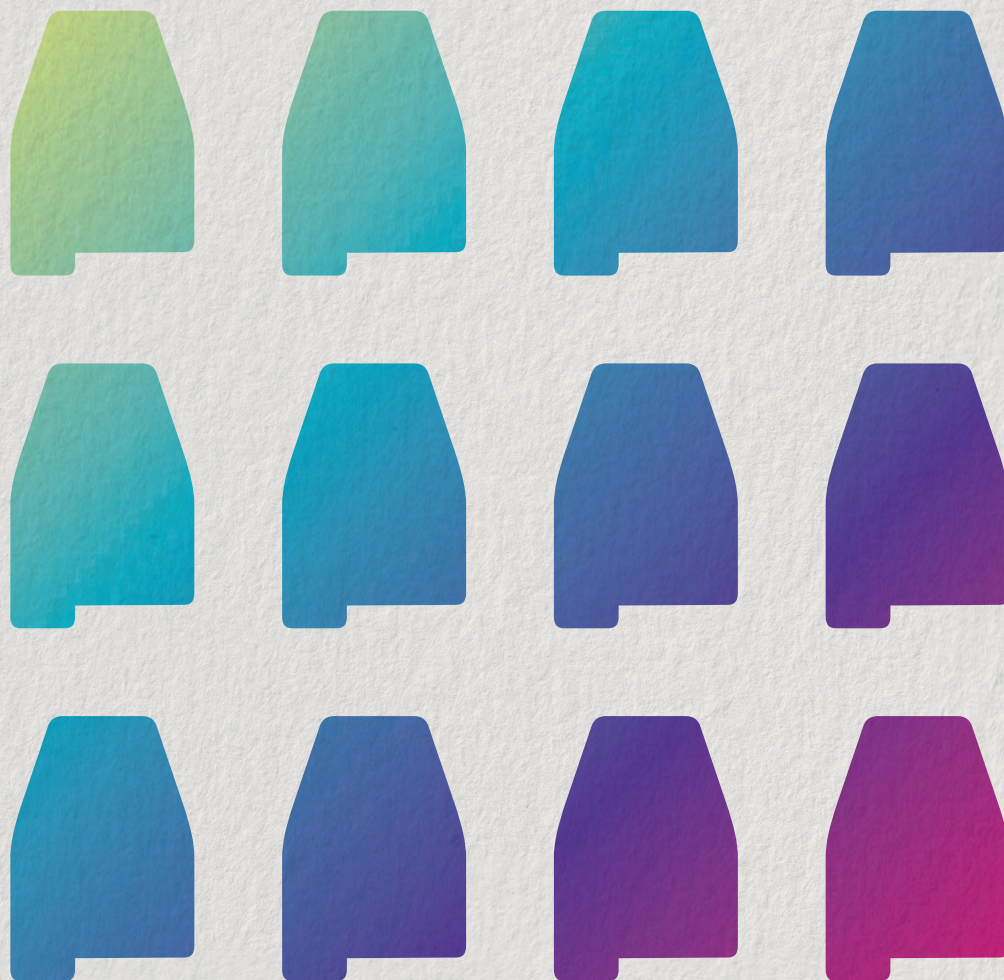


MOSAIC

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ALABAMA HUMANITIES ALLIANCE

SUMMER 2021



**New Name. Same Mission.
A Better Alabama.**

ALABAMA HUMANITIES ALLIANCE

JANET NOLAN

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About the cover

The Alabama Humanities Foundation is now the Alabama Humanities Alliance. Our name may be new, but our mission remains the same: To foster greater learning, understanding, and appreciation of our people, communities, and cultures.

Cover design: Telegraph Creative



The Alabama Humanities Alliance, founded in 1974, is a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. AHA aims to enrich the lives of Alabamians through engagement in the humanities, tailoring our programs and funding to address the specific needs of communities across the state.

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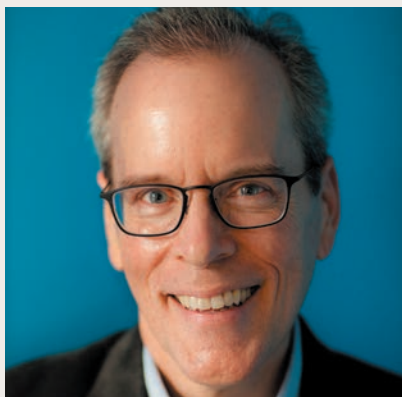
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From the director

Charles W. (Chuck) Holmes
Executive Director

Be both a speaker of words and a doer of deeds.

In ancient Greece, young Achilles is taught those two vital things, as told in Homer's epic, *The Iliad*.

Our new word is Alliance. It is our deed.

Lovers of the humanities know that words are powerful things. That's why, this year, our board of directors dropped Foundation from our name in favor of a noun that conveys our perpetual and foundational efforts — collaboration, conversations, outreach, and diversity.

We are the Alabama Humanities Alliance, with a new look, a new website, and some new faces, including mine.

Yet the mission has not changed. We're here to make Alabama better. In many ways. Every day. We are an Alliance seeking and encouraging allies — anyone who treasures our shared culture, history, storytelling, lifelong learning, and sense of community.

I'm a son of the South who has roamed far. I spent a long career in journalism seeking truth and telling stories that I hoped would make a difference in people's lives. I came to the Alabama Humanities Alliance for the same reason — to make a difference. With our team and our board, we see myriad opportunities to do good across our state, working with creative people to bring Alabamians together and uplift us all.

During the height of the pandemic, AHA supported cultural institutions that are vital to our public life. When lockdowns and disruptions threatened the very existence of local museums, libraries, historical societies, and educational institutions, we stepped in.

With funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), we awarded \$500,000 in emergency CARES Act grants to 79 cultural organizations statewide. "Had these funds not been available, the museum most likely would have been permanently closed," Nancy Pinion, director of the Jesse Owens Memorial Park & Museum, told us in a note of gratitude.

As I write these words, we're gearing up to distribute another \$800,000 in Alabama Humanities Recovery Grants. These NEH funds, provided via the American Rescue Plan Act, will again support general operating expenses. Cultural organizations can also use this money to rethink strategy and relaunch programs based on lessons learned during the pandemic.

At AHA, we're applying those lessons, too. As we plan for a return to in-person programming, we'll also carry forward new virtual solutions — making it easier for more people to connect with our resources. The tools and scholarship that help teachers teach, encourage families to enjoy reading together, cultivate a love of history among students, and engender civic engagement among all Alabamians.

In this issue of *Mosaic*, we present some of the participants in those programs, the voices of our allies.

Dorothy Walker, director of the Freedom Rides Museum in Montgomery, discusses the still-powerful impact of segregation-busting stories from 1961.

Retired Samford University professor Jim Brown provides context for one of our most popular public programs, the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street *Water/Ways* exhibit, now touring five Alabama towns through Spring 2022.

And we hear from outstanding storytellers Starlyn and Savi Fistein and Aiden Seabrook. They are high school students from Mobile and avid participants in our Alabama History Day competition.

We want more allies like them. We need *you*.

Alabama novelist Robert Inman, in *Home Fires Burning*, wrote: "Most of the failures of this world are failures of imagination."

Let's imagine a better Alabama enriched by the humanities. Join our Alliance.

New board members take office

The Alabama Humanities Alliance welcomed five new members to its board of directors in 2020–2021.

Chandra Brown Stewart, *Mobile*

Dr. Dorothy W. Huston, *Huntsville*

Robert McGhee, *Atmore*

Judge Tammy Montgomery, *Livingston*

Dr. Ansley L. Quiros, *Florence*



Chandra Brown Stewart

Chandra Brown Stewart is the executive director of Lifelines Counseling Services, a United Way multi-service nonprofit.

Lifelines Counseling Services provides crisis, emotional, financial, and housing counseling and education to community members in southwest Alabama. She became executive director in 2005. Brown Stewart earned her undergraduate degree as a dual major in pre-medicine and psychology at Xavier University in New Orleans. She has a master's degree in community counseling from the University of South Alabama.

Brown Stewart is the co-founder of the Society of Clotilda, a joyful health and wellness collective that is dedicated to the celebration, development, and prosperity of Black women and their children. Brown Stewart also serves as a member of the University of South Alabama Board of Trustees, member of the regional advisory board for BB&T Bank, past board president for the Alabama Coalition Against Rape, and 2019 class dean for Leadership Mobile.

She is a participant in Leadership Alabama Class XXX, served as Junior League of Mobile president in 2014–2015, and as board advisor for the Junior League of Mobile 2018–2019 Board of Directors.



