Organizing Our Strength for Tomorrow

October 14–16, 2021

SNCC 60th Anniversary Conference

(Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee)
SNCC 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: A MULTI-GENERATIONAL CONFERENCE

Sixty years ago, young activists gathered at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, on April 15, 1960, to begin planning their generation’s obligation to continue a struggle that began long before they were born: the freedom and empowerment of Black people. Following this initial gathering, students met again in October in Atlanta, Georgia, and formally named their new organization the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). SNCC was then the only youth-led national civil rights organization. Now, at this important time in our history, we invite you to join us, virtually, on October 14-16, 2021 to honor and carry this struggle forward. We plan to bring together not just SNCC veterans, but also a wide array of today’s young on-the-ground activists and organizers. It is not a gathering of reminiscence. It is a gathering of strength and will to face the future with determination, optimism... and continued organizing.
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PLENARY/CONCURRENT SESSIONS
1:00 PM – 2:15 PM ET  PLENARY SESSION

THE POWER OF THE PAST

Hard-won and hard-fought for gains in education and in political arenas are under assault as we view today’s voter suppression and voter nullification in a larger context. This has happened before and it informs our analysis as we pivot from the historical to an analysis of what is happening now.

Charlie Cobb
SNCC Veteran, Journalist, Author, Activist

D’Atra Jackson
National Director, BYP100

Hasan Kwame Jeffries
Associate Professor of History, The Ohio State University

Charles Taylor
Principal, at Peyton Strategies

2:25 PM – 3:35 PM ET  CONCURRENT SESSION

THE MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY (MFDP)

Organizing to Make Political Change – 1961 - 1964

The organizing strategies used by the Black community in Mississippi to end the denial of the right to vote between 1961 -1964.

Freddie Biddle
SNCC Veteran, SNCC Legacy Project Board Member

Charles McLaurin
Community Organizer and Civil Rights Activist

Leslie McLemore
Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Jackson State University

Hollis Watkins
SNCC Veteran, Founder of the Mississippi Veterans of the Civil Rights Movement
LOWNDES COUNTY FREEDOM PARTY (LCFP)


The political educational campaign and organizing strategies that the Black community in Lowndes County used to secure both the vote and assume political power.

Courtland Cox
SNCC Veteran, SNCC Legacy Project Chair

Hasan Kwame Jeffries
Associate Professor of History, The Ohio State University

Jennifer Lawson
SNCC Veteran, SNCC Legacy Project Board Member

2:25 PM – 3:35 PM ET  CONCURRENT SESSION

MAKING OUR WAY INTO POLITICAL OFFICE TO MAKE CHANGE

Using Political Office of Make Change – 1968 – Present

Using the power of political office to meet the policy, legislative and financial needs of the Black community.

Honorable Shirley Franklin
Former Mayor of Atlanta, Georgia

Mayor Chokwe Lumumba
Attorney and Former Mayor of Jackson, Mississippi

Mayor Steven Reed
Mayor of Montgomery, Alabama

Corey Wiggins
Executive Director, Mississippi State Conference NAACP
3:50 PM – 5:00 PM ET  

CONCURRENT SESSION

ORGANIZING THE BLACK COMMUNITY TO GET OUT AND VOTE IN 2022 AND 2024: A HEAVY LIFT

Using the power of political office to meet the policy, legislative and financial needs of the Black community.

How to improve strategies used in the 2020 Presidential campaign in the 2022 congressional, state and local elections, and the 2024 Presidential election.

Jamal Watkins
Senior Vice President of Strategy and Advancement at the NAACP

DeJuana Thompson
Founding Partner, Think Rubix & Founder, Woke Vote

Nse Ufot
Chief Executive Officer, New Georgia Project

Dominik Whitehead
Vice President of Campaigns, NAACP

3:50 PM – 5:00 PM ET  

CONCURRENT SESSION

A CASE STUDY: THE FIGHT FOR THE EDUCATIONAL BALLOT INITIATIVE IN MISSISSIPPI

Quality education is essential. Hear the dramatic story of what happens when a state’s citizens push to implement public a step forward through the ballot. There are lessons for us all.

Frank Figgers
Consultant, One Voice Inc.

Nsombi Lambright-Haynes
Executive Director, One Voice

Charles Taylor
Principal, at Peyton Strategies

Amber Thomas
Vice President of Effectiveness and Improvements in Operations, NAACP
3:50 PM – 5:00 PM ET
CONCURRENT SESSION

ATTORNEYS GENERAL AND DISTRICT ATTORNEYS AND THE STRUGGLE TO MAKE THE JUSTICE SYSTEM WORK

Using the power of political office to meet the policy, legislative and financial needs of the Black community.

Discussion of justice leads to the importance of district attorneys and attorneys general and the role voters can play in creating legal systems that work for all.

District Attorney Scott Colom
District Attorney for Circuit Court District Sixteen in Mississippi

Fred Cooke
Attorney, Former Corporate Counsel for the District of Columbia

State’s Attorney Marilyn Mosby
Baltimore City State’s Attorney

Tre Murphy
Director of Community Organizing for the NAACP-Legal Defense and Educational Fund

5:10 PM – 7:00 PM ET

SNCC – 60 YEARS STRONG! A CELEBRATORY EVENT HONORING SNCC AND ITS VETERANS

REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING

This gathering is also a time to remember the many SNCC members who have passed away since 2010. In a brief period of reverence, we will reflect together on who they were and consider the many lives they touched through their work in the Movement and beyond. We will also celebrate them and revel in the joy that after 60 years the camaraderie and caring still exist. Our community is one of multiple generations and is enriched by the mingling of different ideas and spirit. Join small groups in virtual breakout rooms to resume the discussion you never finished or start a new one; to meet those with whom you worked together or simply to see friends and catch up on whatever you’d like. Details for small group locations online will be provided in the Conference Lobby.

Hosted by SNCC Veterans
Frank Smith and
Jennifer Lawson
1:00 PM – 2:15 PM ET  PLENARY SESSION

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: EFFECTING CHANGE AT CITY, COUNTY AND STATE LEVELS

The Black community encounters policies and actions of government at the municipal, county and state levels daily. Change at these levels can immediately relieve some of the most fundamental problems faced by many, especially disparities in the criminal justice system.

Attorney General Keith Ellison
Attorney General, Minnesota

James Forman, Jr.
Professor of Law at Yale Law School

Judy Richardson
SNCC Veteran, SNCC Legacy Project Board Member

2:25 PM – 3:35 PM ET  CONCURRENT SESSION

POLICING AND CHANGING THE MISSION OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

What some see as a solution, others see as a problem. This paradox is at the heart of many issues related to policing, community safety and criminal justice. What are possible pathways that insure security and justice?

James Forman, Jr.
Professor of Law at Yale Law School

Tishaura Jones
Mayor of St. Louis, Missouri

Roberto Rodriguez
Emeritus Associate Professor, Mexican American Studies Dept, University of Arizona
October 15
SEIZE THE MOMENT: MAKING CHANGE AT ALL LEVELS

2:25 PM – 3:35 PM ET  CONCURRENT SESSION

ECONOMIC POWER AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

A political presence alone does not guarantee the wellbeing of the Black community. How do we insure that we are politically and economically poised for dramatic improvements at all levels?

Rev. Delman Coates
Senior Pastor, Mt. Ennon Baptist Church

Wole Coaxum
Founder & CEO at Mobility Capital Finance, Inc. (“MoCaFi”)

William Darity
American Economist

Paul Pryde
Consultant to NorCal FDC

2:25 PM – 3:35 PM ET  CONCURRENT SESSION

EDUCATION FOR SELF DETERMINATION AND THE FUTURE ECONOMY

What is necessary to actually educate and insure a strong economic presence for the Black Community in the 21st Century?

Russlynn Ali
Chief Executive Officer, XQ Institute

Danny Glover
Speaker, Actor, Activist, Humanitarian

Maisha Moses
Executive Director at The Young People’s Project

BJ Walker
President and Founder, In The Public Way
3:50 PM – 5:00 PM ET

CONCURRENT SESSION

THE ARTIST AS ACTIVIST

The role of the artist in making and sustaining political change.

Andrew Aydin
Co-author for March and Run

Emory Douglas
Artist & Former Minister of Culture, Black Panther Party

Jonathan Lykes
Founder & Executive Director, Liberation House

Sonia Sanchez
Poet, Activist, and Scholar

AB Spellman
Poet, Music Critic, and Former Director at the National Endowment of the Arts

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The issue of affordable housing and the creation of safe, stable neighborhoods needs to be addressed. Are there models that point towards a promising future?

Avram Fechter
Managing Director at EquityPlus

Merrick Malone
President at District of Columbia Housing Enterprises

Chris Smith
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of WC Smith

Adrian Washington
CEO & Founder, Neighborhood Development Company
**THE IMPORTANCE OF LAND AND THE FIGHT AGAINST FOOD INSECURITY**

Thousands of people live in food deserts, are dependent on food handouts and spend their days without enough food to meet their basic nutritional needs, especially those of children. Innovative solutions and proposals for lasting change are coming from urban centers and rural areas fighting Black land loss.

**Savi Horne**  
Executive Director at Land Loss Prevention Project

**Leah Penniman**  
Black Kreyol Farmer, Author, and Food Justice Activist

**Shirley Sherrod**  
Co-Founder, Southwest Georgia Project and New Communities Inc.

**Malik Yakini**  
Executive Director, Detroit Black Community Food Security Network

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**“STAND UP AND SHOUT: THE SNCC FREEDOM & JUSTICE CONCERT”**  
**FEATURING 60 YEARS OF VOICES OF ARTISTS/ACTIVISTS**

Virtual performances by The Freedom Singers, Toshi Reagon, Imani Winds, Martha Redbone, Johnathan Lykes, Reverend Osagyefo Uhuru Sekou, Nathaniel Isiah Swanson, and C. Anthony Bryant.

Join us for a joyful hour bearing witness to the powerful ways in which our lives have been transformed through the music and words of the Movement.
1:00 PM – 2:15 PM ET  **PLENARY SESSION**

**THE PATH FORWARD: A LOOK AT THE 21ST CENTURY RACIAL ENVIRONMENT**

Racial divisions present a stark reality and in the midst of this, we must firmly secure our rights and create the benefits a democratic and equitable society that works for all. What are some of the visions that will guide us?

**Charlie Cobb**  
SNCC Veteran, Journalist, Author, Activist

**Judith Browne Dianis**  
Executive Director, National Office at Advancement Project

**Derrick Johnson**  
President and CEO of the NAACP

**Imani Perry**  
Hughes-Rogers Professor of African American Studies, Princeton University

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2:25 PM – 3:35 PM ET  **CONCURRENT SESSION**

**THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NARRATIVE: HBCUS AND AFRICANA STUDIES PROGRAMS**

Preserving our culture and passing the wealth of knowledge from generation to generation is essential. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Black Studies and Africana programs play an important role.

**Wisdom Cole**  
Interim Nat’l Director of the NAACP Youth & College Division

**Michael Lomax**  
President and Chief Executive Officer, UNCF

**Josh Myers**  
Associate Professor of Africana Studies in the Department of Afro-American Studies at Howard University

**Noliwe Rooks**  
Chair & Professor in Africana Studies at Brown University
2:25 PM – 3:35 PM ET  CONCURRENT SESSION

A MODEL FOR BLACK–BROWN MOVEMENT BUILDING

Latina/o/x, Indigenous, and Black communities all experience racism, inequality and injustice. A look at models of movement building in these communities offers useful lessons for us all.

