The dream of an African American Historical and Cultural Museum originated in 1997 with the goal to preserve African American History and Culture in Black Hawk County, to increase awareness and recognize African American contributions, and to foster and promote African American artists. The African American Historical and Cultural Museum will increase awareness of African-American contributions to life in Black Hawk County. History and culture confirm a sense of belonging and African American youth especially deserve to be re-connected to their history and culture and therefore will create a better future.

The Museum will be promoting a greater knowledge of the African-American community of Black Hawk County through collections, preservations and interpretation of the historical past. Besides presenting the history, the Museum focuses on presenting the national history of the Great Rural-Urban Migration that occurred in the United States between 1910 and 1930. No other museum in the nation examines this historic epoch exclusively.

The Museum will be a statewide and national resource center linking colleges, universities and K-12 schools in the Cedar Valley. In an effort to create a vehicle for giving to support the development of this initiative, the African American Historical and Cultural Museum Fund was established.

**Historical vignette prepared by the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa.**