

We GIVE thanks

Dear Friends of the Consortium,

We have so much for which to be thankful! We have been blessed over the last several months to advance our mission of Preserving, Protecting and Promoting the legacy of empowerment of our Civil Rights heritage sites and freedom movements. Our Alabama Freedom Summer 2024 was a resounding success!

Our sites experienced measurable increases in tourist activity and our Frederick Douglass Fourth of July Speech commemoration at Old Ship AME Zion Church attracted hundreds of people in-person and on-line! In the last three months, we have published four new exciting episodes of the “Stayed on Freedom” podcast! Our podcasts have received high praise from across the country as we have provided front line, foot soldier accounts of the largely unreported tragedies and triumphs of “Bloody Tuesday 1964” (“Foot Soldier for Life”) and the legacy of the Mississippi Freedom Summer campaign of 1964 (“Thank God for Mississippi!”).

Understanding that our movement must be both modern and multi-generational, we are blessed to have supported 2024 Consortium Summer Youth Internship programs.

The Consortium sponsored high school and college level internships across the state of Alabama in Birmingham, Montgomery, Selma, and Greensboro! The Consortium is going deeper into our history; growing stronger in our community commitments; expanding into new frontiers and becoming even more focused on the future! We are building exciting and innovative relationships with new partners across the state and across the region. We look forward to welcoming new sites as Active Members of the Consortium in the months to come.

Every day presents a new set of challenges and opportunities. Nevertheless, standing upon the shoulders of our ancestors, I am convinced that the best is yet to come!

Rev. Lukata Agyei Mjumbe
Executive Director



ALLOW US TO REINTRODUCE OURSELVES!

We are dedicated to preserving the rich and powerful history of the civil rights movement in Alabama. Our Consortium is a network of pivotal historical sites, each telling a unique story of courage, resilience, and the fight for equality. These sites are more than just landmarks; they are living testimonies to the struggles and triumphs that have shaped our nation. By preserving these spaces, we ensure that the legacies of those who fought for justice continue to inspire future generations.

GET READY TO GIVE BACK

GIVING TUESDAY 2024

At the Consortium, Giving Tuesday isn't just a date—it's a chance to rally our incredible community around the work we do. This year, we'll be launching a campaign that you won't want to miss. Spread the word: Forward our emails and share our social posts so your friends and family can join you to honor the history we preserve and the future we're building together.

Mark your calendars for December 3, 2024—because Giving Tuesday is coming, and it's going to be extraordinary!

For those who might not know, Giving Tuesday is a global day of generosity that kicks off the holiday season. It's a day dedicated to giving—whether it's donating to a cause you care about, volunteering your time, or simply spreading kindness. It's about coming together to make a difference, and this year, we're excited to join in.

Stay tuned for more details soon, including stories from the field, surprise guests, and sneak peeks at how your contributions make a difference. We'll be sharing ways you can get involved, support our mission, and help us continue the vital work of protecting these sacred sites. Whether you've been with us for years or are just joining the journey, we'd love for you to be part of this day of giving.

Together, we can make this Giving Tuesday the most impactful one yet!
SUPPORT OUR MISSION TODAY.





STAYED **ON** FREEDOM

— P O D C A S T —

Have you indulged in the rich history of the Civil Rights Movement with our ‘Stayed on Freedom Podcast’? If not, join us as we explore untold stories, honor legendary figures, and celebrate the enduring legacy of African-American resilience and courage.

This summer, we dived deep into the rich history of the Civil Rights Movement, exploring the courage and resilience of those who fought for equality. Each event and episode will transport you back in time, bringing the stories of the Freedom Summer to life and exploring where we go from here.

Find our “Stayed on Freedom” podcast on Spotify, Apple Music, or YouTube.

“THANK GOD FOR MISSISSIPPI..AND ALABAMA”

By: Jessica O'Connor, *Public History Director*

In early 1963, Fred Shuttlesworth and a whole generation of young people, supported by Dr. King, led the successful Birmingham Campaign and Children’s Crusade to challenge the system of white terror. That fall, the world heard a four-word call: “Six killed in Birmingham.” The September 15th bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church killed four little girls.

On June 21, 1964 James Chaney, Michael Schwerner, and Andrew Goodman were sent to investigate the bombing of Mt. Zion Methodist Church, a hub of voter registration activity in Neshoba County. They were abducted and murdered by Mississippi members

of law enforcement and the Ku Klux Klan before the investigation could even begin. Many across the country thanked God that they were not in Alabama. It took 44 days for the FBI to find the men. Eight other lynching victims were found in the process. Some in Alabama made their own four-word call: “Thank God for Mississippi.” This time, the high-profile violence was elsewhere.