Dorothy W. Huston

Dorothy W. Huston, Ph.D., is founder and CEO of Technology Management Training Group, Inc., a provider of information technology, program management, and training solutions. Huston previously served as vice president for research and development at Alabama A & M University, during which the growth in research funding and contracting grew from \$13 million to over \$30 million annually. She has also consulted and provided training for more than 50 organizations and agencies.

Huston earned her undergraduate degree at AAMU in 1979 and her master's and doctorate degrees from The Ohio State University in 1980 and 1983, respectively. She is a 2006 graduate of Harvard University's School of Business Executive Development Institute. Huston has participated in management development in Canada, Netherlands, Belgium, France, New Zealand, and British Columbia. She is also a graduate of Leadership Huntsville/Madison County Class 12 and Leadership Alabama Class XXI.

Huston has served on the board of directors of Huntsville Utilities for the past seven years. She is also executive director of the Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium and publishes *The Valley Weekly*. Huston is a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



Robert McGhee

As an enrolled member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Robert McGhee has been involved in, and an advocate for, Native American issues at all levels of government.

In his fifth term on the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Council, he holds the position of vice chairman. In this capacity, he represents his people “government-to-government” at the local, state, and federal levels on a range of vital issues.

McGhee worked in Washington, D.C., for five years at the Department of the Interior-Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Senate, and Troutman Sanders LLP-Indian Law Practice Group.

McGhee holds undergraduate degrees from University of South Alabama and the University of Alabama, a MSW from Washington University in St. Louis, and an executive master’s in business administration from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.



Tammy Jackson Montgomery

Sumter County District Court Judge Tammy Jackson Montgomery, J.D., is the first African American woman elected as district judge in Sumter County and the first African American woman in Alabama history to be elected in her first bid for district court judge. She is serving her fourth term.

For 11 years, she was an assistant district attorney for Montgomery and Jefferson counties. She earned her law degree from the University of Alabama.

She served as a U.S. Congressional intern to U.S. Sens. Howell Heflin and Donald Stewart and on the Congressional Black Caucus and on the United Way of West Alabama Executive Board of Directors. She is a graduate of Leadership Alabama Class XXVIII.

Montgomery is the creator and chairwoman of the Children of the Village Network, Inc., a non-profit that serves as Sumter County children’s policy council. Children of the Village Network, Inc. operates juvenile intervention and prevention programs, scholarships for public high school graduates, GEMS Mentoring, and a food bank.



Ansley L. Quiros

Ansley Quiros, Ph.D., an associate professor at the University of North Alabama, is a historian of the 20th century United States, with a focus on race, politics, and religion. She teaches courses on U.S. history, Black history, religion in the U.S., immigration history and the history of the civil rights movement.

She is the author of the award-winning book, *God With Us: Lived Theology and the Freedom Struggle in Americus, Georgia, 1942-1976*. She is working on two new projects: A spiritual biography of civil rights activists Charles and Shirley Sherrod and an examination of Freaknik, an Atlanta street party in the 1990s.

Along with Dr. Brian Dempsey, Quiros co-directs the Civil Rights Struggle in the Shoals Project, a National Park Services grant awarded to UNA in 2018 to help tell the story of the freedom struggle in the Shoals. At UNA, she serves on the faculty senate and the NCAA D-I Transition Committee, among others.

Quiros also serves on the board of Common Ground Shoals, a nonprofit dedicated to developing Christ-like leaders and restoring hope to marginalized youth in the Shoals area. She earned a B.A. from Furman University in Greenville, S.C., and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

Grantees in the news

Every season, our grant recipients do amazing work to promote the humanities — and meet the needs of their communities — thanks to funding from the Alabama Humanities Alliance. And, sometimes, our grantees' creativity earns some big-name recognition.

Congratulations to several recent grantees who helped produce films that have earned Emmy Award accolades.



Alabama Black Belt Blues. Pictured: Blues musician Clarence Davis in front of a plantation house in his home town of Union. (Roger Stephenson)

2021 Southeast Regional Emmy® Awards

Nominees

Film: *Alabama Black Belt Blues*

Grantee: The APT Foundation

Filmmakers: Robert Clem, Tina Naremore Jones, Roger Stephenson

Learn more: aptv.org

Film: *Deep South Science* episode: “Frances Grace and Southern Research”

Grantee: Alabama Archives and History Foundation

Filmmakers: Jenna Bedsole

Learn more: aptv.org

Winner

Film: *When We Were Apollo*

Grantee: Contact Light Films

Filmmakers: Zachary Weil

Learn more: whenwewereapollo.com



Deep South Science episode: “Frances Grace and Southern Research.” Pictured: Frances Grace Hirs, who took a cancer drug developed by Alabama-based Southern Research that aided in her fight against leukemia and ultimately saved her life.

Have an accolade you want to share about an AHA-funded project? Let us know!

Write to Phillip Jordan, AHA communications director, at pjordan@alabamahumanities.org.



*When We Were Apollo film by Zachary Weil. Pictured: The second Apollo 16 roll-out attracts a crowd at the Vehicle Assembly Building. February 9, 1972.
Scan by David Harland. NASA Apollo 16 image library.*

Alabama's waterways reveal a more complex story of our state's history

By Dr. Jim Brown



Dr. Jim Brown

Fifty years ago, as a newly hired history prof at Samford University, my specialty was supposed to be Russian history. It was the rivers of Alabama, as much as anything else, that changed the focus.

We moved down to Birmingham from Nashville in June of 1971, with my younger brother-in-law along to help move furniture. After a couple days of roughly setting up the house, we two were given permission to go find a local river deep enough to have good fish but shallow enough to wade. Having no good local map or much idea of the countryside, we just pointed the car as directly away from downtown Birmingham as we could judge, and at every major intersection took the low road. Sure enough, on a country road named Grants Mill we came across a river signposted Cahaba. It had hellgrammites under rocks in the shoals to use for bait. And pools with bass. That was 50 years ago as of this writing, and I'd guess I've been wade fishing or canoe fishing in that stretch once a quarter ever since.

I'd come to Alabama history late, and with the preconception that European cultures (and the cultures of their mostly African enslaved labor) had moved over the land as a solid, impermeable front, completely replacing the original Native American ones. It was

fishing Alabama's rich network of waterways, talking to the locals, and reading about fishing that opened a complex new world for me in the interactions across those waning and waxing culture fronts. The fisherfolk on those rivers had cultural currents of their own that quickly got you back to early historic times, even to pre-history.

Near the beginning of my time at Samford, a kindly Phys Ed prof introduced me to jiggerpoling. Jiggerpoling, most fishermen will already know, is usually a nighttime fishing technique in which the fisherman in the bow with a long cane pole runs a noisy surface lure along the bank and logs, waiting for a bass to explode on it. Later, in William Bartram's *Travels* (he came through the Southeast in 1776-1777), I read about the Native American practice of doing essentially the same on a Florida lake, catching "green trout" to 30 pounds, "strongly shaking" the arm of the bow fisherman and pulling the boat along. It's generally thought that Bartram's green trout were largemouth bass, and 30 pounds is 7 pounds and change over the all-time modern record.

A hellgrammite (right) is the larval stage of a dobsonfly. It has long made for great fishing bait on Alabama rivers.



By the mid-1970s, I was interviewing older commercial fishermen south of Pell City, men who had run fish traps on the Coosa River shoals before it was ever dammed for hydro power. The traps were made of V-shaped rock walls (the open part of the V upstream), and the downstream catching part of the trap made of sawn timber slats. Later, I read James Adair's 1775 description of this being done by the Chickasaw, with exactly such V-shaped rock walls, though with a catching part that accomplished the same thing with a loosely woven basket. A time or two I'd taken my children to see the Coosa fishermen. One of them later gave my kids a hand-carved toy, a functional "Indian pump drill" as it used to be called. You pushed down on a bar to spin a central shaft connected to it by string, and then let up at the end of a stroke to let it automatically rewind. The fisherman didn't recognize it as a Native American tool; for him it was a pioneer toy his grandfather made for his grandchildren.

Off and on, I dabbled in field biology with my university colleagues, once as hired paddler on a U.S. Fish & Wildlife survey of rare fishes in the Cahaba. Over the years, I canoe-fished waters from the Paint Rock River up on the Tennessee line down to Wolf Bay on the Intracoastal.



View of the Alabama River, Monroe County. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress, Carol M. Highsmith Archive.

Water/Ways

The Smithsonian returns to Alabama

For more than 20 years, the Alabama Humanities Alliance (AHA) has coordinated traveling exhibitions from the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street. The program brings the Smithsonian directly to small-town America through traveling exhibitions, local research, and more.

Across 2021-2022, AHA will tour the Smithsonian's *Water/Ways* exhibit to five cities statewide, working with local hosts to develop programming for audiences of all ages.

