

Heritage Trail Itinerary

1. Frog Fountain: The Plumes

The plumes that constitute the Race and Reconciliation Initiative logo represent the four iconic Frog Fountain plumes situated in the TCU Campus Commons, a place of gathering, reflection and connection for so many members of our frog family. Just as the fountain's "lily pads" represent the changing of a student's outlook and perspective over the passage of time as represented by the flow of water, so too is our charge in forever flowing towards the necessary concept of reconciliation.

2. Native American Marker

While the initial TCU site in Thorp Spring was located on lands which the state of Texas had seized from Comanche ownership, the current, Fort Worth campus is located on lands previously inhabited by Wichita and Affiliated tribes. This marker, installed in 2018, reads in English and Wichita "This ancient land, for all our relations," as well as a part of TCU's land acknowledgment.

3. Veterans Plaza

In 1942, as part of a contract with military organizations, the Evening College provided classes for US servicemen. Among them were several African American soldiers. TCU's relatively reluctant compliance was part of a contract with military organizations.

4. Brite Divinity School

In 1952, Brite College of the Bible (now Divinity School) was the first organization to accept African Americans on campus. Integration was limited to graduate work only. The first students were James Lee Clairborne, Daniel Godspeed, and Vada Phillips Felder. In 1959, Felder invited Martin Luther King to Fort Worth. TCU forbade him to set foot on campus, and BSD Dr. Harold Lunger, professor of Social Ethics met with him separately.

In 1962, two years before the main campus officially integrates, Brite College of the Bible extended integration to all undergraduate applicants.

5. MCB Library

Civil Rights in Black and Brown

In 2015, the MCB Library became a sponsor for the oral history project, "Civil Rights in Black and Brown." This digital humanities work offered a novel lens for examining and discussing the Civil Rights in Texas: it offered a platform where the experiences of African American, Caucasian, and Latinx were voiced by the very people who lived during this momentum. Hosted in a MCB digital database, the interviews highlight the convergence of testimonies by people of color in Texas, as well as the extent to which the Black Civil Rights and the Chicano/a movements were mutually beneficial.

Spring 2021 Exhibit

Spreading across several sites of the Library, this exhibition curated in April 2021 presented some highlights of RRI findings and illustrations of the Initiative's multidisciplinary effort toward racial reconciliation. It was the result of a joint effort between RRI, the Studio Art Department and Professor Dan Jian's Drawing class, and the MCB Library. In addition, the exhibit showcased publications from African American faculty and staff. This project also benefitted from support from the Fablab, Special Collections, Keene High School's Engineering Design class, the Hood County Genealogical Society, and the Granbury Depot who contributed knowledge, materials, and resources.

6. RRI Mural: "We Can, We Will"

This art project is a visual exploration in communication, collaboration and reconciliation. Inspired from the artist Romare Bearden, students from the School of Fine Arts (Drawing II, Spring 2021), collaborated on two large cut-out pieces as they searched and engaged with imagery motifs that speak to a positive relationship with our racial dynamic, world events, and history. The collages were then digitally reproduced and installed on the concrete block behind Clarks Brothers' statues, beside the library building. This project was supported by TCU's Race & Reconciliation Initiative and led by Prof. Dan Jian at School of Fine Arts.

Artists:

Left: Mason Rosal, Cam Arthur, John Elias, Amaris Gonzales, Caroline Madden, Dan Jian, Romane Mays, Adelynn Strong.

Right: Lauren Fleniken, Quin Frazier, Faith Glass, Micah Matherne, Katalina Watson.

7. Clarks statues

The Clark Brothers

Addison Clark was a former Confederate serviceman and Randolph Clark serviced the Confederacy through acts of volunteerism. According to Randolph Clark's *Reminiscences*, Addison enrolled reluctantly, as he believed war to be against Christianity standards of behavior. After the Civil War, Addison and Randolph originally wanted to create a public institution. However, the Ironclad Oath enactment of 1862 prevented supporters of the Confederacy from public service. The brothers thus founded AddRan College as a private university in 1874.

In 1932, Randolph wrote that he did not want to be remembered for his affiliation with the Confederacy: "I would like to have that part [...] left blank in the last reckoning."

RRI signage

In 2020, the Coalition for University Justice and Equity (CUJE) at TCU called for the removal of these statues, on the basis that they constituted a Confederate monument. Given that this artifact does not depict any Confederate insignia or any explicit reference to the Confederacy, it was determined that it would remain, but that signage would acknowledge the Clarks' involvement in the Civil War, as well as TCU's commitment to study its own past in matters of slavery, racism, and the Confederacy through the Race and Reconciliation Initiative.

8. School of Education

In 1951, the Evening College offered classes for FWISD teachers seeking to further their education. As the campus remained segregated, classes are taught at Gay Street Elementary by TCU College of Ed faculty. Lottie Hamilton and Bertice Bates obtained their Master's degrees in 1956. Degrees were conferred in absentia, because Black graduates were not allowed to walk at the graduation ceremony. Among the program graduates is also Mrs. Juanita Cash, the mother of TCU alumnus James Cash. The program was discontinued in 1956 because of low enrollment.

9. The Harrison: The Portrait Project

The Portrait Project is an initiative sponsored by The Office of the Chancellor to diversify portraiture around campus by commemorating historically marginalized and underrepresented members of the TCU community. Within this project, as we work to increase representation through artwork, we also inherently seek to discover, rediscover, and unveil untold or underrepresented parts of TCU's history. The project began with a survey that found that people of color were not depicted in any portraits across campus. From there, the initial committee found an opportunity to tell the story of three trailblazers in TCU's history, Doris Ann McBride, Allene Jones, and Patsy Brown, who were the first Black graduates of TCU. Portraits of these incredible women can be found on the first floor on of the Harrison. Currently, the project committee, made up of representatives from every college, RRI, the library, DEI, and students, is working to identify other honorees to be commemorated through portraiture. These portraits will also be showcased in the Harrison for 2 years before they are relocated to a respective college. In 2022, formerly enslaved couple Kate and Charley Thorp, whose enslavement is linked to TCU founders and initial board members, were selected to be the next honorees for portraiture.

10. Schoellmaier Arena

Dr. James Cash, Class of 1969, was the first African American athlete at TCU, and the first African American basketball player in the Southwest Conference. On November 11, 2022, Dr. James Cash became the first non-white individual to have a statue on TCU campus. Fort Worth Mayor Mattie Parker and Tarrant County Commissioner Roy Brooks also issued a formal statement on that occasion, officially declaring November 11 as Dr. James Cash Day.