After Freedom Summer, SNCC workers and others made their way to Selma and the Black Belt to begin voter registration alongside Alabama’s leaders. They filled the jails. More were victims of violence. Many murders went unsolved but the workers continued. Foot soldiers challenged white supremacy with every step, conversation, and finally, in 1965, every ballot.

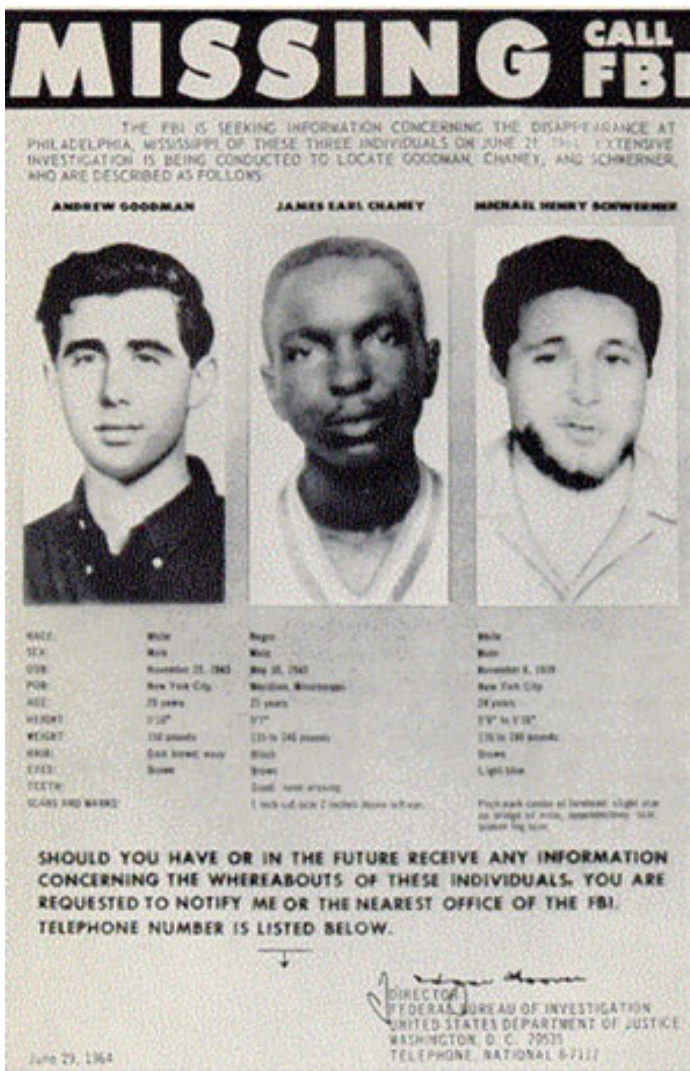
This year marks the 60th anniversary of Mississippi Freedom Summer and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that was rooted in and connected the work of the Alabama movement. The dedicated work that produced the Voting Rights Act of 1965 emerged from the seed beds of Selma, Tuscaloosa and across the state. But it did not come without commitment through the darkest times.

In 2024, we should remember that seeds emerge from the darkness. 60 years later we must continue to agitate, educate, organize and vote with our memories set in the past and hopes tracked to the future.

Learn more about Freedom Summer in the AAACRHSC’s Stayed on Freedom podcast episode, “Thank God for Mississippi!” Revisiting Freedom Summer 1964

“Thank God for Mississippi” Parts 2 & 3 COMING SOON!

Follow us on social media for more updates.



FALL EVENTS | 2024



The Consortium Public History program latest initiative is known as the “History Harvest! This initiative is designed to bring us together in our shared mission to preserve, protect, and empower our community.

The Consortium convened a History Harvest at the Dr Richard Harris Home in Montgomery on Juneteenth, 2024. This fall, we invite the community to St. Paul United Methodist Church in Birmingham, AL, on September 29th from 1:00 - 3:00 pm to learn how to preserve and protect our cherished artifacts, documents, photographs, and authentic stories. In early 2025 we will ‘harvest history’ in Selma, AL. Let’s come together to celebrate and safeguard our rich history!

BREAKING NEWS!

On July 16th, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced that the National Park Service is authorized to prepare potential nominations for U.S. Civil Rights Movement sites to achieve global recognition as World Heritage Sites.



The Consortium is honored that three of our Founding Member sites have been nominated: **16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, Bethel Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama; and Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.**

This significant milestone acknowledges the vital role these sacred places played in the fight for justice, equality, and human rights. As we celebrate this remarkable progress, we honor the courage, resilience, and enduring legacy of those who bravely stood up for change.

Stay tuned for more updates as we advance this vital project to preserve and honor the legacy of our historic Black churches.