Our state is home to 132,000 miles of rivers and streams and 3.2 million acres of wetlands. Water affects how we live, work, worship, create, and play — connecting us to nature, nurturing our cities and culture, and either uniting or dividing our people and communities.

Dive in:

July 1–August 14, 2021

Oakville Indian Mounds Education Center, Danville, AL

August 26–October 3, 2021

Guntersville Museum, Guntersville, AL

October 14–November 19, 2021

Bessemer Public Library, Bessemer, AL

December 4, 2021–January 21, 2022

Gee's Bend Ferry Terminal, Camden, AL

February 7–March 25, 2022

Elba Chamber of Commerce, Elba, AL



Crossroads: 2022-2023

Alabama Humanities will bring another Smithsonian traveling exhibit to the state in 2022-2023. *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* offers a nuanced look at how rural America has responded to tremendous societal changes over the past century. Planning will begin in early 2022. If your city wants to be considered as a host site, contact Laura C. Anderson at 205.558.3992 or landerson@alabamahumanities.org.

All this gradually seeped into my teaching, especially as I began to team-teach “history and environment” courses with colleagues from biology. I’d come across what I called a “telescoping time” model that integrated traditional history into a much broader pattern. I found it first in historian Fernand Braudel’s *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Phillip II* (published 1949) — 1,244 pages that began with geology, soils, climate, vegetation, zoology, ancient lifestyles such as the sort of nomadism called transhumance with its seasonal rocking back and forth from rainy season grasslands to dry seasons rocky land wells. Finally — on page 1,088! — when he got to “standard” history (as in the 1571 battle of Lepanto and the 1572 Bartholomew’s Day massacre of Protestants in France), it was so much the richer for the background built up. Then I discovered the work of Carl Sauer, a giant of that first generation of American geographers, particularly his *The Early Spanish Main* (published 1966), in which he did that same mix of geology, botany, zoology, pre-history, and history proper as he watched basic Spanish-American cultural patterns — including the hacienda-pueblo system — take shape in those first 25 years after Columbus’ first contact.

To bring it all back home, just recently I discovered the most interesting and readable book, *Alabama Rivers: A Celebration & Challenge* (2019), that does much the same thing for Alabama. It’s by Bill Deutsch, aquatic ecologist emeritus at Auburn University, who is a scientist with eclectic interests and a soft spot for the humanities. The book is in three parts: first, the science of rivers and how they work over time; second, the natural and human history of Alabama, river basin by river basin; and third, a most thoughtful section on what — in light of all the above — ought to be our attitudes and actions towards our waterways. It’s a wonderfully comprehensive overview of the state’s waters, starting with the first few pages wherein I realized that all nine rivers labeled on the Great Seal of Alabama are either Native American language words or direct translations of them.

Those of us who come at this from the humanities side arguably need to have the same soft spot for the sciences; it’s all connected!

Jim Brown is professor of history emeritus at Samford University. He has written and edited countless stories about Alabama’s fishing communities. In the early 1990s, he helped pilot Alabama Humanities Alliance’s SUPER Teacher program. He’s currently working on a book, Distracted by Alabama, for University of Alabama Press.



Top: Moundville site on the Black Warrior River. Middle: Coosa River at Gadsden. Bottom: Fishing village on Bayou La Batre. Photos courtesy of the Library of Congress, Carol M. Highsmith Archive.

The power of place, memory, song

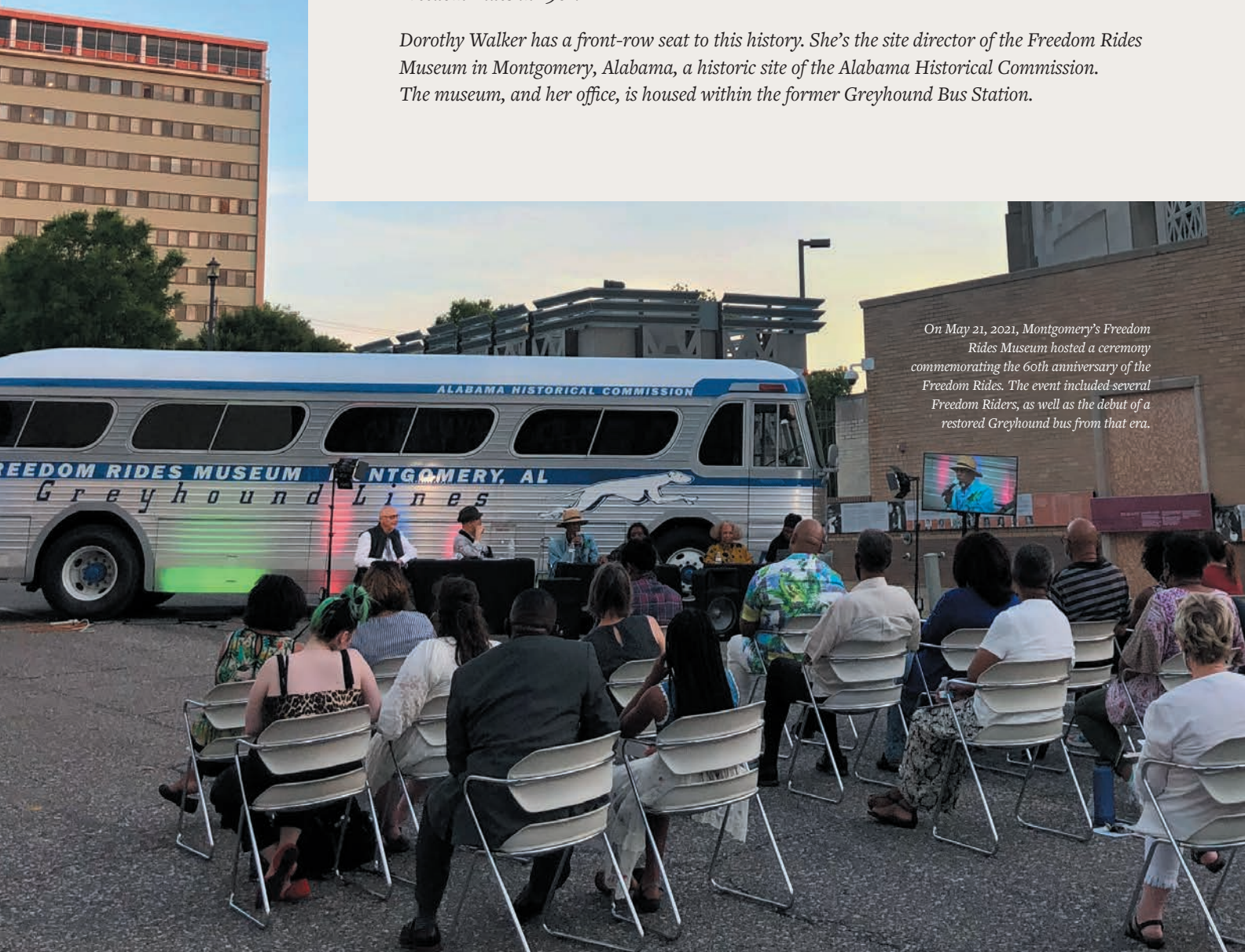
Reflecting on the Freedom Rides of 1961

By Dorothy Walker, as told to Phillip Jordan

Sixty years ago, Montgomery's Greyhound Bus Station, and many others across the South, witnessed scenes of violence as white mobs attacked Freedom Riders — most of them young people — attempting to force an end to segregated public facilities, including interstate buses, trains, and terminals. In all, some 436 riders, Black and White, participated in more than 90 Freedom Rides in 1961.

Dorothy Walker has a front-row seat to this history. She's the site director of the Freedom Rides Museum in Montgomery, Alabama, a historic site of the Alabama Historical Commission. The museum, and her office, is housed within the former Greyhound Bus Station.

On May 21, 2021, Montgomery's Freedom Rides Museum hosted a ceremony commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Freedom Rides. The event included several Freedom Riders, as well as the debut of a restored Greyhound bus from that era.



I never take walking in here for granted. I'm sitting here right now in a space that, 60 years ago, I would not have been allowed inside.

Places matter. The Alabama Historical Commission didn't get involved here because we wanted to do a museum. You can do a museum anywhere. We got involved because we wanted to save the place where this history happened. This is where a group of young students ride a bus together. They're beaten here together. They bleed here together. Saving this space matters.