Rachel Gilmer
Co-Director of the Dream Defenders

Paul Ortiz
Professor of History and Director of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, University of Florida

Zoharah Simmons
Professor Emerita, African American Religions & Islamic Studies, The University of Florida and SNCC Veteran, SNCC Legacy Project Board Member

Maria Varela
Organizer, Writer, Photographer and Occasional Adjunct Professor

2:25 PM – 3:35 PM ET  CONCURRENT SESSION

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

As we look towards the future, what must we do to strengthen and protect the Black community? How will technological and demographic change affect Black struggle?

Melina Abdullah
Professor and Chair at California State University, Los Angeles

Phil Agnew
Organizer + Artist

Dr. Geri Augusto
Senior Fellow in International and Public Affairs, Brown University

Ash-Lee Woodward Henderson
Co-Executive Director, Highlander Research and Education Center
TELLING AND TEACHING THE SNCC STORY FROM THE INSIDE OUT AND THE BOTTOM UP

The SNCC Digital Gateway (SDG), the Civil Rights Movement Archive (CRMA) and Zinn Education Project offer three useful examples of framing the story from the inside out and the bottom up. However, these important resources will mean nothing if teachers are prevented from using them. Fortunately, educators continue to teach “hard history” and highlight the “ordinary” people — like those in their students’ own communities and the students themselves — who were/are activists in civil rights and human rights movements. Knowing this history helps students better understand the present… and their role in shaping the future.

Deborah Menkart  
Executive Director at Teaching for Change

Judy Richardson  
SNCC Veteran, SNCC Legacy Project Board Member

Jessica Rucker  
Electives Teacher & Department Chair, Euphemia Lofton Haynes HS

THE POWER TO DECIDE: THE IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING POLITICAL ALLIANCES AND STRATEGIC COALITIONS

As we look towards the future, what must we do to strengthen and protect the Black community? How will technological and demographic change affect Black struggle?

Heather Booth  
American Civil Rights Activist

Denise Diaz  
Co-director, Central Florida Jobs with Justice & Nat’l Chair of Jobs with Justice Education Fund

Adam Kruggel  
Director of Strategic Initiatives at People’s Action

Larry Rubin  
SNCC Veteran, SNCC Legacy Project Board Member
3:50 PM – 5:00 PM ET  CONCURRENT SESSION

THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTROLLING LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL BUDGETS

It’s in the budget! Politicians can say anything, but their actions are shown in budgets. Whether it’s policing, schools, or clean water, there are surprising answers to be found by looking in budgets that determine so much.

Kwame Brown
Entrepreneur, Public Speaker, Managing Editor, AlwaysRealTalk Network, Political Analyst

Elijah Rogers
President Emeritus & Senior Advisor with Delon Hampton & Associates, Chartered

Carol Thompson Cole
President and CEO at Venture Philanthropy Partners (VPP+Raise DC)

5:10 PM – 6:15 PM ET

A SALUTE TO PAST GENERATIONS AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF UPCOMING GENERATIONS

Young organizers and activists of today join SNCC in looking at the years ahead with an eye on both the immediate challenges and those in the distant future.

Courtland Cox
SNCC Veteran, SNCC Legacy Project Chair
SNCC FREEDOM FILM FESTIVAL

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 14-16, 2021
SUMMER OF SOUL

Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson
USA, 2021, 117 minutes

In his acclaimed debut as a filmmaker, Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson presents a powerful and transporting documentary – part music film, part historical record created around an epic event that celebrated Black history, culture and fashion. Over the course of six weeks in the summer of 1969, just one hundred miles south of Woodstock, The Harlem Cultural Festival was filmed in Mount Morris Park (now Marcus Garvey Park). The footage was largely forgotten – until now. Summer of Soul shines a light on the importance of history to our spiritual well-being and stands as a testament to the healing power of music during times of unrest, both past and present. The feature includes concert performances by Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone, Sly & the Family Stone, Gladys Knight & the Pips, Mahalia Jackson, B.B. King, The 5th Dimension and more.

INTRODUCTION BY DIRECTOR, QUESTLOVE

Made possible by Searchlight Pictures and the Washington, DC International Film Festival
CASTE IN THE CLASSROOM: EDUCATION FOR SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS

Janet Moses
USA, 2021, 41 minutes

Caste in the Classroom: Education for Second-Class Citizens explores how America's racialized caste system is implicated in the poor educational outcomes of children of African descent.

Available: October 11th – 17th

DICK GREGORY, THEY'RE ASKING DIFFERENT QUESTIONS TODAY

Natalie Bullack Brown
USA, 2011, 68 minutes

Comedian and civil rights activist Dick Gregory said, "When you finally get a Black President, you get a nice, polite, well-behaved educated one who ain’t mad." Gregory was one of a handful of prominent entertainers who consistently supported SNCC. And he was one of the very few of this handful who regularly put his own life on the line. As he explains it: "I made all the money I needed to make, then I bumped into y’all and found out that there’s another bank." Dick Gregory acknowledges recent progress in modern politics while addressing continuing problems. He’s sure President Obama “can’t go to New York by himself and get a cab.” The 84-year-old Gregory credited the “integrity of the [Movement] folks” for keeping him healthy. “Young people should listen to old folks, but not too hard.”

Available: October 11th – 17th
THE FIRST RAINBOW COALITION
Ray Santisteban
USA, 2019, 56 minutes

The First Rainbow Coalition charts the history and legacy of a groundbreaking multi-ethnic coalition that rocked Chicago in the 1960s. Comprised of activists from the Black Panthers, the Young Patriots (southern whites), and the Young Lords (a former Puerto Rican street gang), Chicago’s Rainbow Coalition (1969-1971) united poor blacks, whites, and Latinos to openly challenge police brutality and substandard housing in one of the most segregated cities in America. Bridging past and present, The First Rainbow Coalition examines the legacy of the Rainbow Coalition, exploring how contemporary problems that displace the poor in urban areas, such as gentrification and the relationship between the police and poor and minority communities, are fundamentally linked to the defining issues around which the Rainbow Coalition was organized. A thought-provoking film that sparks new dialogue about the 1960s, The First Rainbow Coalition provides an unparalleled platform for contemporary discussions on race and class in an increasingly divided United States.

Available: October 11th – 17th

FREEDOM ON MY MIND
Connie Field and Marilyn Mulford
USA, 1994, 105 minutes

The Academy Award® nominated Freedom On My Mind vividly tells the complex and compelling history of the Mississippi voter registration struggles of 1961 to 1964. It is the story of a youthful shared vision and a generation who believed in and fought for the principles of democracy. The campaign was characterized by violence against the people involved, including instances of murder. Participants interviewed include Bob Moses, Victoria Gray Adams, Endesha Ida Mae Holland, and Freedom Summer volunteers Marshall Ganz, Heather Booth and Pam Alle.

Available: October 11th – 17th
FREEDOM SONG
Phil Alden Robinson
USA, 2000, 112 minutes

Starring Danny Glover, *Freedom Song* is based on true stories of the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi in the 1960s. It tells the story of the struggle of African Americans to register to vote in the fictional town of Quinlan. In the midst of the Freedom Summer, a group of high school students in the small town are eager to make grassroots changes in their own community. The young activists meet resistance not only from white southerners, but from their parents, who have experienced firsthand the violence that can result from speaking out. As high school students band together with the support of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, they make strides in registering African American voters and gaining awareness for their cause.

Available: October 11th - 13th
(only for the first 500 viewers)

INSTITUTION-BUILDING IN WASHINGTON DC: FOUR STORIES FROM THE BLACK POWER CHRONICLES
Karen Spellman, moderator
USA, 2021, 90 minutes

*Institution-Building in Washington DC: Four Stories from the Black Power Chronicles* is a small look at the new Black Power Chronicles website, launched by SNCC to be a repository of the interpretations of historical, current, and future struggles and accomplishments of African-Americans as impacted by the Black Power Movement (1966-1995). The stories presented are The Center for Black education, WHUR, Howard University radio, DC’s Malcolm X Day Festival and Free South Africa Movement to end apartheid in South Africa, as told by James Garrett, Niani Kilkenny, Charles Stephenson and Sylvia Hill.

Available: October 11th - 17th
LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE

Gavin Guerra
USA, 2019, 108 minutes

*Let the People Decide* traces the history of voting rights struggles in the United States from 1960 through the present day. The film draws parallels between the Mississippi voter registration drive of the early 1960’s and North Carolina’s ‘Moral Monday’ movement in the present day. A key goal of the film is connecting the dots between the generations to contextualize the current political environment surrounding race and voting. In 3 acts the film will travel across nearly 60 years to show how the current battles over voting are not a new front in the struggle over who gets to vote, but part of a continuing conflict that goes back many decades. Now as then, both sides claim the moral high ground. In the 1960’s, race was the clear driving force of the conflict, today the fight is couched in claims of fraud and suppression. Political parties have drawn lines in the sand and this project will present arguments from all sides in order that the film can live up to its name and *Let the People Decide*.

Available: October 11th – 17th

OUR VOICES – CHARLIE COBB AND PHIL AGNEW INTERVIEW

Roland S. Martin
USA, 2021, 16 minutes

Charles E. Cobb Jr., a Black student leader in the 60s, and Phillip Agnew, co-founder of the Dream Defenders, have had many one-on-one discussions about social activism in bars around the country. They brought the discussion from the bar to poolside in Jacksonville.

Available: October 11th – 17th
Dann Lyon’s SNCC brings together hundreds of never-before-seen black-and-white photographs made by Lyon during the years that he was employed as the staff photographer for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, or SNCC. Beginning in 1962 in Cairo, Illinois when Lyon, then a University of Chicago student, met John Lewis, Freedom Rider, the film traces the story of their friendship alongside the ongoing struggle for civil rights in the United States. The images are layered with archival audio recordings of speeches by and conversations with Lewis, Julian Bond, and Dotty Zellner, among others, as well as freedom songs that were recorded by Alan Ribback in churches and meetings in Atlanta in the 1960s and recently rediscovered by Lyon.

Available: October 11th – 17th

SNCC 50th Anniversary Freedom Concert is full of the sound and power of movement song. Bernice Johnson Reagon explains the origin of the SNCC Freedom Singers. She introduces a brief video of Cordell Reagon who organized the singers with Charles Sherrod. Many well-known activists participate in the session including Guy Carawan who introduced “We Shall Overcome” to SNCC in 1960. Folk singer Len Chandler, a regular presence at protests and rallies, explains singing freedom songs: “When you hear something twice, sing it!” Harry Belafonte leads the audience in his famous Banana Boat Song. SNCC’s own anthem, “We’ll Never Turn Back,” written by Georgia activist Bertha Gober, closes out the concert.

Available: October 11th – 17th
SUPPRESSED 2020: THE FIGHT TO VOTE

Robert Greenwald
USA, 2021, 38 minutes

Suppressed 2020: The Fight To Vote is a short, powerful documentary about the growing threat of voter suppression to our 2020 election. Deeply personal accounts from voters of color across the state of Georgia reveal deliberate, widespread voter suppression in the 2018 midterm election where Stacey Abrams fought to become the first Black female governor in the U.S. Polling place closures, voter purges, missing absentee ballots, extreme wait times and voter ID issues were in full effect again during the 2020 primaries and are ongoing across the country right now, all disproportionately affecting Black Americans and minorities from casting their ballots. Now, amidst a global health crisis, the cruel weaponization of vote-by-mail restrictions has turned the constitutional right to vote into a choice between life and death. Suppressed 2020 is a call to action against the calculated, unconstitutional and racist attacks intended to suppress the right to vote in America.