“
*Let’s continue to preserve
and cherish our history.*”

Here are more events
FOR YOU TO EXPLORE!

Excited for more? Discover additional Fall events hosted by our consortium sites across Alabama. Stay updated by liking and following us on Facebook and Instagram



WILL YOU JOIN US?

This year, September 11-14, 2024 the Consortium planned our 2024 Fall Convening activities in collaboration with the AASLH 2024 Fall Conference in Mobile, Alabama under the theme, "Doing History!" While in Mobile, the Consortium organized special gatherings with our active Consortium members and introducing prospective new Consortium member sites from across the State of Alabama. We are especially excited by the opportunity to engage Alabama African American Heritage Sites in Africatown! Convening-specific events included an Opening Dinner and informational session on September 12th and a breakfast meeting on September 13th.

AASLH is one of the largest conferences in the nation. We look forward to continuing to support our collective growth, learning, and professional development. We encourage each site to embrace all the conference has to offer as we seek to preserve our historic structures, protect our authentic stories, and promote the legacy of empowerment! Interested in learning more? Please feel free to contact us for more information.

CONSORTIUM NEWS



In the summer 2024, high school students Bre’Nyah Ballard, McKalyn Matthews, Zamir McNeal (pictured with Ms. Adrienne Nelson of Old Sardis Baptist Church) and Carter Holloway completed the inaugural Public History Gateway Youth internship program. The students conducted detailed research, literature review, and historic site tours to plan and execute a forthcoming traveling exhibition exploring Birmingham’s influence on the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.



On August 20, Consortium staff took a trip to Jackson, Mississippi, to visit the Two Mississippi Museums. The Two Mississippi Museums—the interconnected Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum—opened December 9, 2017, in honor of the state’s bicentennial. The museums take visitors through the sweep of Mississippi history and the state’s role as ground zero in the U.S. Civil Rights Movement.



National Consultants for the Preserving Black Churches Pilot Project visited Old Sardis Baptist Church in Birmingham (shown here) as well as Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church and Old Ship AME Zion in Montgomery and Brown Chapel AME Church in Selma.



Douglass Day Reenactment of the 1852 Fourth of July speech at Old Ship A.M.E. Zion Church mobilized hundreds of participants.



The Consortium is conducting Site Visits with Potential New Consortium Members across the state of Alabama including the Federation of Southern Cooperatives / Land Assistance Fund Rural Training & Research Center in the Alabama Black Belt.



Consortium Collaborative Pilgrimage for Peace to Palestine rescheduled from August to October 2024.



SEMC proudly featured Consortium Research Fellow Brucie Porter as “One to Watch” in August 2024! Brucie is currently working on “History Harvest” programs and Public History department outreach for the Consortium.



Consortium Executive Director Rev. Lukata Mjumbe promoted our “Legacy of Empowerment” in an exciting sermon series preached at the Historic Brown Chapel AME in Selma, AL. The link to the Livestream is on the Historic Brown Chapel AME Church Facebook Page.

IT'S ELECTION SEASON!

Sixty years ago, we celebrated the passage of the Civil Rights Act and stood on the brink of another monumental achievement, the Voting Rights Act of 1965. As the Presidential election on November 5th draws near, it's more than just a date on the calendar—it's a moment to make your voice resonate. Have you registered to vote yet? If not, now's the time. Many of our member sites are hubs for voter registration and civic engagement. We encourage you to register to vote if you haven't already and to encourage others to do the same.

“Let's inspire one another to step up and be counted.”

This election isn't just another chapter in history—it's a chance to write the next one. Let's make it count.



GRANT GUIDE

Preserving Black Churches Grant Program

Preserving Black Churches is a project of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund at the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Annual grants from the Preserving Black Churches program are intended to preserve historic Black houses of worship—either with active congregations and non-active congregations—and advance ongoing preservation activities while strengthening capacity for historic congregations and preservation and community organizations to steward, manage, and better utilize their historic structures. Grants range from \$50,000 to \$500,000.

Apply here: https://savingplaces.org/preserving-black-churches-guidelines?blm_aid=0

Inspire!

Grants for Small Museums (2025)

This program supports small museums of all disciplines in project-based efforts to serve the public through exhibitions, educational/interpretive programs, digital learning resources, policy development and institutional planning, technology enhancements, professional development, community outreach, audience development, and/or collections management, curation, care, and conservation.

Apply here: https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/355961?blm_aid=0

Museum Grants for African American History and Culture (2025)

The purpose of this program is to build the capacity of African American museums and support the growth and development of museum professionals at African American museums. The award ceiling is \$500,000 and the deadline date is on Nov 15, 2024.

Apply here: https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/355960?blm_aid=0