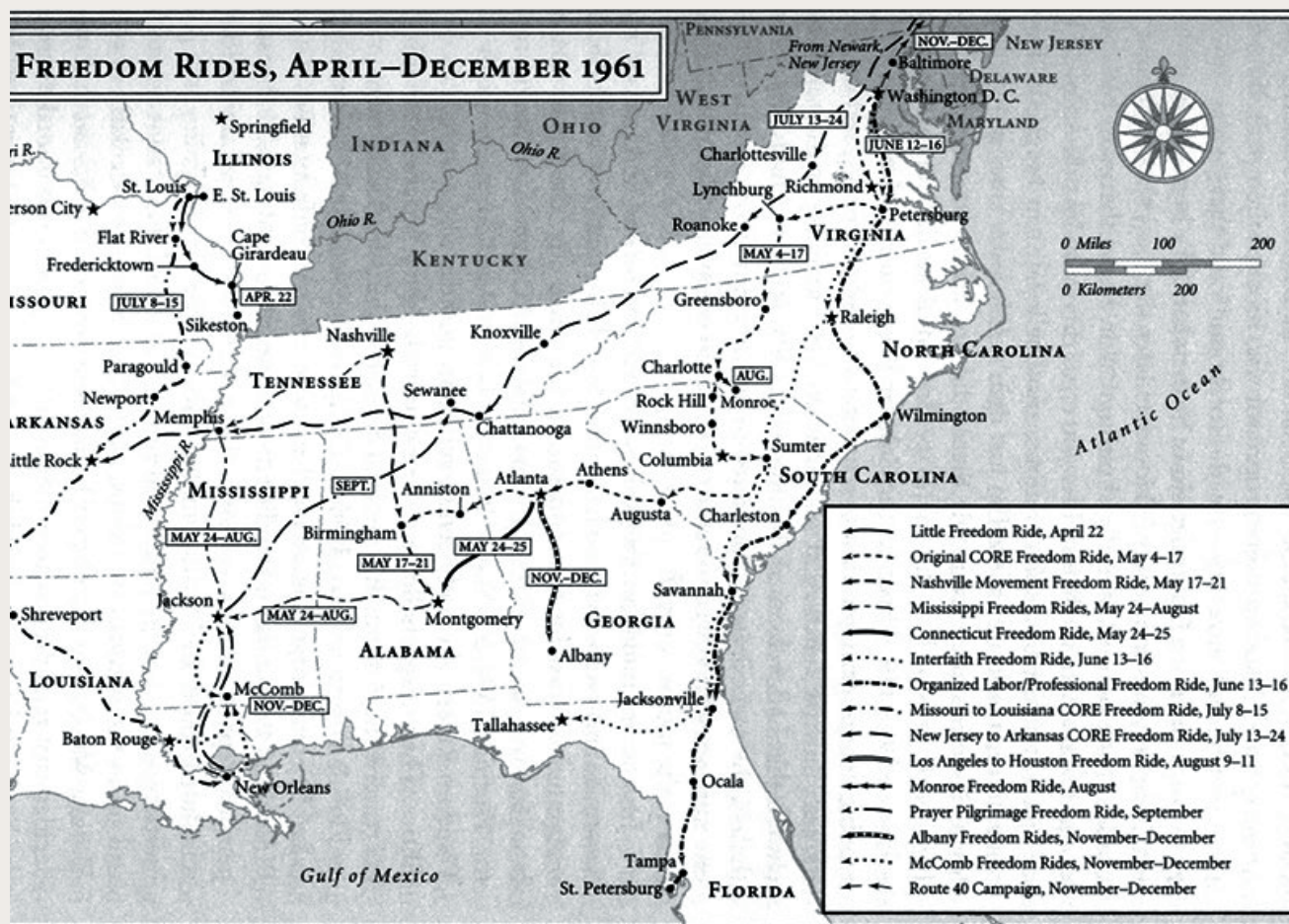
The architecture of segregation is something that needs to be seen and understood. This building was built in 1951. We have parts of the original architect's blueprints that show,

on paper, how this building was designed to be unequal, to separate people. To give one group of people a different experience even though they're paying the same fare.

If you look closely at this place, it will reveal a lot of the story itself. I've seen older people stand in front of what was the separate doorway for Blacks, and weep. They remember having to use that entrance, having to stand outside in the heat or the cold or the rain.

Places matter because they help us see, and hear, and touch the story. People don't come here to Montgomery, to Birmingham, to Selma, to learn history. You can learn that anywhere, in a book or online, while you're in your pajamas. People come here, to the Freedom Rides Museum, because they want to feel history. It's not just a place. It's *the* place. It's where this history happened.

"People come here, to the Freedom Rides Museum, because they want to feel history. It's not just a place. It's the place."



The May 1961 Freedom Rides to Montgomery were two of what would eventually be 90 Freedom Rides across the segregated South.

Most visitors here know about Mrs. Rosa Parks and the Montgomery bus boycott. A lot of people think that boycott ended segregation on transportation across the country. They believe that after Mrs. Parks courageously refused to give up her seat, and fueled the Montgomery bus boycotts, people could ride a bus anywhere and sit where they want. But that's not the case. The Montgomery city buses had no impact on the policies of interstate buses like Greyhound and Trailways — and the trains and airplanes and airports. All modes of interstate travel remained segregated in the South.

Most people don't know the history of the Freedom Riders. They don't know that it took another campaign and another courageous group of people to end segregation in interstate travel. The civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s was a longer story, with more painful sacrifice, than most people even remember. Anytime history gets condensed, packaged up a little too neatly, you lose important threads. You forget people that deserve to be remembered, like the Freedom Riders.



Freedom Riders John Lewis and Jim Zwerg at the Montgomery Greyhound Bus Station after a mob attacked them on May 20, 1961. Photo courtesy of Getty.

I'm very honored to be the site director of this museum and to be the steward of a story like this. It's important to remember that it didn't happen that long ago. And, too often, it's history that many folks can still relate to. People come in, read a panel, and come over to my desk and ask, "Now when was this?" I'll say "1961." And they'll say, "This literally could have been written about something yesterday."

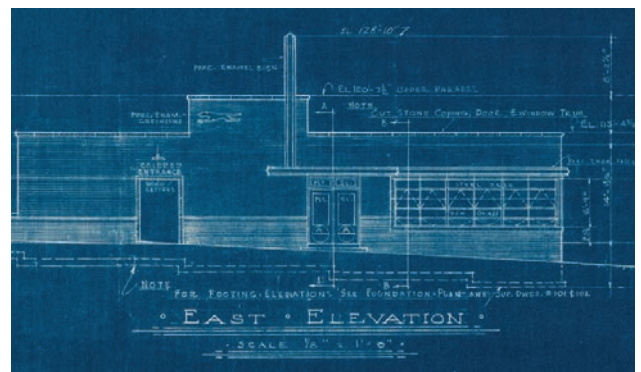
The signs of segregation and racism don't confront us as obviously and aggressively as they did 60 years ago. But if we were to understand the legacy of that time, we'd understand that we're still dealing with the legacy of this story today.

My favorite thing to do is to humanize the Freedom Riders. If people know the story at all, they usually come with this visual in their head of this large group of people. Freedom Riders who are mostly nameless and faceless. So, I tell visitors the names and their stories. I show them faces. I remind them that a lot of the Freedom Riders were 18-, 19-, 20-year-old kids.

I tell them about Dr. Catherine Burks-Brooks, a Freedom Rider who was one of seven female students who arrived on the bus here in Montgomery — two White females and five Black females. When they were attacked by the mob here, they all ran to a nearby cab. The Black driver jumps out and says, "I can't take the White girls." At the time, there was a segregation ordinance that forbade Blacks and Whites from riding in the same vehicle. Well, Catherine, who was 21, says, "We're not leaving them, these are our friends. Give me the keys. I'll drive the car!"

I tell them about Hezekiah Watkins, 13, the youngest Freedom Rider, who showed up at a protest in Jackson, Mississippi. He was arrested and spent five days on Death Row in Parchman (Mississippi State Penitentiary) before they realized they were holding a child. His mother not knowing where he was for five days, was overcome with emotion after finding him alive there.

I tell them about Dr. Bernard Lafayette, a Freedom Rider who also organized sit-ins during the Nashville Student Movement. He tells a story of a sit-in at a lunch counter where this guy holds up a lighter to the hair of a female student. Dr. Lafayette could smell it smoldering. He doesn't get violent, but he puts his hand over her head and tries to put it out. Dr. Lafayette recalls the student turning to him, giving him this very serious look, and saying: "Please do not interfere with my suffering. My suffering is what people have to see for change to happen."



Blueprints for Montgomery's former Greyhound Bus Station, "designed to be unequal, to separate people." Courtesy Alabama Historical Commission.

Freedom Riders' stories central to AHA's teacher-training efforts

Sixty years after the Freedom Riders made history with their courageous and groundbreaking acts of nonviolence in the struggle for civil rights, their stories resonate as a key component of Alabama Humanities Alliance programs.