Available: October 11th – 17th

THEY SAY I’M YOUR TEACHER

Lucy Massie Phenix and Catherine Murphy
USA, 2019, 9 minutes

They Say I’m Your Teacher is a documentary short about the Citizen Education Schools. In the dawn of the Civil Rights Movement, Bernice Robinson, a beautician from South Carolina, become the first teacher in the Citizen Education Schools teaching African American adults to read to pass voter registration requirements in the South. Created from the 16mm archives of the groundbreaking 1985 film, You Got to Move, the film was produced by The Literacy Project.

Available: October 11th – 17th
TIME TO GET READY NOW!

Maria Varela
USA, 2019, 9 minutes

*Time to Get Ready Now!* is a photo exhibit of the Civil Rights Photography (1965-1970) of SNCC staff member Maria Varela. Maria Varela's photography, showcased local leaders of the 1960’s southern civil rights movement, without whom the movement could not move. Her work also captured glimpses of everyday life, events and the strategic organizing campaigns. Maria Varela, the only woman on SNCC photography staff, moved on from SNCC to work for the Chicano movement in the Southwest. She was the only photographer embedded within the Chicano delegation of the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign in Washington DC.

Available: October 11th – 17th

TURNING 15 ON THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

Fracaswell Hyman
USA, 2020, 55 minutes

*Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom*, a new musical filled with traditional and original gospel and freedom songs, tells the inspiring true story of Lynda Blackmon Lowery, the youngest person to walk from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama during the Voting Rights March in 1965. Jailed nine times before her 15th birthday, Lynda and her friends and neighbors fought to secure the right to vote for African Americans. Actress Ally Sheedy adapted the award-winning memoir by Lynda Blackmon Lowery for the stage.

Available: October 11th – 17th
BOOK TALKS
CHARLES E. COBB, JR.

RADICAL EQUATIONS (CIVIL RIGHTS FROM MISSISSIPPI TO THE ALGEBRA PROJECT) (co-authored with Robert P. Moses)

ON THE ROAD TO FREEDOM: A GUIDED TOUR OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL

THIS NONVIOLENT STUFF’LL GET YOU KILLED: HOW GUNS MADE THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT POSSIBLE


SNCC Veteran Charlie Cobb is a prolific journalist and writer about the Southern Freedom Movement, including his years as a SNCC Field Secretary. In This Nonviolent Stuff’ll Get You Killed he recounts the vital role that armed self-defense has played in the survival and liberation of black communities. Radical Equations, co-authored with the late Bob Moses, describes the evolution of the ground-breaking Algebra Project. “If Chapter One of Moses’s Mississippi odyssey was about voting, Chapter 2 is about algebra. They merge in . . . Radical Equations. The themes-equality, empowerment, citizenship-ripple through like ribbons, tying the two experiences in the same long-term struggle.” —wrote The New York Times.
BRUCE HARTFORD

TROUBLEMAKER: MEMORIES OF THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT

THE SELMA VOTING RIGHTS STRUGGLE AND THE MARCH TO MONTGOMERY

These two books recount Bruce Hartford’s life shaping experience working for CORE and SCLC.

A first person, boots-on-the-ground story of the author’s service in the American Civil Rights Movement, Bruce was one of the many Jews who allied themselves with the African American struggle for justice and equality in the early and mid-1960’s. He served first with CORE and then on the staff of Dr. King’s SCLC in Alabama and Mississippi. He was active in the Selma Voting Rights campaign and the March to Montgomery, was director of the Crenshaw County Alabama voter registration project in 1965 and an SCLC field secretary in the long and violent struggle in Grenada Mississippi.

BRENDA TRAVIS

MISSISSIPPI’S EXILED DAUGHTER: HOW MY CIVIL RIGHTS BAPTISM UNDER FIRE SHAPED MY LIFE

Brenda Travis, a sharecropper’s daughter in McComb, Mississippi, joined the Freedom Movement as a high school student. Arrested and jailed in 1961, she was banished to a reform school and then legally exiled from the state.

18 One on One Interviews Available to Registrants from October 11 until January 9, 2022

All publications available at Harrietts Bookshop
HOLLIS WATKINS

BROTHER HOLLIS: THE SANKOFA OF A MOVEMENT MAN

Brother Hollis is the first book written by a native Mississippian who was engaged in grassroots organizing in the state as a SNCC Field Secretary during the 1960’s. Beginning with the McComb Mississippi Movement in 1961, and continuing to his work with Southern Echo today, Watkins has dedicated his life to the freedom struggle.

DR. MARY ELIZABETH KING

FREEDOM SONG: A PERSONAL STORY OF THE 1960S CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

This is a deeply felt insider’s account of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), in which the author - white and a woman in her early 20s - held a key communications post at the height of the civil rights movement. After graduating from Ohio Wesleyan University, she moved to Atlanta to work in the SNCC headquarters. Tracing SNCC’s work (from direct action to voter registration to political organizing) in the Deep South from 1962 to 1965, King brings to life the daily realities of civil rights activism while reflecting on self-discoveries that led her to question the status of women in the movement.

18 One on One Interviews Available to Registrants from October 11 until January 9, 2022
All publications available at Harrietts Bookshop
DR. CLEVELAND L. SELLERS

THE RIVER OF NO RETURN: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A BLACK MILITANT AND THE LIFE AND DEATH OF SNCC

In 1962, at the age of seventeen, Cleveland Sellers joined the Nonviolent Action Group at Howard University, an affiliate of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). A native of South Carolina, Sellers worked with SNCC in the Deep South during its most active years.

*The River of No Return* is both the story of one young man’s journey, and an insider’s account of the civil rights movement. Sellers writes of the early sit-ins coordinated by SNCC; of the murders of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner by the Ku Klux Klan; the Selma Campaign; the Meredith march; and the many other key events of these tumultuous years. Through his eyes we see the birth of Black Power, and then, ultimately, the fragmentation of the movement and the demise of SNCC. Intertwined with Sellers’s personal story are intimate portraits of the others who helped build the movement, among them Martin Luther King Jr., Julian Bond, Stokely Carmichael, John Lewis, and Bob Moses.

Dr. Sellers later served as director of the African American Studies program at the University of South Carolina, and as the president of Voorhees College.

DANNY LYON

MEMORIES OF THE SOUTHERN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Internationally renowned photographer and author of a dozen photography books, *Memories* collects Lyon’s photos made while he was on the staff of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in the early 1960’s. Traveling to civil rights hotspots across Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, Danny’s images helped SNCC craft its public image. Raised in New York City, he was SNCC’s first staff photographer.

All publications available at [Harriets Bookshop](https://www.harriets.com)
MEET THE AUTHORS  |  OCTOBER 11, 2021 – JANUARY 9, 2022

PETER DE LISSOVOY

THE GREAT POOL JUMP AND OTHER STORIES FROM THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN SOUTHWEST GEORGIA

Harvard University student Peter de Lissovoy dropped out of school to work for SNCC. He spent two years in the early 1960’s in Southwest Georgia working on voter registration and direct action. This book chronicles his work and that of some of his colleagues.

ROBERT ZELLNER

THE WRONG SIDE OF MURDER CREEK: A WHITE SOUTHERNER IN THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT

Born and raised in Alabama, the son and grandson of Klansmen, Zellner became SNCC’s first white Field Secretary in 1961. Winner of the 2009 Lillian Smith Book Award, Bob Zellner’s larger-than-life story is now a major motion picture produced by Spike Lee.

DENISE NICHOLAS

FRESHWATER ROAD: A NOVEL

The only fiction work in our Meet the Authors program, the novel is based on Denise Nicholas’ recollections of her time in Mississippi as a 1964 Freedom Summer Volunteer. Later Nicholas worked and toured with the Free Southern Theater. This debut novel by television actress Nicholas, former star of the television series Room 222 and In the Heat of the Night, offers a sensitive and absorbing story of a young woman coming of age emotionally and racially.

18 One on One Interviews Available to Registrants from October 11 until January 9, 2022

All publications available at Harriets Bookshop
SHIRLEY SHERROD

THE COURAGE TO HOPE: HOW I STOOD UP TO THE POLITICS OF FEAR

Sherrod (née Miller) was born in 1948 in Baker County, Georgia. When she was 17 years old, her father, a deacon at the local Baptist Church, was shot dead by a white farmer, reportedly over a dispute about livestock. No charges were returned against the shooter by an all-white grand jury. This was a turning point in her life and led her to feel that she should stay in the South to bring about change. Several months after her father’s murder, a cross was burned at night in front of the family’s residence.

That same year, Sherrod was among the first black students to enroll in the previously all-white high school in Baker County. Eleven years later, Sherrod’s mother became the first black woman elected to a county office.

Sherrod studied sociology at Albany State University in Georgia while working for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee during the Civil Rights Movement where she met her future husband, minister Charles Sherrod. She went on to Antioch University in Yellow Springs, Ohio where she earned her master’s degree in community development. She returned to Georgia to work with the Department of Agriculture in Georgia “to help negro farmers keep their land.”

The Courage to Hope is her life story.
MEET THE AUTHORS

DR. JOYCE LADNER

THE DEATH OF WHITE SOCIOLOGY: ESSAYS ON RACE AND CULTURE

TOMORROW’S TOMORROW: THE BLACK WOMAN

A native of Mississippi, Tougaloo College graduate, SNCC veteran, noted sociologist, college president, author – Joyce Ladner’s work for SNCC included being a delegate from SNCC to the organizing committee of the 1963 March on Washington. As teenagers in the 1950’s, Joyce and her sister Dorie organized a NAACP Youth Council in their native Hattiesburg, MS.

These two books are works by Dr. Ladner which are important in the field of sociology.

REV. BERNARD LAFAYETTE

IN PEACE AND FREEDOM: MY JOURNEY IN SELMA

Bernard LaFayette, Jr., born and raised in Florida, was a cofounder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), a leader in the Nashville lunch counter sit-ins (1960), a Freedom Rider (1961), an associate of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and the national coordinator of the Poor People’s Campaign. At the age of 22, he assumed the directorship of the Alabama Voter Registration Project in Selma - a city that had previously been removed from the organization’s list due to the dangers of operating there.

In this electrifying memoir, written with Kathryn Lee Johnson, LaFayette shares the inspiring story of his years in Selma.

He currently serves as scholar-in-residence at the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University.

18 One on One Interviews Available to Registrants from October 11 until January 9, 2022

All publications available at Harrietts Bookshop
ANDREW AYDIN

MARCH – THE TRILOGY (with John Lewis)

RUN – (with John Lewis)

These books together tell the story of John Lewis’ life in graphic form. Andrew Ayden was co-writer of the four books. MARCH won the National Book Award in 2016 for Young People’s Literature.

Before he became a respected Congressman, John Lewis was clubbed, gassed, arrested over 40 times, and nearly killed by angry mobs and state police, all while nonviolently protesting racial discrimination. He served as Chair of SNCC from 1963 to 1966 and was the youngest speaker at the March on Washington.

With co-writer Andrew Aydin and Eisner Award-winning artist Nate Powell, John Lewis’ MARCH tells the story of how a poor sharecropper’s son helped transform America, from a segregated schoolhouse to the 1963 March on Washington and beyond. RUN continues Lewis’ story.

