quality educational facilities have posed a formidable challenge to Hispanics and Latinos throughout U.S. history.

So as you see, although the Blackwell School is very personal to our community, it really is a portal to a much bigger story that needs to be understood and conversation that needs to take place. We fully support this endeavor.

Oscar N. Aguero

Superintendent