We hope that this exhibit made you at least think about our local history a bit differently and to have inspired your curiosity to learn more. As we explained at the start of this online exhibit, we are only at the beginning of the process of developing a more inclusive understanding of DeKalb County’s history. Research, conversation, and interviews are all continuing.

Please consider taking the survey. It will only take a few minutes; this information will be key in helping us better understand the variety of perspectives that are part our local story.

Programming is also planned to further explore the ideas presented in this exhibit. Please visit our website and social media for specific details. As this project was launched as part of a Healing Illinois grant, we know that one exhibit will not fix or improve some of the issues explored in Arts in Action. However, it is a first step. We cannot move forward to grow and improve until we are aware of our past and recognize that even if these events happened years ago the impact still exists in policies and relationships throughout DeKalb County.

This project was funded through a Healing Illinois Grant from the State of Illinois Department of Human Services and the DeKalb County Community Foundation in partnership with the Family Service Agency, City of DeKalb, Ellwood House Museum, DeKalb County History Center, and Northern Illinois University to help co-create a culture of belonging in our community. A full list of belonging projects can be found at cityofdekalb.com.

Upcoming Programs:

"Guided" on-line tours are available. Contact Michelle Donahoe at michelle@dekalbcountyhistory.org for details.

To be announced:

Meet the Artists - VIRTUAL panel


Stories connected to NIU's Black Oral History project.

In-person exhibit, late fall, 2021.