Andrew Aydin is a #1 New York Times bestselling author, a National Book Award winner, a Robert F. Kennedy Book Award Honoree, a Printz Award winner, a Sibert Medal winner, a Walter Dean Myers Award winner, a two-time Eisner award winner, and the recipient of multiple Coretta Scott King honors. MARCH is the first comics work to ever win the National Book Award.

An Atlanta native, Aydin joined the staff of Rep. John Lewis in 2007 where Andrew served in several capacities including campaign communications director and digital director & policy advisor.

18 One on One Interviews Available to Registrants from October 11 until January 9, 2022
ROY DEBERRY AND AVIVA FUTORIAN

VOICES FROM THE MISSISSIPPI HILL COUNTRY: THE BENTON COUNTY CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Aviva Futorian was a SNCC staffer in the summer of 1964, and Roy DeBerry was a teenage student of a SNCC Freedom School, when they met. Aviva was Roy’s Freedom School teacher.

Voices from the Mississippi Hill Country is a collection of interviews with residents of Benton County, Mississippi—an area with a long and fascinating civil rights history. The product of more than twenty-five years of work by the Hill Country Project, this volume examines a revolutionary period in American history through the voices of farmers, teachers, sharecroppers, and students. No other rural farming county in the American South has yet been afforded such a deep dive into its civil rights experiences and their legacies. These accumulated stories truly capture life before, during, and after the movement.

The authors’ approach places the region’s history in context and reveals everyday struggles. African American residents of Benton County had been organizing since the 1930s. Citizens formed a local chapter of the NAACP in the 1940s and ‘50s. One of the first Mississippi counties to get a federal registrar under the 1965 Voting Rights Act, Benton achieved the highest per capita total of African American registered voters in Mississippi. Locals produced a regular, clandestinely distributed newsletter, the Benton County Freedom Train.

In addition to documenting this previously unrecorded history, personal narratives capture pivotal moments of individual lives and lend insight into the human cost and the long-term effects of social movements. Benton County residents explain the events that shaped their lives and ultimately, in their own humble way, helped shape the trajectory of America. Through these first-person stories and with dozens of captivating photos covering more than a century’s worth of history, the volume presents a vivid picture of a people and a region still striving for the prize of equality and justice.

Roy DeBerry is a native of Holly Springs, MS. He is a graduate of Brandeis University with a doctorate in political science. Roy retired in 2008 as Vice President for Economic Development and Local Governmental Affairs at Jackson State University. During his ten year administrative tenure at Jackson State, he also served as Executive Vice President.

Aviva Futurian is presently a lawyer in Chicago working on prison reform issues.
CHARLES A. BONNER

TIP OF THE ARROW: THE SELMA STUDENT NONVIOLENT MOVEMENT, A STUDY IN LEADERSHIP

“The purpose of my book, The Tip of the Arrow, A Study in Leadership,” writes Charles Bonner, “is to share with young people of today and tomorrow the story of young people like me at age sixteen as the blueprint of the Selma Student Nonviolent Civil Rights movement, a significant impacting factor in the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the dominating influence leading to the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.”

Charles A. Bonner was born in Selma, Alabama. In 1963, at age 16, he joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), training, sitting in and peacefully marching for equal rights, and community organizing for the right to vote. He became a field director for SNCC’s Voter Registration Project in Wilcox County in 1965, conducting voter education and voter registration drives. He was one of hundreds who were beaten on Sunday, March 7, 1965 by Alabama State troopers, rushing the marchers on horseback, and on foot, wielding whips, nightsticks and tear gas on the Edmund Pettis Bridge during the “Bloody Sunday” Selma to Montgomery March for the right to vote. Now a trial lawyer and author, Mr. Bonner is still fighting against discrimination, environmental injustice, violence and slavery in the world.
EKWUEME MICHAEL THELWELL

READY FOR REVOLUTION: THE LIFE AND STRUGGLES OF STOKELY CARMICHAEL

The astonishing personal and political autobiography of Stokely Carmichael, the legendary civil rights leader, Black Power architect, Pan-African activist, and revolutionary thinker and organizer known as Kwame Ture.

Chair of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee 1966-68. Honorary prime minister of the Black Panther Party. Bestselling author. Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture) is an American legend, one whose work as a civil rights leader fundamentally altered the course of history—and our understanding of Pan-Africanism today. Ready for Revolution recounts the extraordinary course of Carmichael’s life, from his Trinidadian youth to his consciousness-raising years in Harlem to his rise as the patriarch of the Black Power movement.

In his own words, told to his SNCC colleague Michael Thelwell (they were classmates at Howard U. and comrades in the Nonviolent Action Group at Howard), Carmichael tells the story of his fight for social justice with candor, wit, and passion—and a cast of luminaries that includes James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, Bayard Rustin, Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, Ho Chi Minh, and Fidel Castro, among others. Carmichael’s personal testimony captures the pulse of the cultural upheavals that characterize the modern world. This landmark, posthumously published autobiography reintroduces us to a man whose love of freedom fueled his fight for revolution to the end.

Ekwueme Michael Thelwell was a classmate of Carmichael’s at Howard University, and a colleague in SNCC. He was director of the DC SNCC office 1963-64 and of the DC MFDP office during the lead-up to the 1964 Democratic Convention challenge. Thelwell was in 1970 founding chairman of the Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.
DR. DORIS A. DERBY

POETAGRAPHY: ARTISTIC REFLECTIONS OF A MISSISSIPPI LIFELINE IN WORDS AND IMAGES: 1963 - 1972

As a young woman, Derby spent nine years in the Southern Freedom Movement, in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi.

“Work in the first two areas was relatively short, she writes, but work and life in Mississippi, 1963-1972, seemed like more than a decade. Experiences in my first year in Mississippi, working with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), the Delta Folk Festivals and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP), in Jackson, and at Tougaloo College resulted in these poems. They were written while I was living in the little white house across from Tougaloo, which is still there, working as a teacher in the Adult Literacy Project initiated by SNCC. Roommates Sandra “Casey” Hayden and Helen O’Neal, were also my co-workers. John O’Neal, another Literacy Project worker and I, along with Gilbert Moses, a journalist for the Jackson Free Press, co-founded the Free Southern Theater (FST) in 1963 at Tougaloo College.

As participants in these groups we faced many trials and tribulations, some of which are reflected in this book. In the years to follow, my time was spent working with the Poor Peoples Corporation, the Liberty House Handcraft Cooperatives, Child Development Group of Mississippi (CDGM) Head Start, Southern Media, Inc., Jackson State College’s Art Department and the Margaret Walker Center based in Jackson. Fieldwork was in the Mississippi Delta, in Tchula, Durant, Milestone, Cleveland, Mound Bayou, Greenville, and in other places like Holly Springs, Newell Chapel and West Point in North Mississippi. It resulted in my documenting and saving a very large accumulation of historic photographs that I took which reflect African American life during the Civil Rights era.”

Doris Derby
BOOKS BY SNCC AUTHORS WHO CANNOT BE WITH US FOR THE PROGRAM:

JULIAN BOND
*Time to Teach: A History of the Southern Civil Rights Movement*
*Race Man (selected works)*

H. RAP BROWN
*Die Nigga Die*

ROBERT MOSES
*Radical Equations*

JAMES FORMAN
*Making of Black Revolutionaries*
*Sammy Younge, Jr.*

CONNIE CURRY
*Silver Rights*

CHUCK MCDEW
*Tell the Story: A Memoir of the Civil Rights Movement*

JOANNE GRANT
*Ella Baker: Freedom Bound*

DONALD STONE
*Fallen Prince: William James Edward, Black Education and the Quest for Afro-American Nationality*

JOHN LEWIS
*Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement*
*MARCH*
*RUN*

STOKELY CARMICHAEL (KWAME TURE)
*Stokely Speaks: From Black Power to Pan-Africanism*

FLORENCE TATE
*Sometimes Farmgirls Become Revolutionaries: Notes on Black Power, Black Politics, Depression, and the FBI*
**Hands on the Freedom Plow: Personal Accounts by Women in SNCC** includes the testimonies of 52 women – southern and northern; urban and rural; Black, white, and Latina – who share their courageous stories of organizing with SNCC on the front lines of the Civil Rights Movement. The editors – 3 Black, 3 white – spent 15 years gathering and editing these stories. As one contributor said: “In SNCC, I felt I could do anything I was big enough to do.” The book is now available in hardback, paper, and as an e-book (Univ. of Ill. Press).

**Purchase your copy at** [Harriett’s Bookshop](#)

**INTERVIEWS FEATURING:**

- Angeline Butler
- Denise Nicholas
- Gloria House
- Zoharah (Gwen) Simmons
- Dorothy (Dottie) Zellner
- Joan Trumpaeur Mulholland
- Joyce Ladner
- Margaret Herrin
- Penny Patch
- Rutha Mae Harris
- Muriel Tillinghast
- Elaine DeLott Baker
- Doris Derby
- Mary E. King
- Annie Pearl Avery
- Maria Varela
- Faith Holsaert
- Judy Richardson
- Peggy Trotter Dammond Preacely

**19 One on One Interviews Available to Registrants from October 11 until January 9, 2022**
“Stand Up and Shout”, which falls on the second day of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)’s “Organizing Our Strength for Tomorrow” virtual conference marking SNCC’s 60th anniversary as the only national, southern-based civil rights organization begun and led primarily by young people, will be streamed live on October 15 from 5:00pm-6:15pm.
The Freedom Singers emerged out of the Albany Movement (a desegregation and voters’ rights coalition formed in Albany, Georgia, in November 1961), when folk singer Pete Seeger witnessed the power of their musical culture, fusing black Baptist a cappella church singing with protest songs and chants, and suggested to SNCC executive secretary James Forman that a group could be of use to the cause.

Reverend Osagyefo Sekou, is an activist, theologian, author, documentary filmmaker, and blues/soul/gospel musician. His work spans concerts worldwide to in-person organizing in troubled places from Charlottesville, VA to Beirut, Lebanon.

Imani Winds is an American wind quintet based in New York City. The group was founded by flutist Valerie Coleman in 1997 and is known for its adventurous programming, which includes newly composed works, as well as compositions featuring African, Latin American, and American influences.

Johnathan Lykes, is a founding member of Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100), a movement of young adults using a Black Queer Feminist lens to advocate for community and institutional change.
STAND UP AND SHOUT: THE SNCC FREEDOM & JUSTICE CONCERT

C. ANTHONY BRYANT

C. Anthony Bryant is emerging as one of the most versatile, powerful, and technically sound voices of our day. A highly sought after vocalist, vocal instructor, composer, choral conductor, and coach, Bryant has performed in houses of worship, clubs, and concert halls, both in the United States and abroad.

TOSHI REAGON

Toshi Reagon is a multi-talented and versatile singer, composer, musician, with a profound ear for sonic Americana—from folk to funk, from blues to rock. Her expansive career has landed her at Carnegie Hall, the Paris Opera House, and Madison Square Garden.

MARTHA REDBONE

Martha Redbone is an award-winning American blues and soul singer of part Choctaw, European and African American descent. Her music is a mix of rhythm and blues and soul music influences, fused with elements of traditional Native American music.

