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## **Save CR Heritage enters next phase in historic building project** ***Nonprofit schedules brick-by-brick event to help fund needed upgrades***

**CEDAR RAPIDS (March 10, 2026)** — Save CR Heritage, an all-volunteer nonprofit dedicated to saving historic properties, is moving into the next phase of its latest project.

Last year, the group purchased the historic Zastera Pharmacy building, at 1137 Ellis Blvd. NW. Save CR Heritage plans to breathe new life into the Time Check neighborhood by transforming the former pharmacy and grocery store into an architectural salvage shop and community hub. The 1920's brick building has only been used for storage since the 2008 flood, but the group plans to use it to sell vintage doors, windows and other architectural materials, and create space for art displays, popup shops and more to uplift the neighborhood, still recovering from the flood and Iowa's 2020 derecho.

The building has now been stabilized and work is underway on repairing the original pressed tin ceilings, thanks to grants the organization received, including Linn County's Economic & Community Development Fund; UFG Foundation grant and the Bloomhall Family Competitive Donor-Advised Fund through the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation. Also, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Solid Waste Alternatives Program provided a cost-share for door and window display racks.

Now, Save CR Heritage is reaching out to the community to move into its next phase, with HVAC, plumbing, masonry, flooring and electrical system updates needed to bring the storefront up to code.

To help fund these projects, the group has scheduled "Brick-by-Brick Finish Line," a fundraiser set for 9-11 a.m. Saturday, March 21, at the J.E. Halvorson House, 606 Fifth Ave. SE. While supplies last, donors of \$100 or more will receive a commemorative brick with a Czech connection – from the Sykora Bakery auction in Czech Village – to pay tribute to the building's first owner, the son of Bohemian immigrants. Also, supporters who donate \$100 or more will be recognized on the Save CR Heritage website and on a donor wall displayed in the storefront, and as an added bonus, will be invited to an exclusive sneak preview before the building's grand opening. The event coincides with the group's sale of vintage doors, windows and more, rescued from homes slated for demolition.

Contributions of any amount can also be made at: [savecrheritage.org/donate](https://savecrheritage.org/donate)

Or donations may be mailed to: **Save Cedar Rapids Heritage, P.O. Box 1134, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-1134**

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*Save Cedar Rapids Heritage is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving historic properties by developing preservation and reuse strategies, as well as raising awareness about the value of historic buildings in strengthening our community, conserving resources, fostering economic development and enriching lives. For more information, visit [www.savecrheritage.org](https://www.savecrheritage.org)*