Their Greyhound bus firebombed and riders beaten in Anniston, students on a separate bus menaced and bloodied in Birmingham, and later also viciously attacked in Montgomery, the Freedom Rides are an integral part of Alabama and national history. The experiences of those college students — Black and White — form the narrative of teacher training this year in AHA's SUPER Teacher workshops.

The Rev. Bernard Lafayette, a Freedom Rider and contemporary of Martin Luther King, Jr., and John Lewis, recalled to a group of Alabama school teachers in a SUPER workshop session earlier this year his experiences during the civil rights movement and how those times relate to the ongoing racial justice reckoning sparked by

the 2020 murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

"There comes a time when you have to take a stand and be recognized as a human being," Lafayette says.

Lafayette, now 80, and the few other Freedom Riders who are still alive, give teachers and historians alike a deeper understanding unrivaled by books. He also discussed leading the voter registration campaign in Selma from 1962 to 1965, where he survived an assassination attempt.

In a separate Freedom Rides 60th anniversary event in May at the landmark Bethel Baptist Church in Birmingham, co-sponsored by the Alabama Humanities Alliance, Freedom Riders Charles Person, Catherine Burks-Brooks, and Hank Thomas gave testimony to their experiences in the face of angry white mobs and the need for change — then and now.

What better way to engage, enlighten, and inspire than to hear from, and talk with, the actual shapers of history?

AHA's SUPER Teacher workshops offer professional development for teachers across the state on a variety of historical topics, which in the past year have focused on the civil rights movement and the suffragist movement. These sessions, organized with the help of university scholars and noted historians, seek to give classroom educators a sense of history and understanding in order to help them better convey lessons to their students.

"The Freedom Rides session is a good example — teachers not only read about history, but interact with those who lived it," says Chuck Holmes, executive director of the Alabama Humanities Alliance. "We hope that our SUPER workshops supplement the teacher's toolkit and give our educators relevant content and some added inspiration to make history come alive in the classroom."

Ten years ago, when the Museum opened and I started giving tours, my kids were in elementary school.

I thought, if my children ever called me and said they want to participate in some dangerous but courageous fight for freedom, I'd be proud. Scared, but proud of the sacrifice they were willing to make.

Well, last summer, during the Black Lives Matter protests, I got that call. My oldest daughter calls me and says, "Mom, I want to go to a protest." And my first reaction was: "Is there something else you can do behind the scenes? Is there another role for you?" She heard that as hypocritical. My daughter said, "You've told me these stories, you've given me these values. You've told me it takes courageous people willing to sacrifice to make change happen. And now you don't want me to act on what you taught me?"

She couldn't wrap her head around why I was saying this to her. But she's not a mom. I thought about the Freedom Riders during that phone call. But I mostly thought about

my daughter. Who could be hit with a rubber bullet. Or arrested. Or assaulted. I could only think of what harm could possibly come to her. After all I'd learned, I wasn't strong enough to say, "I support you and I understand this is something you need to do." I didn't have the moment I thought I would, the moment I envisioned 10 years earlier.

It changed the way I do tours at the museum and it underscored the tough decisions the parents of the Freedom Riders had to make when they got the call from their son or daughter 60 years ago. For me, it made the sacrifice of the Freedom Riders crystal-clear in a new way. It not only helped me better understand their sacrifice, but also the sacrifice of their families. Yes, these Freedom Riders impacted our country and our history. But what we try to impart at the museum is that they also impacted families. There were calls made like the one my daughter made to me. White Freedom Riders called their families, and many were ostracized the rest of their lives. Black Freedom Riders called their families, and they went even when their loved ones begged them not to.



An interior view of the Freedom Rides Museum's restored 1961-era Greyhound bus.

My daughter went to her protest. I didn't lose her and nothing terrible happened where she was. But now, sometimes I share my own story with the families that come into the museum. It starts conversations between parents and their children they've never had before.

If nothing else works, if nothing is connecting, then I start singing to visitors. Music is a common language we all share. And music is what got these Freedom Riders through difficult times. After everything they went through 60 years ago — beaten, bombed, bruised — they weren't broken. They were singing.

That should make us feel encouraged. If they could go through all of that and still feel hopeful, then what we're going through right now, our country and our communities, surely, we can see the humanity in each

other the way these Freedom Riders did.

The few times that Freedom Riders were asked if they wanted to press charges against their assailants, they said: "No, that's my brother, that's my sister."

If they can do what they did, we can do what we need to do today. Even when it's hard. Even when we're tired and exhausted. Even when others don't care. Their story gives us the courage and inspiration to continue because what we're doing matters.

Their story also gives me my song. I wake up every morning and walk in here, singing, even if it's just in my head:

***Woke up this morning
With my mind stayed on freedom.***

The vote — and beyond

New AHA podcast explores
Black Alabamians' long fight
for full participation in the
electoral process.

This summer, the Alabama Humanities Alliance launched its first podcast, featuring a topic that is far too old. *Why It Matters: Black Alabamians and the Vote* examines what hard-won enfranchisement secured for African Americans statewide — and what it didn't. The series also asks: What echoes of the 20th century's voting rights struggle still reverberate in today's modern voter suppression tactics?

Series host Tonya Scott-Williams explores questions like this in conversations with leading historians, scholars, and activists. Topics range from Black female suffragists in the Jim Crow South to the battle for self-agency far beyond the vote in Selma. Each podcast episode also features original poetry and readings from poet Ashley M. Jones, founding director of the Magic City Poetry Festival and co-director of PEN Birmingham.

Black Alabamians and the Vote is a six-episode podcast series. It's part of a national initiative exploring civic participation as it relates to electoral engagement in a multivocal democracy. Funding was provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for "Why It Matters: Civic and Electoral Participation," administered by the Federation of State Humanities Councils.

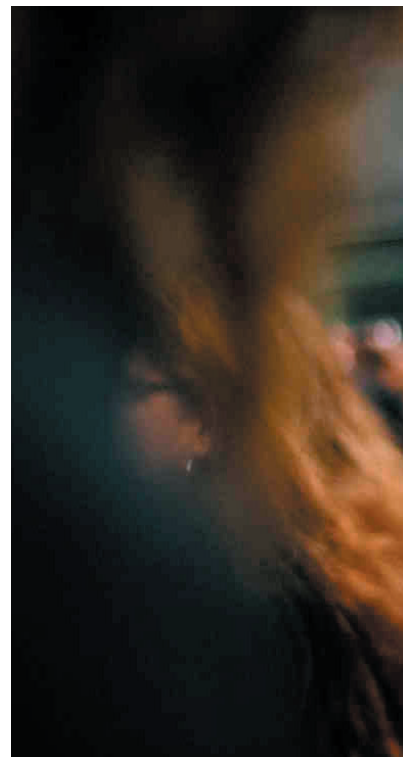
Listen now:

alabamahumanities.org/program/why-it-matters

ALL Y'ALL REALLY FROM ALABAMA

A poem by Ashley M. Jones

*Nachelle Nocom/
Twenty20.*



"...The straitjackets of race prejudice and discrimination do not wear only southern labels. The subtle, psychological technique of the North has approached in its ugliness and victimization of the Negro the outright terror and open brutality of the South."

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., *Why We Can't Wait*

this here the cradle of this here nation—everywhere you look, roots run right back south. every vein filled with red dirt, blood, cotton. we the dirty word you spit out your mouth. mason dixon is an imagined line—you can theorize it, or wish it real, but it's the same old ghost—see-through, benign. all y'all from alabama; we the wheel turning cotton to make the nation move. we the scapegoat in a land built from death. no longitude or latitude disproves the truth of founding fathers' sacred oath:

we hold these truths like dark snuff in our jaw,
Black oppression's not happenstance; it's law.



Ashley M. Jones is the project poet for Alabama Humanities' podcast series, *Why It Matters: Black Alabamians and the Vote*. Her poem is from Episode 4, "Championing the Ballot." Listen to the full episode on our website to hear Jones' poem within the context of how civil rights activists took on voter suppression laws — and broke Jim Crow.



AHA!
ALABAMA HUMANITIES ALLIANCE

Black Alabamians and the Vote

A new podcast from the
Alabama Humanities Alliance

Find your next AHA Moment.



Healing and the humanities

A pilot partnership with UAB shows how the humanities can enhance healthcare.

By Carol Pappas

It seems the perfect complement—the science of health and the disciplines of the humanities coming together for better understanding, not only of complex issues, but of one another.

As the COVID-19 pandemic reigned over everyday lives the past year and a half, healthcare remained in the spotlight. Healthcare workers were seen as heroes on the battlefield,

aiding and comforting in the pandemic's darkest days.

At about the same time, the Alabama Humanities Alliance (AHA) was looking to revamp its Humanities and Healthcare program, which led to the creation of a virtual book club centered around National Nurses Week.