NATHANIEL ISIAH SWANSON

Nathaniel Isiah Swanson is a 17-year-old artist from Brooklyn who enjoys poetry, prose, painting, and playing various instruments. Through Urban Word NYC, he is a member of the Youth Leadership Council, a member of the 2018 National Slam Team, a 2017 and 2018 Federal Hall Fellow, and a 2019 Youth Poet Laureate Ambassador. In the fall of 2019, he will attend DePauw University, where he is the recipient of a four-year, full-tuition Posse Scholarship.
WHEN YOU WEAR YOUR MERCH, YOU REPRESENT THE 60 YEAR LEGACY OF THE STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

The signature SNCC Merchandise Collection is a must-have item of pride. Whether you are an educator, activist, organizer, professor, community leader, parent, or passionate person about change, SNCC Merch communicates “We Will Win”. We look forward to you wearing your SNCC Merchandise as you continue to do your work and demonstrate a continued commitment. Wear your pride, strength, commitment. The Movement Continues...

SHOP NOW AT shop.sncc60thanniversary.org
SPEAKER BIOS
CHARLES TAYLOR
American Civil Rights Activist

Charles Taylor is a graduate of Morehouse College (Philosophy) and a member of Freedom Side, a national collective of social justice community organizers. He served as a State Organizer for the Mississippi Conference NAACP 2012 “This is My Vote” campaign which registered 29,000+ African Americans to vote in Mississippi. Taylor is principal at Peyton Strategies, a political data firm, based in Mississippi, specializing in data collection and management.

CHARLIE COBB
SNCC Veteran, Journalist, Author, Activist

Journalist and author Charles Cobb Jr. is a SNCC veteran and board member of the SNCC Legacy Project. He has been a reporter for NPR, Frontline, AllAfrica.com, and was the first black staff writer for National Geographic magazine, writing for them from 1985-1997. He is a co-founder of the National Association of Black Journalists. He is the author of several books on the civil rights movement, among them On the Road to Freedom: A Guided Tour of the Civil Rights Trail. His latest book is This Nonviolent Stuff’ll Get you Killed: How Guns Made the Civil Rights Movement Possible. In 2018 he was the recipient of a Carnegie Fellowship to facilitate his latest book project analyzing today’s young Movement for Black Lives.

D’ATRA JACKSON
National Director of BYP100

D’atra “Dee Dee” Jackson (she/her) is an organizer, trainer, big sister, godmother of five, and National Director of BYP100. She is formerly the Co-Director of Ignite NC, which works with mostly Black, mostly queer, young organizers across to state to shift the culture of organizing in North Carolina. She is also Co-Founder of the Durham Chapter of Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100). Dee Dee has had her hand in efforts and actions such as bringing Participatory Budgeting to Durham, #DurhamBeyondPolicing.

Now, as the National Director of BYP100, she dreams of freedom, Black worlds, and building a movement of ungovernable and strategic lovers of Black liberation.
HASAN KWAME JEFFRIES
Associate Professor of History, The Ohio State University

Hasan Kwame Jeffries teaches, researches, and writes about the African American experience from a historical perspective. Hasan regularly shares his expertise on African American history and contemporary Black politics through public lectures, op-eds, and interviews with print, radio, and television news outlets. He has also contributed to several documentary film projects as a featured on-camera scholar, including the Emmy, nominated, four-hour, PBS documentary *Black America Since MLK: And Still I Rise*. An associate professor of history in the Department of History at The Ohio State University, Hasan takes great pride in opening students’ minds to new ways of understanding the past and the present.

CHARLES MCLAURIN
Community Organizer and Civil Rights Activist

For over five decades, Charles McLaurin has served the state of Mississippi as a community organizer and a civil rights activist. In the summer of 1962, McLaurin volunteered to lead SNCC’s first voter registration drive in Ruleville. Since then, McLaurin has played a prominent role in every major campaign of the civil rights movement in the Mississippi Delta and remains active in educational and social projects. McLaurin’s history as a foot soldier in the early freedom movements injects the values and the spirit of older civil rights struggles into the continued daily struggle for social and economic justice in impoverished black communities.

FREDDIE BIDDLE
SNCC Veteran, SNCC Legacy Project Board Member

Freddie Greene Biddle was an active member of SNCC and retired as a commercial loan specialist from the US Small Business Administration. Her work in the civil rights movement began as a high school student in Greenwood, MS where she worked on a voter registration drive. She worked as a field secretary in Greenwood and McComb, MS in the summers of 1963, 1964, and 1965 and attended Dillard University in New Orleans during those years. She left Dillard University to work full time in the Atlanta SNCC office and later became the office administrator. She has over thirty years of experience in business including managing a small business development center, managing an embassy commissary and working as an accountant. Biddle holds a Bachelor’s degree from American University in Washington, DC.
HOLLIS WATKINS
SNCC Veteran, Founder of the Mississippi Veterans of the Civil Rights Movement

Hollis Watkins is an activist who was part of the Civil Rights Movement activities in the state of Mississippi during the 1960s. He became a member and organizer with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1961, was a county organizer for 1964’s “Freedom Summer”, and assisted the efforts of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party to unseat the regular Mississippi delegation from their chairs at the 1964 Democratic Party national convention in Atlantic City. He founded Southern Echo, a group that gives support to other grassroots organizations in Mississippi. He also is a founder of the Mississippi Veterans of the Civil Rights Movement.

LESLIE MCLEMORE
Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Jackson State University

Dr. Leslie-Burl McLemore became associated with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1962. He was the northern regional coordinator for the 1963 Freedom Vote campaign. The Freedom Vote campaign led to the eventual formation of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. Dr. McLemore worked very closely with Fannie Lou Hamer, Bob Moses, Victoria Gray Adams, Annie Devine, Aaron Henry, and other leaders of the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi and other parts of the American South.

He is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Jackson State University. Currently, he is a member of the Walls, MS Board of Aldermen where he made history as one of two African Americans elected to the Board.

CORTLAND COX
SNCC Veteran, SNCC Legacy Project Chair

Courtland Cox served on the executive committee of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He served as the SNCC representative on the Steering Committee for the historic 1963 March on Washington and helped organize the 1964 Freedom Summer in Mississippi. Mr. Cox was one of the organizers of the Lowndes County Freedom Organization (LCFO), established in 1965 in Lowndes County, Alabama, which only had four registered African American voters despite being 80% Black. The LCFO’s work enabled Black residents to take control of the local government within four years. In the 1970s, Mr. Cox served as Secretary General of the Sixth Pan-African Congress in Tanzania, as well as on the Board of TransAfrica, which advocated for the end of South African apartheid. In more recent decades, Mr. Cox has served in a variety of local and federal government positions, including being appointed by President Clinton to serve as the Director of the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) at the U.S. Department of Commerce. He currently serves as board chair of the SNCC Legacy Project.
JENNIFER LAWSON
SNCC Veteran, SNCC Legacy Project Board Member

Jennifer Lawson first marched for civil rights as a teenager in 1963. She attended Tuskegee University and left to work full-time with SNCC in Lowndes County, Alabama. She continued her civil rights work for several years before becoming an executive and producer in public television where she served as head of PBS programming and received numerous awards. She currently works with the SNCC Legacy Project to preserve the history of the movement and to encourage young activists to document their stories. For more information, SNCC Digital and the History Makers.

COREY WIGGINS
Executive Director, Mississippi State Conference NAACP

Corey Cortez Wiggins is executive director of the Mississippi State Conference NAACP, where he strives to create equitable opportunities through systems and public policy change. Wiggins was previously senior vice president of policy at Hope Enterprise Corporation and Hope Credit Union, and he was director of the Hope Policy Institute, focused on strengthening communities, building assets and improving lives in economically distressed parts of the mid-South. A longtime proponent of equitable health care access, he has also advocated for quality housing, education and infrastructure to support healthy communities. Born in Mississippi, Wiggins holds a Ph.D. from the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

MAYOR CHOKWE LUMUMBA
Attorney and Former Mayor of Jackson, Mississippi

The Honorable Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Esq. is the son of two life-long community activists—the late Mayor Chokwe Lumumba and Nubia Lumumba. Throughout his life and career, he has maintained a consistent presence in community projects and displayed a genuine commitment to justice. Attorney Lumumba began his community work early on—serving as co-director of the Malcolm X Grassroots Day Camp and acting as an assistant coach for the Jackson Panthers Basketball Organization.
MAYOR STEVEN REED
Mayor of Montgomery, Alabama

In November 2019, Steven L. Reed made history as the first African-American to be sworn in as Mayor of Montgomery, Alabama, a city known globally as The Birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement.

A native of Montgomery, Mayor Reed is committed to realizing his vision of a more equitable, progressive, and compassionate city. To that end, he is advancing an agenda that puts Montgomery on track to become a leader in the New South.

HONORABLE SHIRLEY FRANKLIN
Former Mayor of Atlanta, Georgia

Shirley Franklin served as mayor of the City of Atlanta from 2002 to 2009 after serving in the administrations of Atlanta Mayor’s Maynard Jackson and Andrew Young. Her government service spans 2 decades, though she is best known as the Sewer Mayor for her commitment to upgrading the city’s aging water and sewer system under a federal Consent Decree. During her 8 years as mayor, she championed tough ethics legislation and implemented sweeping government operational reforms, while leading the city to launch the Atlanta Beltline and to fund historic levels of investment in airport, parks, affordable housing and water infrastructure projects.

DEJUANA THOMPSON
Founding Partner, Think Rubix & Founder, Woke Vote

DeJuana L. Thompson is a political and social strategist providing innovative and sustainable engagement methods and models for candidates, campaigns, and community organizations.

DeJuana was recently named the Interim President and CEO of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, part of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument and an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is a cultural and educational research center that promotes a comprehensive understanding of the significance of civil rights developments in Birmingham.

DeJuana is a founding partner with Think Rubix, a social innovation consultancy which helps nonprofits, businesses, and governments to engage in systems change to harness the transformative power of culture. She is also the founder of Woke Vote, an organization designed to engage, mobilize, and turnout African American voters in the South through campus and faith-based outreach, strategic media outreach, culturally relevant GOTV efforts and training for organizers.
DOMINIK WHITEHEAD  
Vice President of Campaigns, NAACP

Dominik Whitehead serves as the Vice President of Campaigns, focusing and leading on the Association’s mobilization efforts across advocacy and electoral campaigns. Dominik career with the NAACP in 2019 and the National Civic Engagement Director where his focus was to increase African-American voter turnout through voter registration, voter mobilization, GOTV field efforts, and volunteer engagement.

Dominik joined the NAACP out of the labor movement at the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), AFL-CIO, where he was Political Action Representative in AFSCME’s Political Department.

JAMAL WATKINS  
Senior Vice President of Strategy and Advancement at the NAACP

Jamal R. Watkins currently serves as Senior Vice President of Strategy and Advancement at the NAACP. Jamal previously led the Association’s efforts to maximize the African-American community’s participation and representation in our democracy as the Vice President of Civic Engagement at the NAACP.

Mr. Watkins has worked in several distinct arenas, including politics, campaigns, communications, education, human resources, and fundraising. He played key roles as a National Recruiter for the DNC, Fundraising Canvass Director for Grassroots Campaign, Florida State Director of the Young Voter Alliance during the 2004 Presidential Election, Regional Coordinator on the “Yes on Proposition 79” Campaign for Health Access of California, and most recently developing a voter mobilization and engagement field strategy for the 2014 mid-term election cycle.

A native of California and a resident of Washington, D.C., Mr. Watkins earned his B.A. in Philosophy, with a minor in Political Science, at Stanford University and completed graduate-level work at New York University for Speech and Interpersonal Communication. As a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., his motto is “onward and upward.”

