

JACKSON HOUSE FOUNDATION, INCORPORATION

**THE HISTORIC JACKSON HOUSE
851 ZACK STREET
TAMPA, FL 336722-1076**

PRESS RELEASE

August 6, 2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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Over the weekend, the Jackson House Foundation, Inc. (JHF) received pictures and was informed by Board Secretary Matthews and concerned citizens that a significant portion of the east side (Nebraska Avenue) of the Historic Jackson House had partially collapsed. The notification occurred on Sunday afternoon, with numerous requests from the local media. The Jackson Rooming House, which has housed legendary Black artists and activists, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Billie Holiday, and Ella Fitzgerald, is a cornerstone of Black history in downtown Tampa. The Jackson House Board's Restoration and Rebuilding Oversight Committee, chaired by Vice Chair Scott, had scheduled an around tour of the house with the final three firms from the Request for Proposal (RFP) this week for their assessment.

While the collapse most likely occurred late on Saturday night, August 2nd, there is no doubt that this season's weather proved too demanding for the house in its current deficient state. Currently, the Jackson House Foundation has pursued emergency repairs, enlisting our very own board member, Ronnie Williams, to expedite the bracing process. Mr. Williams is the Principal Construction Manager for R.W. Tymewell and is truly knowledgeable about Jackson House, as he was the construction company that successfully shored up the house more than six years ago. We are confident that he will direct the completion of the necessary work for the house and safety in preparation for the upcoming rebuilding process.

We understand the community's concern. We look forward to your partnership as we work together to rebuild one of Tampa's most important historical landmarks. This historic house has been a cornerstone of the community and a testament to architectural heritage. Efforts are underway to preserve its historical value and ensure its future stability."

Chair Collins, on behalf of the JHF Board of Directors, gives thanks to Mayor Castor and her Administrative Team with the Accardi, the Tampa City Council, the Vinik Foundation, and all entities that supported the next steps in the progress for the Historic Jackson House.

"RESTORING HISTORY TO INSPIRE FUTURE GENERATIONS"

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