“The goal is to give healthcare professionals a chance to take a step back and view their work through a different lens,” says Chuck Holmes, executive director of AHA, “Healthcare itself is often more about questions than answers, and that’s what the humanities can help with. Hopefully, this program will give nurses greater empathy and understanding for both their patients and each other.”

The program had its beginnings at the Fort Rucker Center Library and in veterans hospitals in Tuscaloosa, and later through AIDS outreach programs in Birmingham and Mobile. After COVID-19 hit, it seemed a natural next step to take the program into nursing. AHA worked with Rosemary Blackmon, executive vice president/COO of the Alabama Hospital Association, and the conversation turned toward UAB, the state's largest hospital system, to be the starting point.

“The goal is to give healthcare professionals a chance to take a step back and view their work through a different lens.”

UAB Chief of Nursing Officer Terri Poe and Fameka Leonard, nurse manager for Medical Nursing Nephrology, served as catalysts for the evolving program. A series of conversations and planning led to a test program for humanities-based reading, presented by scholar Valerie Pope Burnes, associate professor of history at the University of West Alabama. Thirty people showed up for the initial one-day book-reading event with GROW, UAB's employee resource group for women.

On the heels of that success, key players developed a virtual book club event conducted through podcasts that could be downloaded and listened to at nurses' convenience during National Nurses Week. The book chosen was *Hidden Figures*, the story of Black female mathematicians who broke many a barrier in route to helping America and NASA dominate aeronautics in the space race of the 1950s.

Many nurses could see the similarities in their own story of being on the frontline of helping America get through the worst healthcare crisis it has ever faced.

One participant shared that she “loved that professional people from various occupations could participate in the conversation and provide feedback...and then watch the movie version of the book. That was a super opportunity. Also, the ability to share cultural histories for a broader understanding of the text was eye-opening.”

In all, 34 nurses and other professionals signed up for the weeklong reading event that culminated in a celebratory remote viewing of the Oscar-winning movie based on the book.

This approach can now be replicated at any hospital throughout Alabama and even spur a “big read” connecting health professionals across the state.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed working with AHA over the past few months,” Leonard said. “Our CNO Terri Poe thought these programs could go a long way in supporting the overall wellness of our nurses and other team members who have been such fantastic and tireless caregivers during the pandemic.”

AHA also worked with Leonard to provide on-demand content that made it more convenient for healthcare workers with busy schedules.

“That accessibility is great for our teams,” Leonard says. “We have already had other employee resource groups request facilitators from AHA for their events. People see the benefit of the program and want to be a part of it.”



Sister acts

Siblings use drama and dance to create award-winning Alabama History Day projects.

Sisters Starlyn and Savi Fistein have each discovered a passion for both performance and historical research. Their combined interests have found a single, creative outlet through Alabama History Day — the state affiliate contest of National History Day, a history competition that engages students (grades 6–12) in robust historical research.

Starlyn, a rising junior who is a drama student at Baker High School in Mobile, has thrice made it to the National History Day competition in Washington, D.C., including a national award for her dramatic presentation on Cudjoe Kazoola Lewis and Alabama’s Africatown community. She returned to the national competition this year thanks to her latest first-place honors at Alabama History Day, a performance as Sophie Scholl, a student in Nazi Germany who helped lead an underground resistance in her home country.

Savi, a 2021 graduate of Mobile’s Phillips Preparatory Middle School, has twice partnered with classmate Aiden Seabrook to win Alabama History Day contests. Together, they earned the Outstanding Alabama Junior Entry at the 2020 National History Day competition. Savi, a dancer herself, used their project to highlight Raven Wilkinson, a barrier-breaking Black ballerina.

Below, the Fistein sisters and Seabrook discuss what Alabama History Day means to them.

What do you remember most about your first time competing?

Starlyn: *I remember the reaction of a college student who saw my project. I was in the 6th grade competing with an exhibit on Mental Health Awareness and Taking a Stand to End the Stigma (surrounding mental health throughout history) when a student approached me excitedly and asked if she could take some photos of my board. She wasn’t a judge. She was a volunteer for the competition that day who was majoring in psychology. She told me my message was inspiring and she had thought about volunteering at the National Alliance on Mental*

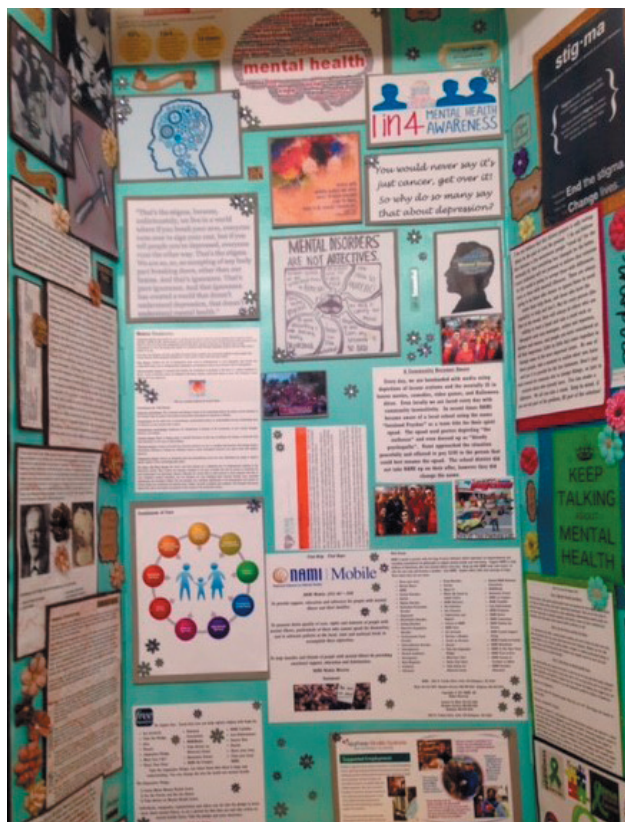
Illness recently; my project had convinced her. I did not place that year, but to me I’d already secured a win. That encounter left me knowing I had done something important. It opened my eyes to the visible impact history has on my community and encouraged my continued participation in this wonderful program.

How has competing in Alabama History Day made you think differently about your connection to history and to your community?

Seabrook: *It’s given me a new perspective of current events around me. I’ve been able to dive deep into world-changing moments throughout our history and I attribute this to my studying history to such a large degree. I believe this has given me the ability to recognize history in the making, when it is happening in the world, and in the community, I live in.*

What is your definition of the “humanities”?

Savi: *I think of the humanities as the study of different aspects of the past, the present, and the future. It focuses on the study of human culture and societies from the ancient times to the present and how that will affect our future. It includes the study of history, language, literature, archaeology, human geography, and so much more.*



Starlyn's Exhibit: Mental Health Awareness: Taking a Stand to End the Stigma.

How have your interests changed since competing in Alabama History Day?

Starlyn: *Alabama History Day has given me the opportunity to combine two of my passions — history and theater. I first chose to compete in the performance category in 8th grade with a project on the life of Cudjoe Kazoola Lewis, recorded in Zora Neale Hurston's book, Barracoon. (I strongly recommend this read.) Producing an original script based on real human emotion and historical perspective was an incredible opportunity, and I fell in love with the method of sharing history. Bringing history to life by performing someone else's story allows me to experience a part of that individual's struggle and courage. Like with my project this year on Sophie Scholl and the White Rose, I get to help continue the legacy of an important historical figure whose bravery and sacrifices should never be forgotten.*

Save the Date: Alabama History Day 2022

Theme : Debate & Diplomacy in History:
Successes, Failures, Consequences

Date : April 8, 2022

Location : Auburn University at Montgomery

About Alabama History Day

Alabama History Day is the state affiliate contest of National History Day, a competition that engages students (grades 6-12) in robust and creative historical research. Students may work individually or in groups of up to five. In the process, students transform into writers, filmmakers, designers, playwrights, and artists as they create unique contemporary expressions of history.

Winning competitors are eligible to move on to the National History Day competition held in Washington, D. C., each June.

Learn more about Alabama History Day:
alabamahumanities.org/program/alabama-history-day

Why would you recommend other students participate in Alabama History Day?

Savi: *History Day has affected my perception of the world and its past events. I would recommend other students participate in Alabama History Day because of the way it lets you draw your own conclusions and opinions. It is truly intriguing to see other competitors' views and what platform they chose to express them. Yes, History Day is a gain intellectually, but the experience and connection you get to make to the history all around us is the truly amazing benefit.*



Starlyn Fistein loves combining history and psychology with her passion for acting. She's a Baker Musical Theatre member, recently performing in Baker's 50th anniversary of the Broadway revival, *Godspell*. She also enjoys reading, skateboarding, photography/videography, and playing the guitar and ukulele.



