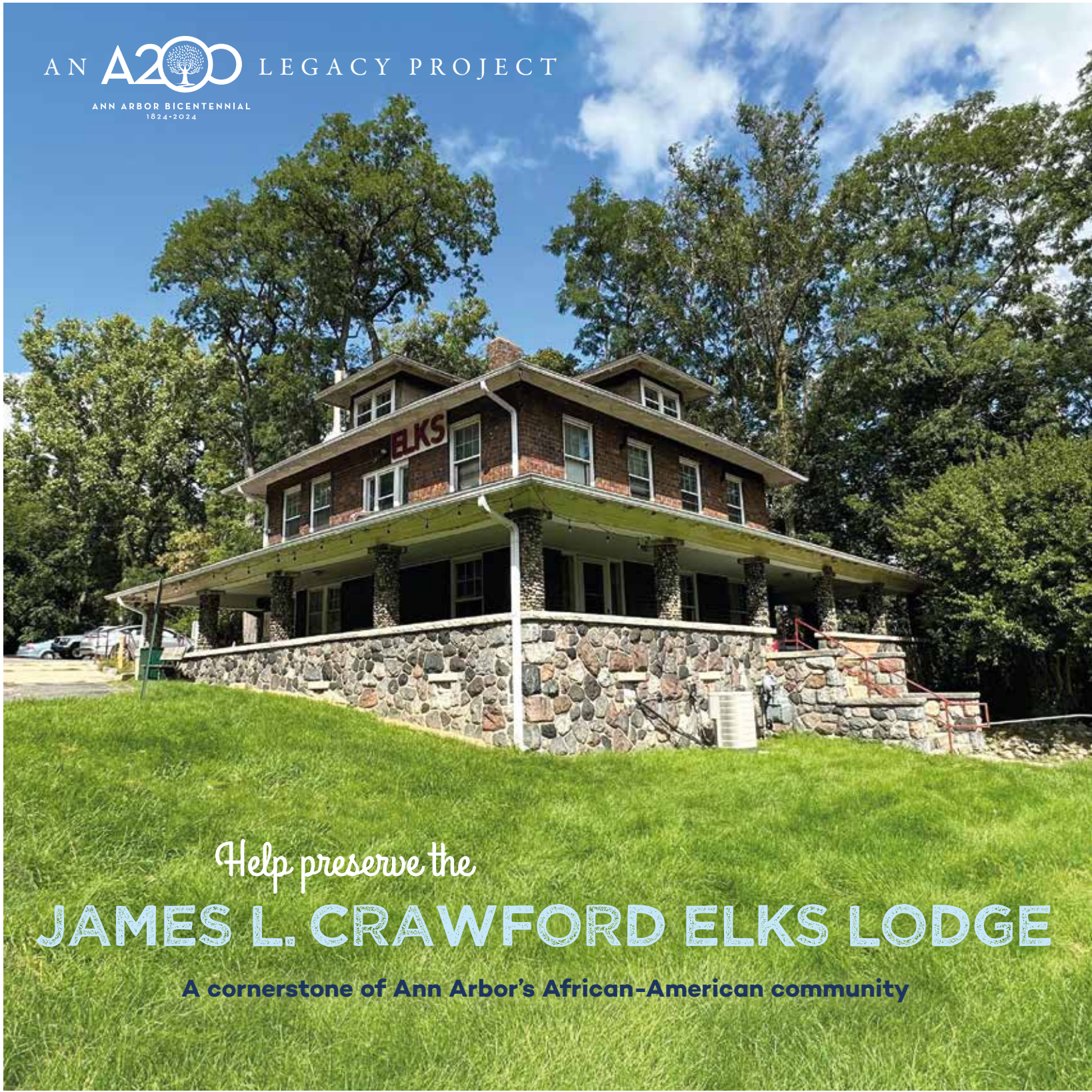


AN **A200** LEGACY PROJECT  
ANN ARBOR BICENTENNIAL  
1824-2024



*Help preserve the*  
**JAMES L. CRAWFORD ELKS LODGE**

**A cornerstone of Ann Arbor's African-American community**



# PRESERVE A PILLAR OF ANN ARBOR'S DIVERSE COMMUNITY

## Fund for the James L. Crawford Elks Lodge Building

**F**ormed in 1922 during racial segregation, the Improved and Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks of the World Lodge No. 322 has been essential to the local African-American community for more than 100 years. In tandem with its women's auxiliary group, the Daisy Chain Temple No. 212, it provides service to the community as well as a place to gather, socialize, and support one another.