NSE UFOT  
Chief Executive Officer of the New Georgia Project

Nse Ufot is the Chief Executive Officer of the New Georgia Project (NGP) and its affiliate, New Georgia Project Action Fund (NGP AF). Nse leads both organizations with a data-informed approach and a commitment to developing tools that leverage technology to make it easier for every voter to engage in every election. Nse and her team are also developing Georgia’s home-grown talent by training and organizing local activists across the state. She has dedicated her life and career to working on civil, human and workers’ rights issues and leads two organizations whose complementary aim is to strengthen Georgia’s democracy. Under Nse’s leadership, NGP has registered over 500K Georgians to vote.
October 14 | SPEAKERS

AMBER THOMAS
Vice President of Effectiveness and Improvements in Operations. NAACP

Amber Thomas is the Vice President of Effectiveness and Improvements in Operations. She leads the NAACP operations team while focusing on internal policies and procedures. She also leads the team of holistic project management, helping to push the Association’s projects forward through internal partnerships.

FRANK FIGGERS
Consultant, One Voice Inc.

Frank Figgers is a strategy consultant for One Voice Inc., a local nonprofit focused on voting rights and education. Additionally, he served on the board of the Young People’s Project of Jackson and was vice-chairman of the board of directors for the Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement. As a student at Tougaloo College, he worked with the Jackson Human Rights Project.

NSOMBI LAMBRIGHT-HAYNES
Haynes, Executive Director of One Voice

Lambright-Haynes is the Executive Director of One Voice, a statewide leadership development and policy advocacy organization, headquartered in Jackson, MS. The goal of One Voice is to build leadership in an effort to address structural oppressions that show up in the institutions that are significant in the lives of families, including the public education system, voting, the environment, and the criminal justice system.

Lambright-Haynes serves on the City of Jackson’s Civil Service Commission and Criminal Justice Taskforce and also served on the transition teams of Jackson Mayors Chokwe Lumumba and Chokwe Antar Lumumba.

TRE MURPHY
Director of Community Organizing at NAACP Legal Defense Fund

Tré Murphy is a national organizer, trainer, and strategist with over a decade of community organizing experience. Murphy currently serves as the Director of Community Organizing for the NAACP-Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the nation’s premier civil rights law organization. Mr. Murphy is also co-founder and Director of Programs and Strategy at Organizing Black, a grassroots, membership led organization dedicated to fighting for the liberation of all Black people.

Mr. Murphy is a proud Baltimore native with a lifelong commitment to seeing Black people free in his lifetime.
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY SCOTT COLOM**
District Attorney for Circuit Court District Sixteen in Mississippi

District Attorney Scott Colom is a native of Columbus, MS. In 2011, he was appointed the youngest and first African American justice court judge in Lowndes County history. In 2012, he was appointed municipal court judge in Aberdeen, MS, and in 2013 was appointed the first African American prosecutor for the city of Columbus. In 2015, he was elected District Attorney for Circuit Court District Sixteen, which includes Lowndes, Oktibbeha, Clay, and Noxubee counties. Colom is the first African American District Attorney to represent a majority white district in Mississippi history.

**STATE’S ATTORNEY MARYLYN MOSBY**
Baltimore City State’s Attorney

Marilyn J. Mosby is the 25th State’s Attorney for Baltimore City. She was the youngest chief prosecutor of any major American city at the time of her election in 2015. State’s Attorney Mosby’s passion has always been to effectuate change by driving a more just, efficient, and fair criminal justice system. Her Conviction Integrity Unit has successfully exonerated nine wrongfully-incarcerated men since she took office. She is a member of the Association for Prosecuting Attorney’s (APA), and was an integral contributor to the APA’s reform proposals provided in the 21st Century Principles of Prosecution of Peace Officers.

She is married to Baltimore City Council President Nick J. Mosby. They reside in West Baltimore and are the proud parents of two beautiful daughters.

**FREDERICK D. COOKE, JR**
Attorney and Adjunct Faculty Member, Howard University School of Law

Cooke began a law practice in 1977, with a large corporate law firm in which he became a partner in 1982. In 1987, he was appointed by Mayor Marion Barry to serve as the Corporation Counsel of the District of Columbia (now called the Attorney General of the District of Columbia) where he was the head of a law office of about 250 lawyers and an equal number of support staff. In 1990, he left government service and returned to the private practice of law. In his practice, he works primarily on governmental relations, municipal finance, telecommunications, land use, public contracting, sports, advertising, litigation, intellectual property education, general corporate matters, and civil and criminal litigation matters. He is also an Adjunct Faculty member of the Faculty of the Howard University School of Law and serves on a number of Boards of not for profit organizations.
FRANK SMITH
SNCC Veteran

From 1959 until 1962, Smith attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, where he was a founding member of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Smith left Morehouse during his senior year to play a role in the Civil Rights Movement. From 1962 until 1968, Smith worked with SNCC organizing and registering African Americans voters in Mississippi and Alabama. He is noted for his involvement and leadership role in planning and executing protests and marches in Greenwood, Mississippi, during the Freedom Summer of 1964.

Smith also has a passion for African American history, and secured funding to build the African-American Civil War Memorial Museum.

JAMES FORMAN JR.
Professor of Law at Yale Law School

James Forman Jr. is a Professor of Law at Yale Law School. He attended public schools in Detroit and New York City before graduating from the Atlanta Public Schools. In 1997, along with David Domenici, Professor Forman started the Maya Angelou Public Charter School, an alternative school for dropouts and its youth who had previously been arrested.

Professor Forman has written many law review articles, in addition to op-eds and essays for the New York Times, the Atlantic, the New Republic, the Nation, and the Washington Post. Locking Up Our Own is his first book.

ATTORNEY GENERAL KEITH ELLISON
Attorney General, Minnesota

Keith Ellison was sworn in as Minnesota’s 30th attorney general on January 7, 2019. As the People’s Lawyer, Attorney General Ellison’s job is to help Minnesotans afford their lives and live with dignity, safety, and respect. His guiding values are generosity and inclusion.

From 2007 to 2019, Keith Ellison represented Minnesota’s 5th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he championed consumer, worker, environmental, and civil- and human-rights protections for Minnesotans.

Before being elected to Congress, Attorney General Ellison served four years in the Minnesota House of Representatives. Prior to entering elective office, he spent 16 years as an attorney specializing in civil-rights and defense law, including five years as executive director of the Legal Rights Center. As the leader of this public-interest law firm, he oversaw a team of attorneys focused on delivering justice for Minnesotans who had nowhere else to turn. He was also a noted community activist.
MAYOR TISHAURA JONES
Mayor of St. Louis, Missouri

Since 2012, Tishaura O. Jones has helped the City of St. Louis earn and save over $30 million and counting. With a deep personal commitment, a wealth of experience, and a proven record of leadership, Jones started her career as a public servant in 2002 when she was appointed as Democratic Committeewoman of the 8th Ward in the City of St. Louis. A history-maker on a mission, she served two terms in the Missouri House of Representatives, and was selected as the first African American woman in Missouri history to hold the position of Assistant Minority Floor Leader. She also is the first African American woman to serve as Treasurer of St. Louis.

ROBERTO RODRIGUEZ
Emeritus Associate Professor in the Mexican American Studies Department, University of Arizona

Roberto Rodriguez is a longtime-award-winning writer. Through the years, he has written for many publications, including being a nationally syndicated columnist for 12 years with first, Chronicle Features and then Universal Press Syndicate (1994-2006). His last 2 books “Our Sacred Maiz is our Mother: Indigeneity and Belonging in the Americas (2014)” and Yolqui: A warrior summoned from the spirit world; Testimonos on violence (2019) were published by the University of Arizona Press. The third book of this trilogy will be published shortly: Smiling Brown: People the color of the Earth, a book on color and color consciousness. He has a forthcoming book, Writing 50 years (mas o menos) amongst the Gringos, Aztlan Libre Press, Fall, 2021, a compilation of his nearly 50 years of writing. It starts with La Gente Newspaper at UCLA in 1972 through 2021, with the Progressive Populist, where he writes a bi-monthly column.

PAUL PRYDE
Consultant to NorCal FDC

Paul Pryde specializes in developing solutions to the credit and capital access problems of underserved firms and communities. Early in his career, he helped organize one of the early investments in the nation’s first community development bank, South Shore National Bank. He also worked on the formation of one of the nation’s first black venture capital firms, Syndicated Communications. Later he was part of a consulting team retained by the U.S. Treasury Department to launch its Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

Mr. Pryde currently serves as a consultant to NorCal FDC, a California nonprofit company that provides loan guarantees for small and marginalized firms.
WILLIAM A. DARITY
Director of the Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity at Duke University

William A. ("Sandy") Darity Jr. is the Samuel DuBois Cook Professor of Public Policy, African and African American Studies, and Economics and the director of the Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity at Duke University. He has served as chair of the Department of African and African American Studies and was the founding director of the Research Network on Racial and Ethnic Inequality at Duke. Darity’s research focuses on inequality by race, class and ethnicity, stratification economics, schooling and the racial achievement gap, North-South theories of trade and development, skin shade and labor market outcomes, the economics of reparations, the Atlantic slave trade and the Industrial Revolution, the history of economics, and the social psychological effects of exposure to unemployment.

WOLE C. COAXUM
Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Mobility Capital Finance, Inc.

Wole C. Coaxum is a Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Mobility Capital Finance, Inc. ("MoCaFi"). MoCaFi is a start-up financial technology company that leverages mobile technologies, data analytics and digital strategies to improve the financial behaviors of underbanked communities.

REV. DELMAN COATES
Senior Pastor, Mt. Ennon Baptist Church

Dr. Coates has served as the Senior Pastor of the Mt. Ennon Baptist Church, in Maryland. Under his leadership, the church has engaged in media advocacy and healthcare reform advocacy. In October 2009, Outreach Magazine named Mt. Ennon as one of the 100 Fastest Growing Congregations in the U.S.

Pastor Coates founded the Our Money Campaign, an economic justice campaign that seeks to solve some of our nation’s greatest social and economic challenges, which celebrated its official launch in May 2019. He is also founder and chair of the Black Church Center for Justice & Equality, board member of the National Action Network (NAN), Morehouse College of Trustees, Morehouse College Board of Preachers and member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and Society of Biblical Literature.
BJ WALKER
President and Founder, In The Public Way

Since the mid-1990’s BJ Walker has served as a public official, managing a broad portfolio of human services programs in the administrations of Governors in Georgia and Illinois and the Mayor of the City of Chicago. In Illinois, she managed a statewide human services reform effort, resulting in the historical consolidation of many of IL’s human and social services under one umbrella agency and then ran the State’s community services Division.

Walker now manages a consulting practice, In the Public Way, Inc. which serves as a platform (inthepublicway.com) for supporting state and non-profit leaders engaged in transformational change management efforts.

RUSSLYNN ALI
CEO & Co-founder, XQ Institute

Russlynn Ali has been a leading advocate for educational equity for more than two decades. As Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the Department of Education during President Obama’s first term, Ali spearheaded the federal government’s renewed engagement with equity issues in schools across the nation. Previously, Ali was a founding Executive Director of Education Trust-West; and Vice President of the Education Trust.

Ali is Managing Director of the Education Fund at Emerson Collective and CEO and co-founder—with Laurene Powell Jobs—of XQ Institute. XQ is committed to transforming public high schools to close achievement and opportunity gaps, and to making schools the center of community revitalization. For Ali, education is America’s central civil rights issue today.