Savi Fistein balances her love of history with a passion for dance. She's been dancing with a studio since she was 18 months old. She has been a member of Mobile Ballet for five years, and The Mobile Ballet Company for two years.

Aiden Seabrook has a strong interest in technology, often taking apart electronic devices to view their inner workings and discover the "why" part of their function. When it comes to history, he has always had a particular fascination for the post-World War I period.



A teacher's perspective

How Alabama History Day has transformed my students — and me.

By Dawn Horn

Dawn Horn taught at Holy Spirit Catholic School in Tuscaloosa for eight years, where she served as the school's Social Studies Department chair and taught U.S. History, AP U.S. History, and technology courses. Her favorite history topics include World War II, the Vietnam conflict, and the 1980s. She's now a program manager of teacher development and curriculum management for ACCESS at the University of Alabama.

When we decided to bring Alabama History Day to Holy Spirit Catholic School in 2019, we decided to require all students in grades 7-12 to participate. For the first year, we focused on one goal: helping students choose a research topic that genuinely intrigued them. We wanted all students, even those who said they didn't like history, to enjoy learning something new.

One week before Holy Spirit's first History Day competition, I remember talking with a student about her project. She had decided to focus on the Donner Party but couldn't link it to the contest theme of breaking barriers in history. It was clear she had only done cursory research, so I asked her if she was truly interested in the topic. She said "no."

We spent about an hour talking about her interests and how those things could relate to the History Day theme. Eventually, we settled on *manga*, Japanese comic books

and graphic novels. She was really interested in one particular *manga* artist. I told her changing her topic with just a week left would be difficult. But she was so excited about her new topic she said she would get it done. She ended up taking third place in her category that year. Well before this year's competition, I asked her if she'd started considering what she'd do. She already had an idea: grunge music and fashion. Not only that, she decided to step out of her creative comfort zone — instead of setting up an exhibit, she was going to make a website.

That's what I love about History Day. Not only does it allow students to delve into subjects of personal interest, but it allows them to take something they are passionate about and see it from a different perspective. History Day encourages students to ask the big question: "Why?" Why do people care about a certain topic? Why did it make a difference? History Day guides students

through the process of research and argumentation. It shows students how history affects the present and influences the future. History Day also reinforces skills students need to be college- or career-ready, such as time management, written and verbal communication skills, and the ability to work with others.

I left Holy Spirit at the end of March 2021 for a new position. I agreed to continue to serve as the faculty sponsor for students who qualified for Alabama History Day and National History Day. Part of the reason was because I felt I owed it to the students who had worked so hard on their projects, but I also stayed on because History Day didn't just change the students — it changed me, too. It changed the way I looked at my students. It changed the way I looked at content I had taught for almost eight years. And, most importantly, History Day changed the way I looked at the world around me.

Alabama Humanities Alliance grants

Apply now

For one of three AHA quarterly grants.

Mini Grant: Up to \$2,000.

Major Grant: Up to \$7,500.

Media Grant: Up to \$10,000.

Quarterly deadlines:

Spring

February 15: Preliminary

March 15: Final

Fall

August 18: Preliminary

September 15: Final

Summer

May 18: Preliminary

June 15: Final

Winter

November 18: Preliminary

December 15: Final

alabamahumanities.org/grants

*Road to Meadowbank Farm, off Highway 84 and a
bend of the Alabama River, 12 miles from Monroeville.*



PRESERVING THE PAST. DEFINING THE FUTURE.

Associate Professor of English Emily Friedman and her team of undergraduate researchers are preserving never before published fiction manuscripts from 1750–1900 through digitization. The resulting online database will keep these stories alive for future generations of scholars and fiction enthusiasts around the world. Our faculty are defining humanities scholarship in the 21st century.



AUBURN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

For more information on research initiatives in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University, visit our website at cla.auburn.edu or contact us at (334) 844-4026.

2020 grants roundup

The Alabama Humanities Alliance is the primary source of grants for public humanities programming in the state. Here's what that looks like in action.

Advancing the humanities – and communities – across Alabama

What kind of impact can \$696,000 make in advancing the humanities in Alabama? A very significant difference, thanks to our dynamic grant recipients statewide. In 2020 alone, we awarded 39 regular grants to nonprofit community organizations — from Madison to Mobile and many points in between.

Quarterly

Grants in 2020

39

Grants awarded

\$189k

Funded

CARES Act

Grants in 2020

79

Grants awarded

\$508k

Funded

Total

Grants in 2020

118

Grants awarded

\$696k

Funded

We're on pace for an even bigger year supporting the humanities in 2021. This summer, in addition to our regular quarterly grants, we're distributing another \$800,000 in Alabama Humanities Recovery Grants, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

AHA!
ALABAMA HUMANITIES ALLIANCE

Recent grantees: September 2020–March 2021

Read on for a taste of the programs, events, and projects that the Alabama Humanities Alliance supports. And discover how to apply for one of our quarterly grants that can help your organization address specific needs in your community — and enrich life in Alabama for us all.

Clotilda Descendants Association

Spirit of Our Ancestors Festival 2021

Mobile (Mobile County)

The Clotilda Descendants Association hosts the *Spirit of Our Ancestors Festival* — an annual celebration of the history, customs, and culture of the last African captives brought to America. The 2021 virtual festival will give the public the opportunity to share their story through all the women — known and unknown — who were brought to Mobile in 1860. Dr. Hannah Durkin from Newcastle University serves as the keynote speaker and shares her research findings on Clotilda survivors Sally Smith and Matilda McCrear, who are now known to have outlived Cudjo Lewis.

The Flourish Alabama

Cell Phone Cinema

Birmingham
(Jefferson County)

The Flourish Alabama delivers *Cellphone Cinema*, a film production project geared toward teaching students how to create one-minute, humanities-focused films. Each week, The Flourish Alabama engages students in interdisciplinary project-based learning activities that allow them to analyze, interpret, and synthesize their current life experiences during 2020 and produce introspective and socially aware projects. The project culminates in a virtual film festival hosted and facilitated by The Flourish Alabama.

Friends of the Archives

Food for Thought and Book Talk Series 2021

Montgomery
(Montgomery County)

The Friends of the Archives hosts an Alabama history lecture series held on the third Thursday of every month at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Food for Thought presentations feature humanities scholars discussing a wide variety of topics relating to the state of Alabama, including environmental history, the 1901 Constitution, and Reconstruction. The Friends of the Archives also hosts a quarterly Book Talk series featuring authors of recent publications about Alabama history, cultural, and archival work.

Foundation for New Media

Sink The Alabama

Mobile (Mobile County)

The Foundation for New Media presents a documentary film using the story of Mobile sea captain Raphael Semmes and the British-built CSS Alabama to reflect on how Britain, though anti-slavery, nearly tipped the balance of the Civil War by supporting the South after a Confederate propaganda campaign convinced the British that the war was not about slavery. The project includes public screenings of the film.

Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama

Alabama Women's History Docuseries

Birmingham
(Jefferson County)

Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama produces a docuseries on Alabama women's history, available to stream for free on its Roku channel and mobile apps Trailblazer TV and on TrailblazerTV.org, primarily for Alabama girls in kindergarten through 12th grade and their families. The docuseries shares the often-untold stories of Alabama women and features women

historians from across Alabama who provide context to the viewers on how the subjects' stories fit into what was happening in the state at the time.

Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama

Girl Scouts Civil Rights Trek

Montgomery
(Montgomery County)

Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama executes a series of videos that focus on the role that women played in the civil rights history of Montgomery. The virtual tours showcase Montgomery as a progressive city, highlighting fundamental decisions that sparked change and provoked growth in our nation's history. The tours are available to a wide audience across Alabama and other states.

a museum tour, audiences learn of the rich history of the museum, the significance of the diplomatic relations that took place, and the everlasting legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and other leaders who utilized the home to plan, meet, and strategize during the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Historic Blakeley State Park

Fighting for Freedom: African American Soldiers at the Battle of Fort Blakeley

Spanish Fort
(Baldwin County)

Historic Blakeley State Park brings nationally noted scholar John David Smith to the park to discuss his research into the Civil War experience of the United States

"AHA really cares about the work we do and encourages us to be persistent in trying to bring neglected history to light. This funding has been critical to getting first-hand interviews so our citizens and other researchers have access to those who were on the front lines of this history."

Peggy Sammon, Treasurer
Rocket City Civil Rights | Huntsville, Alabama

Global Ties Alabama

Selma Ties: Presented by Global Ties Alabama and the Jackson Museum

Huntsville
(Madison County)

Selma Ties brings together scholars and historians to uniquely explore the Jackson Museum in Selma. Through an interactive virtual seminar and a live broadcast of

Colored Troops (USCT). One of the largest concentrations of the USCT during any battle in the war took place at Blakeley, where over 4,000 black troops, most of them former slaves, participated in the siege and storming of the primary Confederate position defending the city of Mobile.