With its expansive lawn and inviting front porch boasting stunning views of the Argo Dam and downtown Ann Arbor's North Main Street, the Lodge's historic building is a central home base for its members and is open and welcoming to the public. Equally important, it stands as one of the few remaining testaments to the vibrant African-American community that thrived for years on Ann Arbor's Old Westside prior to the many waves of demographic changes in our city.

**Over time and through many adverse circumstances, the Crawford Elks Lodge has persevered as a jewel in our community.** However, the aging condition of the lodge building puts its continued use in jeopardy. Your help is needed to return the building—rich with history and gorgeous architectural detail—to an accessible and sustainable condition.

## PRIORITY NEEDS

**\$150,000**

### Lower level

Bathroom renovations, painting, new windows, and improvements to social space

**\$120,000**

### Structural support

Reinforcements and improvements to foundation, framework, and covered porch

**\$60,000**

### Outdoor areas

Repairs to patio, wheelchair ramp, and outdoor cooking area

**\$25,000**

### Fencing

New fencing around perimeter to create an inviting entrance and safe barrier from road traffic

**\$15,000**

### Landscaping

Preservation and upkeep of the grounds including maintenance of the parking lot

**Any \$ amount appreciated**

Support for general programming and future renovations

# HISTORY

## A chapter of the world's largest African-American fraternal organization

In the 1890s, racial segregation prohibited African-American men and women from joining most private clubs and fraternal organizations, including the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. With dreams of creating an Elks organization open to people of color, two African-American Pullman porters working the railroad lines in Cincinnati founded the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World (IBPOEW). Today, the IBPOEW has grown to 500,000+ members in over 1,500 lodges worldwide, making it the largest African-American fraternal organization in the world.

Founded in 1922 with a membership of 30, the Ann Arbor chapter is IBPOEW's oldest lodge chartered in Michigan and one of the oldest in North America. Originally named the "Elks Pratt Lodge" after early member Samuel Pratt, the Ann Arbor chapter reached a membership peak of 350+ over the decades. Its women's auxiliary, Daisy Chain Temple No. 212, was established in 1923 and remains a vibrant counterpart.

The Lodge was later renamed for member James L. Crawford, who served locally for more than 40 years as Exalted Ruler. An inspiring leader, Crawford was recognized with many awards for his achievements and long-time service, including International Elk of the Year. Under his leadership, the Lodge hosted several national IBPOEW meetings, drawing thousands to the Ann Arbor area.



### AN INVITATION FROM THE PRESIDENT

In 1963, the Elks Lodge formed the French Dukes Precision Drill Team to give teenage boys a structured and disciplined activity. The team won every state and national competition they entered. Most notably, they were invited to perform at the inaugural parade for President Richard M. Nixon, showcasing their spectacular steps before thousands of spectators.