MAISHA MOSES
National Director of Instruction for the Young People’s Project

Maisha Moses is the Executive Director of The Young People’s Project, where her work focuses on broadening the participation of groups underrepresented in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology. She holds a master of science degree in mathematics, and has worked with The Algebra Project and The Young People’s Project in various capacities since 1991.
AB SPELLMAN
Poet, Music Critic, and Former Director at the National Endowment of the Arts


DANNY GLOVER
Speaker, Actor, Activist, Humanitarian

Before Danny Glover became a famous actor, he was an activist. In fact, he wasn’t simply born to be an activist, he was born into it. Glover’s roots in activism go back to his hometown of San Francisco. He says his parents were part of a significant number of African-Americans who worked for the U.S. Postal Service from all over the country.

When Mr. Glover was a teenager, he observed members of The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in action. Soon, he found himself on the front lines of justice.

Off-screen, Mr. Glover has gained respect for his wide-reaching community activism and philanthropic efforts. Internationally, Glover has served as a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Program, focusing on issues of poverty, disease and economic development in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. He currently serves as UNICEF Ambassador.

EMORY DOUGLAS
Artist and Former Minister of Culture, Black Panther Party

Emory Douglas served as the Minister of Culture for the Black Panther Party from 1967 to 1980.

Douglas is known for his political drawings and cartoons in the Black Panther Newspaper of Police as Pigs. His provocative style depicted the injustices experienced by African Americans living in the inner-city, the growing militancy and organization among urban black youth to resist police violence and the need for community-based social programs.

Douglas’s use of rich colors, dark bold edging, and photos of everyday black people to make collages created an authentic style that expressed the ideological platform of the Black Panthers and the heightened community consciousness of Black Power as a political concept.
SPEAKERS

October 15

ANDREW AYDIN
Co-Author with John Lewis of the graphic books *MARCH* and *RUN*

Andrew is creator and co-author of the graphic memoir series, *MARCH*, which chronicles the life of Congressman and civil rights icon John Lewis. Co-authored with Rep. Lewis and illustrated by Nate Powell, *MARCH* is the first comics work to ever win the National Book Award.

In 2019, Andrew joined with Kelly Sue Deconnick, Matt Fraction, Valentine DeLandro, and Vaughn Shinall to found Good Trouble Productions (GTP) to produce innovative nonfiction graphic novel and multimedia projects, including *RUN*, a sequel series to the March trilogy, and *Registered*, a comic book for the New York City Department of Education about youth voting and distributed as part of the NYCDOE’s “Civics for All” curriculum, as well as “The Long March”, a large-scale custom art installation and online experience for Ben & Jerry’s in Vermont.

SONIA SANCHEZ
Poet, Activist, and Scholar

Sonia Sanchez, is a Poet, playwright, professor, activist and one of the foremost leaders of the Black Studies movement began teaching in 1965, first on the staff of the Downtown Community School in New York and later at San Francisco State College (now University). There she was a pioneer in developing Black Studies courses, including a class in African American women’s literature.

JONATHAN LYKES
Founder & Executive Director, Liberation House

Jonathan Lykes is a Black queer artist, activist and academic. His interdisciplinary approach to art, activism and anti-oppression work, merges policy change, artistic expression and activism.

Combining these forms of social transformation—and harnessing their synergy—Jonathan works to create awareness, promote personal healing, surmount institutional barriers and generate systemic change. Jonathan’s current position as Founder/Executive Director of Liberation House merges his multidisciplinary artistic background with public policy reform, community engagement and systems change work to teach liberation praxis by pushing the revolutionary edge of radical transformative movement work.
Merrick Malone is a real estate developer, transactional attorney and former public administrator combining more than 35 years of demonstrated urban real estate and economic development experience in the public and private sector as a private developer/consultant and cabinet level official in Washington, DC and Detroit, Michigan. Malone has worked in every phase of real estate development, including site assemblage, design, project financing, project management, marketing/sales and leasing. As a public official and private developer, he has successfully worked on complex alternative financing sources (public subsidies) and construction.

Chris Smith is the chairman and chief executive officer of WC Smith, a leading real estate development and property management firm that has operated in Washington, DC, for more than 50 years. Under Mr. Smith’s direction, WC Smith has developed an expansive portfolio of innovative market-rate properties, desirable affordable housing and sought-after commercial and office developments. The company has earned a reputation for building and managing properties that integrate with, and enhance, the quality of life for our residents and their neighbors.

Mr. Washington has over 30 years of experience in urban real estate development, construction, and management. Since founding The Neighborhood Development Company (NDC) in 1999 he has led the development of over 1 million square feet of real estate in the District, with an active pipeline of another 1 million. NDC is also a partner in the District’s City Center DC project and in Baltimore’s State Center project. From 2005 until early 2007 Mr. Washington took a leave of absence from NDC to serve as the President and CEO of the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation (AWC), the entity charged with leading the redevelopment of the city’s Southwest and Anacostia Waterfronts, including Nationals Stadium, the Yards, and the Wharf. Mr. Washington grew up in the city’s Anacostia neighborhood and is a lifelong resident of DC. He is a graduate of Stanford University and the Harvard Business School.
OCTOBER 15

AVRAM FECTHER
Co-Founder Equity Plus

Before co-founding EquityPlus, Mr. Fechter worked for the District Government underwriting and closing over $400 million in LIHTC and NMTC financed projects while deploying $3 million of 9% LIHTC Allocation and $80 million of District Government loans. Mr. Fechter has closed over $1 billion in NMTC/HTC/LIHTC financing, developed over 1,000 units of workforce and affordable housing, and has served as an NMTC Allocation Application reader for the CDFI Fund. Mr. Fechter has a Masters’ Degree in Public Policy from Rutgers University and was a Truman Scholar. He lives in Aldie, Virginia with his wife, Linnea, and two children, Alana and Evan.

SHIRLEY SHERROD
Co-Founder, Southwest Georgia Project and New Communities Inc.

In 1969, Sherrod and her husband were among the U.S. civil rights and land collective activists co-founding New Communities, a collective farm in Southwest Georgia modeled on kibbutzim in Israel. According to scholarship by land trust activists Susan Witt and Robert Swann, New Communities’ founding in 1969 by individuals such as the Sherrods connected to the Albany Movement served as a laboratory and model in a movement toward the development of Community Land Trusts throughout the U.S.: “The perseverance and foresight of that team in Georgia, motivated by the right of African-American farmers to farm land securely and affordably, initiated the CLT movement in this country.”

LEAH PENNIMAN
Black Kreyol Farmer, Author, and Food Justice Activist

Leah Penniman is a Black Kreyol farmer, author, mother, and food justice activist who has been tending the soil and organizing for an anti-racist food system for 25 years. She currently serves as founding co-executive director of Soul Fire Farm in Grafton, New York, a Black & Brown led project that works toward food and land justice. Her book is *Farming While Black: Soul Fire Farm’s Practical Guide to Liberation on the Land.*
MALIK YAKINI
Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network

Malik Kenyatta Yakini is co-founder and Executive Director of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN). DBCFSN operates the seven-acre D-Town Farm and is spearheading the opening of the Detroit Food Commons, in Detroit’s North End that will house the Detroit People’s Food Co-op. He serves as a board member of the co-op. Yakini views the work of DBCFSN as part of the larger movement for building power, self-determination, and justice. He is adamantly opposed to the systems of white supremacy, capitalism, and patriarchy. He has an intense interest in contributing to the development of an international food sovereignty movement that embraces Black communities in the Americas, the Caribbean, and Africa. He is a co-founder of the National Black Food and Justice Alliance.

SAVI HORNE
Executive Director of the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers’ Land Loss Prevention Project

Savi Horne is Executive Director of the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers’ Land Loss Prevention Project, a non-profit law firm that has offered, for more than 33 years, legal representation of clients, community economic development, and professional outreach in the effort to promote wealth, land preservation, and rural livelihoods. As a state, regional, and national non-governmental organization leader, she has been instrumental in addressing the needs of socially disadvantaged farmers and rural communities. She graduated from Rutgers University, School of Law–Newark, New Jersey, and was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1990.
OCTOBER 16

IMANI PERRY
Hughes-Rogers Professor of African American Studies, Princeton University

Imani Perry is the Hughes-Rogers Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University and a faculty associate with the Programs in Law and Public Affairs, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Jazz Studies. She is the author of 6 books, including Looking for Lorraine: The Radiant and Radical Life of Lorraine Hansberry, which received the Pen Bograd-Weld Award for Biography, The Phi Beta Kappa Christian Gauss Award for outstanding work in literary scholarship, the Lambda Literary Award for LGBTQ Nonfiction and the Shilts-Grahn Award for nonfiction from the Publishing Triangle. Looking for Lorraine was also named a 2018 notable book by the New York Times, and a honor book by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association.

DERRICK JOHNSON
President and CEO of the NAACP

A longstanding member and leader of the NAACP, Mr. Johnson has helped guide the Association through a period of re-envisioning and reinvigoration. Under President Johnson’s leadership, the NAACP has undertaken such efforts as the 2018 “Log Out” Facebook Campaign, pressuring Facebook after reports of Russian hackers targeting African Americans, the Jamestown to Jamestown Partnership, marking the 400th year enslaved Africans first touched the shores of America, the 2020 We are Done Dying Campaign, exposing the inequities embedded into the American healthcare system and the country at large, and most recently the victorious 2020 Supreme Court lawsuit NAACP vs. Trump, which prevents Donald Trump’s administration from rescinding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program for millions of young immigrants.

JUDITH BROWNE DIANIS
Executive Director of Advancement Project National Office

Dianis has served as a lawyer, professor, and civil rights advocate in the movement for racial justice. Hailed as a voting rights expert and pioneer in the movement to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline, Dianis leads Advancement Project National Office’s work as the Executive Director, combating structural racism in education, voting, policing, criminal justice, and immigration.
WISDOM COLE
Interim National Director of the NAACP Youth & College Division

Wisdom O. Cole is the Interim National Director of the NAACP Youth & College Division. In this role, he serves more than 700 youth councils, high school chapters, and college chapters actively involved in the fight for civil rights. Wisdom brings extensive experience in civil rights advocacy training institute, electoral action trainings, grassroots organizing, issues toolkits, and webinars at the local, state, and national level. Wisdom has managed national campaign efforts focused on building Black political power through youth leadership development, advocacy, and direct action organizing. Wisdom was previously a field and state conference organizer for the Afrikan Black Coalition (ABC), the largest Black collegiate organization in California.

NOLIWE ROOKS
Chair and Professor in Africana Studies at Brown University

An interdisciplinary scholar, Noliwe Rooks is the chair of and a professor in Africana Studies at Brown University and the founding director of the Segrenomics Lab at the school. Her work explores how race and gender both impact and are impacted by popular culture, social history and political life in the United States. She works on the cultural and racial implications of beauty, fashion and adornment; race, capitalism and education, and the urban politics of food and cannabis production.

JOSH MYERS
Associate Professor of Africana Studies in the Department of Afro-American Studies at Howard University

Joshua M. Myers is an Associate Professor of Africana Studies in the Department of Afro-American Studies at Howard University. He is the author of We Are Worth Fighting For: A History of the Howard University Student Protest of 1989 (NYU Press, 2019) and Cedric Robinson: The Time of the Black Radical Tradition (Polity, 2021), as well as the editor of A Gathering Together: Literary Journal.
MICHAEL L. LOMAX, PH.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer, UNCF

Since 2004, Dr. Michael L. Lomax has served as president and CEO of UNCF. At UNCF’s helm, Dr. Lomax oversees the organization’s 400 scholarship programs, which award 10,000 scholarships a year. He also launched the UNCF Institute for Capacity Building, which helps UNCF’s member HBCUs become stronger, more effective, and more self-sustaining.