Kentuck Art Center & Festival

Kentuck Art Center's 2021 Season: *The Mystic Chords of Memory*

Northport
(Tuscaloosa County)

The Mystic Chords of Memory, Kentuck's 2021 season of outreach and events, focuses on collective and individual memory with programs centering around the civil rights movement, memory paintings, and artists whose work focuses on memory. Humanities activities include artist talks, guest speakers, and field trips that incorporate age-appropriate literature. All events are filmed and edited into virtual content on Kentuck's website for those who cannot attend in person.

Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery

Cultural Crossroads: Reconstruction and its Legacies in Alabama

Montgomery
(Montgomery County)

Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery hosts the first of a series of three Cultural Crossroads symposia on the topic of Reconstruction and its enduring legacies in Alabama's history. Cultural Crossroads is an annual symposium for teachers, public historians, local historians, and other everyday Alabamians. Landmarks Foundation hosts the event in person at Old Alabama Town in Montgomery with digital streaming available online.

"The stories of thousands of "everyday" brave individuals who marched, were pepper-sprayed, beaten, injured, and jailed to achieve their rights as American citizens have not fully been told. Our new documentary, *Let Us Praise the Foot Soldiers Who Came Before Us*, funded by AHA, enabled the Museum to take another step in preserving the history of rural Black Belt Alabama."

Marlene Burroughs, Board Member
Safe House Black History Museum | Greensboro, Alabama

Lawrence County History and Preservation Society

Let's Visit Alabama

Moulton
(Lawrence County)

The Let's Visit Alabama project provides virtual visits to several historic attractions in the Shoals area to classrooms throughout the state. Students see museums and birthplaces in North Alabama through the eyes of children, sharing the stories of courageous Alabama men and women who earned the respect of the world. In addition to the virtual tours, classroom teachers also receive curriculum guides specific to each of the sites visited.

Liberty Learning Foundation, Inc.

American Character Program

Huntsville
(Madison County)

The Liberty Learning Foundation expands its American Character Program offerings to 7th graders throughout Alabama. The American Character Program creates an exciting experience for students to learn lessons in civic responsibility and character building by exploring the history behind 10 pivotal American historical characters. Students are engaged and informed by an innovative, comic book-style curriculum format followed by more in-depth lessons.

Literacy Council of Central Alabama

Exploring Racial Equity through Literacy - A Path Forward for Empathy and Equality

Birmingham
(Jefferson County)

The Literacy Council of Central Alabama brings Wendy Greene, world-renowned professor of law at Drexel University and anti-discrimination advocate, to Alabama virtually. Green facilitates a discussion on the role of racial discrimination in America's history, how discrimination influences equity, and current events and conversations. The discussion is one segment of a three-part program to engage people in reading, book discussions, and conversations that challenge the status quo to create a path forward with empathy and equality.

Manitou Cave of Alabama

Manitou Cave Sequoyah 200th Celebration and the Trail of Tears

Ft. Payne (DeKalb County)

Manitou Cave of Alabama hosts a full day of activities to celebrate their newly earned status as a Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Certified Interpretive Center and to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Sequoyah's syllabary. Speakers include Troy Wayne Poteete, director of the Trail of Tears Association, and Charlie Rhodarmer, director of the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum. Manitou Cave also hosts an official ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new historical marker and lectures by additional scholars on Cherokee history and culture.

National Hook Up of Black Women

Ujima Family Reading Circle

Birmingham
(Jefferson County)

The National Hook Up of Black Women addresses the ills of illiteracy in Birmingham's community by promoting books that focus on the family and community through

its Ujima Family Reading Circle. The organization engages families with books and interactive activities that will improve family reading habits; foster the appreciation and understanding of history, literature, civics, and culture; and promote family interactions through gardening experiences and readings.

Stillman College

Hello Black Belt!

Tuscaloosa (Tuscaloosa County)

Stillman College produces the Hello Black Belt! pilot program — a virtual, 30-minute reading program providing multi-sensory learning opportunities through literature for children attending six schools in Dallas County. Modeled after Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, the program uses a rural setting that most children will be familiar with and includes professional development for teachers.

The Ridge Macon County Archaeology Project

Old Federal Road Storytelling Festival in Motion - Video Programs and Lessons Plans for 4th Grade

Warrior Stand (Macon County)

The Ridge Macon County Archaeology Project produces an instructional video and accompanying lesson plan for 4th-grade classrooms in addition to three instructional video storyboards and lesson plans for a subsequent project. The organization provides resources to support teachers in using local places to expound on the broad version of Alabama Fever pioneer settlement presented in state history textbooks.

The Scott & Zelda Fitzgerald Museum

Fitz Tales: The Short Stories of F. Scott & Zelda Fitzgerald
Montgomery
(Montgomery County)

The Scott & Zelda Fitzgerald Museum produces the podcast *Fitz Tales: The Short Stories of F.*



The Scott & Zelda Fitzgerald Museum received an AHA grant for its podcast that features readings and scholar-led discussions of Fitzgerald's short stories.

Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, featuring dramatic readings of the short stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald and Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald followed by a literary discussion of each story with noted Fitzgerald scholars. To mark the 100th anniversary of the publication of Scott Fitzgerald's first novel, *Fitz Tales* begins by focusing on 12 of Scott's stories published in 1920.

Temple Beth-El

Beth-El Civil Rights Experience Digital Tour

Birmingham (Jefferson County)

Temple Beth-El designs and releases *Jewish Birmingham and Black Civil Rights*, a free, app-based audio tour featuring stories at the intersection of Birmingham's Jewish and civil rights histories. The audio tour stands as a key element of The Beth-El Civil Rights Experience — a larger multimedia project exploring Birmingham's Jews and the struggle for Black civil rights. The Experience includes a permanent space for learning and dialogue at Temple Beth-El that will open in Fall 2021.

Troy University Department of Art and Design

YellowHammer Film Festival

Troy (Pike County)

The YellowHammer Film Festival is a free, statewide, virtual film festival for high school and college students, which consists of workshops, speakers, and an exhibition of original work. This year's theme for the competition is "Humanities: Films about languages, literature, the arts,

history, and philosophy." Recognized historians, critics, and creators deliver all workshops and serve as judges for the festival's competition.

University of Alabama Paul W. Bryant Museum

Paul W. Bryant Museum Breaking the Color Barrier Exhibit

Tuscaloosa (Tuscaloosa County)

The Paul W. Bryant Museum brings awareness to the effects of segregation and integration within athletics in Alabama and the nation during the 1960s and 1970s by creating a traveling exhibit that spotlights individual accomplishments on and off the field through a timeline of the integration of Alabama football. The exhibit spends one year at the Paul W. Bryant Museum before traveling to several geographically diverse sites throughout Alabama and two sites outside of Alabama.

University of South Alabama Center for the Study of War and Memory

Mobile's Confederate Monuments and Memorial Spaces in Context

Mobile (Mobile County)

The Center for the Study of War and Memory conducts and presents research on Mobile's Confederate monuments and memorial spaces through public history and digital humanities. The project helps the people of Mobile engage in informed and respectful conversations about what has become a vexing issue in so many

communities. The student-conducted research is shared using podcasts, public lectures, and an interactive digital map.

University of West Alabama Black Belt Museum

Ruby Pickens Tartt: An Alabama Original

Livingston (Sumter County)

Ruby Pickens Tartt: *An Alabama Original* is a traveling exhibit that celebrates the contributions of "Miss Ruby" toward the collection and preservation of African-American folk music, folklore, legends, and history from the 1930s to 1960s in Sumter County. The real focus of the exhibit, however, are the African Americans who shared their knowledge of folk music and folklore with Ms. Tartt and the scholars who came to Sumter County.

Vulcan Park and Museum

Vulcan Goes Virtual: Thinking Outside the Park and Increasing Accessibility

Birmingham (Jefferson County)

Vulcan Park and Museum creates professional video content integrated into a mobile platform for self-guided tours of park and museum. The app is available for visitors to enhance their onsite visit and for teachers and students in virtual classroom learning environments across the state. The creation of the mobile app positions Vulcan to provide an even richer educational experience where anyone can access the park at any time.

Donor honor roll

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Your support helps us engage more Alabamians in their communities. Support and inspire our teachers, creators, and thinkers statewide. And celebrate our history, culture, and diversity. Thank you for helping us continue creating AHA Moments, even in the most trying of times.

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Help advance the humanities

If you'd like to help us share new perspectives, build stronger communities, and create greater understanding among Alabamians, we invite you to support us.

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