# TODAY

## Community service, recreation, social activities and more

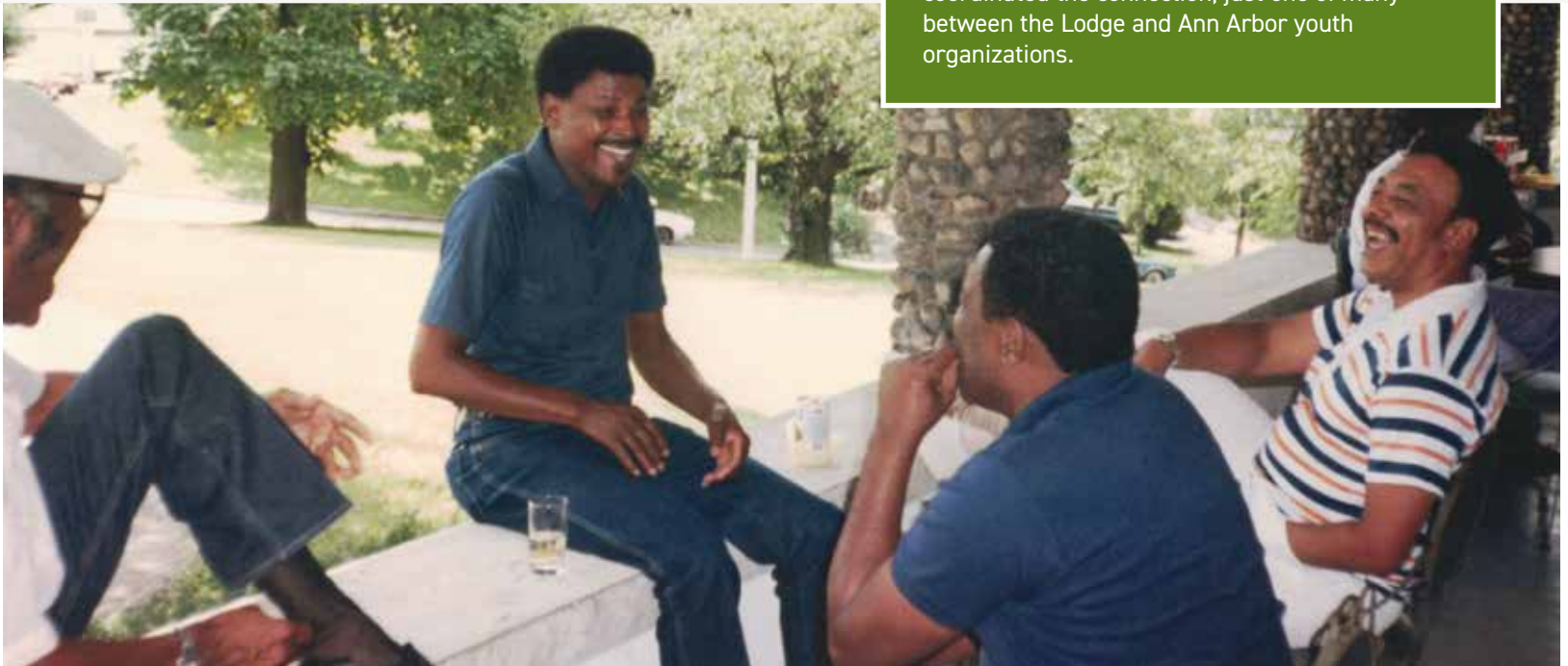
**T**hroughout changing laws, shifts in racial climate, and local demographic trends, the Lodge remains a welcoming place for African Americans and the community at large. Community service continues to be a central part of its mission and the Lodge has a history of supporting youth, families, and local people in need. Whether providing educational scholarships for students, meals and clothing for the homeless population, or sponsorships of local sports, academic, and recreational activities, the James L. Crawford Lodge has reached out a helping hand.

In addition, the James L. Crawford Lodge building hosts a variety of events for its membership and for Ann Arbor locals to gather, share meals, dance, and socialize. It's the site of meetings, fundraisers, picnics, and parades. The Lodge is also a place of comfort in challenging times. In 2022, it was named IBPOEW's Lodge of the Year, in recognition of its strength in times of adversity, after persevering through the pandemic, a fire in the building, and other challenges.



### FULL CIRCLE MOMENT

The first time Ann Arbor resident and Elks member Rolando Eccleston entered the upstairs meeting room at the James L. Crawford Elks Lodge, he was surprised to see a familiar face—his own. The '98 Pioneer High School alumnus spotted himself in a weathered black-and-white track team photo on the wall. Then a hurdler for Pioneer and the Ann Arbor Youth Track Club, Eccleston hadn't known that Elks funding enabled the team to compete in out-of-state competitions. Coach and Elks member Bryan Westfield had coordinated the connection, just one of many between the Lodge and Ann Arbor youth organizations.



# YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED

*Your donation will help repair and restore the Crawford Elks Lodge to a sustainable operating condition*

**F**or over 100 years, the Lodge has played a critical role for the African-American community in Ann Arbor. Let's ensure it thrives for years to come.

Go to [www.aaacf.org/elkslodge](http://www.aaacf.org/elkslodge) or click on the QR code below.

Contributions are tax-deductible.

## PHASE TWO

Our dream for the Lodge reaches beyond the urgent repairs and structural renovations at hand. If future fundraising allows, we envision it becoming a premiere venue and destination for the Ann Arbor community.

Scan me



**A BICENTENNIAL LEGACY PROJECT:** This fundraising effort is part of the City of Ann Arbor's bicentennial goal to invest in and improve accessibility for historically disenfranchised and marginalized populations in Ann Arbor.





**JAMES L. CRAWFORD ELKS LODGE**  
220 SUNSET RD.  
ANN ARBOR, MI 48103

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
313.613.8500 (ANDRE WATSON)  
A2ELKSLODGE322@GMAIL.COM  
WWW.AAACF.ORG/ELKSLODGE