Under Dr. Lomax’s leadership, UNCF has fought for college readiness and education reform through partnerships with reform-focused leaders and organizations and worked to further advance HBCUs with Congress, the administration, and the Department of Education. He serves on the boards of the KIPP Foundation, Cengage, Teach for America, and the Studio Museum in Harlem.

DEBORAH MENKART
Executive Director of Teaching for Change and Co-Director of the Zinn Education Project

Deborah Menkart is executive director of Teaching for Change and co-director of the Zinn Education Project. She is co-editor of Beyond Heroes and Holidays and Putting the Movement Back into Civil Rights Teaching.

JESSICA RUCKER
Electives Teacher and the Electives Department Chair, Euphemia Lofton Haynes High School

Jessica A. Rucker is an electives teacher and the Electives Department Chair at Euphemia Lofton Haynes High School in Washington, D.C. She is a member of the D.C. Area Educators for Social Justice network as a member of the People’s History Curriculum Working Group and was a writer-participant in the 2018–2019 Stories from Our Classroom teacher writer’s course. Rucker was a participant in the 2018 NEH Summer Teacher Institute at Duke University where she learned the “bottom-up history” of the Civil Rights Movement from a team of veterans, scholars, and educators from Duke University, the SNCC Legacy Project, and Teaching for Change.
JUDY RICHARDSON
SNCC Veteran, SNCC Legacy Project Board Member

Judy Richardson was on SNCC staff in Georgia, Mississippi, and Alabama (1963-66). She was a founder of Drum & Spear Bookstore, once the country’s largest African American Bookstore. She was on the production team for all 14 hours of the PBS series, Eyes on the Prize, then became it's education director. She continued to produce documentaries for PBS, the History Channel, and museums. She was also communications director for the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice (NYC). She co-edited Hands on the Freedom Plow: Personal Accounts by Women in SNCC, a compilation of the testimonies of 53 SNCC women, and co-directed two NEH three-week teacher institutes, co-hosted by Duke University and focused on “Teaching Grassroots Movements”. She is a member of the SNCC Legacy Project board and was a Visiting Professor at Brown University.

ZOHARAH SIMMONS
Professor Emerita, African American Religions & Islamic Studies, The University of Florida and SNCC Veteran, SNCC Legacy Project Board Member

Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons, Ph.D. is a SNCC Veteran who joined the Civil Rights Movement as a student at Spelman College in 1962. She became a full-time organizer with SNCC during the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer Project, where she served as Project Director in Laurel, Miss. for 18 months. Afterwhich, Gwen went on to serve as the Assistant Project Director of the Atlanta Project of SNCC, 1966-1968. Post her work with SNCC, Gwen (now known as Zoharah) served as the Mid-West Field Director for the National Council of Negro Women’s (NCNW) “Project Woman Power.” She later worked in a number of positions for over 23 years at the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), the International Quaker Peace, Social Justice & Humanitarian Relief organization. While at AFSC, Zoharah returned to college part-time in 1988 to resume her educational work. She would go on to earn her BA, MA & Ph.D. degrees over the next few years, majoring in Islamic Studies and African American Religious Traditions. She taught these subjects for twenty years at the University of Florida, in Gainesville. Zoharah retired from the University of Florida as a Professor Emerita in 2019.

MARIA VARELA
Organizer, Writer, Photographer, and Occasional Adjunct Professor

Staff member of SNCC (1963-1967) in Alabama and Mississippi. Varela created filmstrips and photo books for organizing campaigns of SNCC and local community organizers. Her photos have been in several national exhibits. Post- SNCC Maria organized in Latino and Native American communities in New Mexico to address poverty and loss of ancestral lands, water, and cultural practices. In 1990, was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship for this work. In 2005, was among the “1000 Women Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize”.

October 16 | SPEAKERS

PAUL ORTIZ
Professor of History and Director of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, University of Florida

Dr. Ortiz is a professor of history and director of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida. He is president of the United Faculty of Florida-UF (FEA-AFL-CIO), the union that represents tenured and non-tenure track faculty at UF. He is a former president of the Oral History Association.

He was a consultant and featured narrator for Henry Louis Gates Jr.’s The Black Church: This is Our Story. This Is Our Song, which premiered on PBS in 2021. Ortiz’s book *An African American and Latinx History of the United States* was identified by Fortune Magazine as one of the “10 books on American history that actually reflect the United States.”

RACHEL GILMER
Co-Director of the Dream Defenders

Rachel Gilmer is Co-Director of the Dream Defenders, a membership-based organization of diverse youth, young adults, and students fighting for a better future across the state of Florida. Rachel has over 10 years of experience in grassroots organizing and social change. She has worked in a variety of settings including community organizations, schools, prisons, and government. Prior to Dream Defenders, Rachel served as the Associate Director of the African American Policy Forum under the leadership of acclaimed legal scholar, Kimberle Crenshaw. There, Rachel developed various campaigns to advance the needs of women and girls of color, including Say Her Name, focused on sharing the experiences of black women and police violence and Black Girls Matter, focused on raising awareness of the specific ways Black girls experience the school to prison pipeline.

LARRY RUBIN
SNCC Veteran, SNCC Legacy Project Board Member

Larry Rubin was a SNCC organizer in SW Georgia and Mississippi where he helped organize the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, worked with tenant farmers to ensure they could exercise their rights and helped organize a union of black and white workers. For 45 years, he worked in the labor movement as an organizer and communications specialist. He was a staff member of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council and worked to build bridges between the white and black communities of Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, DC. He was also a reporter for the Dayton Daily News, a speechwriter for the U.S. Department of Education, and served four terms on the Takoma Park, Maryland City Council.
DENISE DIAZ
Co-director, Central Florida Jobs with Justice and National chair of Jobs with Justice education fund

Denise’s Movement work began as a tenant rights community organizer in immigrant communities in both Chicago and Maryland. In 2007, Denise’s passion for empowering working people brought her to Florida. For over 13 years, her role in Central Florida has included cultivating worker leaders, building strategic campaigns and helping to form coalitions between community groups and labor unions to improve the lives of working people.

ADAM KRUGGEL
Director of Strategic Initiatives, People’s Action

Adam Kruggel is Director of Strategic Initiatives, People’s Action. He helped create the Rural and Small-Town Organizing Strategy, which has grown into one of the largest progressive rural organizing efforts in the country. He has more than 23 years of experience in community organizing, including as director of organizing at PICO California, where he helped build the largest volunteer-led voter engagement program in California and worked with movement allies to carry out the Million Voter Project. As director of Contra Costa Interfaith Supporting Community Organization, he supported efforts to reduce gun violence and dismantle mass incarceration through the Richmond Ceasefire-Lifelines to Healing movement and the Invest in People, Not Prisons campaign. A trailblazing organizer, Adam has had a hand in passing the California Racial Identity Profiling Act and the California Homeowner Bill of Rights.

HEATHER BOOTH
President of the Midwest Academy

Heather Booth started organizing in the civil rights, anti-Vietnam war, and women’s movements of the 1960s. She started JANE, an underground abortion service in 1965, before Roe. She was the founding Director and is now President of the Midwest Academy, training social change leaders and organizers. She has been involved in and managed political campaigns and was the Training Director of the Democratic National Committee. In 2000, she was the Director of the NAACP National Voter Fund, which helped to increase African American election turnout. She has been a lead consultant, director or strategist for Health Care, Immigration, Marriage Equality, Financial, Tax, and other progressive reforms. Ms. Booth has also directed Progressive and Seniors Outreach for the Biden/Harris campaign.
KWAME BROWN
Entrepreneur, Public Speaker, Managing Editor, AlwaysRealTalk Network, Political Analyst

Kwame is the son of the District of Columbia. Kwame studied at Morgan State University earning a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing. He is the Founder of KBPO Solutions, a business development consulting firm and one of the largest compliance firms in Washington DC. He has also been a guest speaker on several radio, tv/cable channels, and podcasts discussing business development, politics, motivational speaking and entrepreneurship.

CAROL THOMPSON COLE
President and CEO at Venture Philanthropy Partners

Carol Thompson Cole has extensive executive management experience in the public and private sectors, including a strong history of leadership in the Greater Washington region’s philanthropy and nonprofit community and federal and local government. She has successfully partnered with cross-sector stakeholders, building networks in the region to tackle major social challenges, bringing the expertise, passion, and reach necessary to achieve life-changing results.

ELIJAH ROGERS
President Emeritus & Senior Advisor with Delon Hampton & Associates, Chartered

Elijah is president emeritus and currently a senior advisor with Delon Hampton & Associates, Chartered (DHA), one of the oldest minority-owned consulting engineering and design firms in the District of Columbia. In this role, he serves as a sounding board for senior management providing insight on all aspects of operating a successful firm, including business planning, financial management, marketing, and building a solid team.
DR. GERI AUGUSTO
Senior Fellow in International and Public Affairs, Brown University

Geri Augusto is a longtime scholar and former activist at the intersection between the politics of knowledge, knowledge practices, creative expression, and struggles for equality and justice in unequal, highly diverse societies and communities. She is the Director of the Undergraduate Development Studies program, a faculty associate at Brown’s Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice (CSSJ), an affiliate in the Africana Studies Department and at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), and a former visiting associate professor of International and Public Affairs and Africana Studies. Now a Senior Fellow in International and Public Affairs as well as Director of Undergraduate Development Studies at the Watson Institute, Augusto is currently part of the Institute’s Brazil and Africa Initiatives and serves on the steering committee for Brown’s new Native American and Indigenous Studies Initiative (NAISI) program.

ASH–LEE WOODARD HENDERSON
Co-Executive Director, Highlander Research and Education Center

Ash-Lee Woodard Henderson is an Affrilachian (Black Appalachian) woman from the working class, born and raised in Southeast Tennessee. She is the first Black woman to serve as Co-Executive Director of the Highlander Research & Education Center in New Market, TN. As a member of multiple leadership teams in the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL), Ash-Lee has thrown down on the Vision for Black Lives and the BREATHE Act.

She is a long-time activist who has done work in movements fighting for workers, reproductive justice, for LGBTQIA+ folks, environmental justice, and more.

MELINA ABDULLAH
Professor of Pan-African Studies at Cal State LA

Dr. Melina Abdullah is a Professor of Pan-African Studies at Cal State LA, Co-Founder of Black Lives Matter Los Angeles, Co-Director of Black Lives Matter Grassroots, and Mama of three children. Abdullah earned her Ph.D. from the USC in Political Science and her B.A. from Howard University in African American Studies. Abdullah has authored numerous scholarly articles and book chapters, is the creator, host, and producer of the radio program Move the Crowd and co-host and co-producer of Beautiful Struggle both on 90.7FM KPFK radio. She is a recognized expert on race, gender, class, and social movements.
PHIL AGNEW
Organizer at Black Men Build

Mr. Agnew’s work in community organizing and art is frequently cited and highlighted nationally. He is a nationally recognized educator, strategist, writer, trainer, speaker, and cultural critic. In 2018, he transitioned from his role as co-director of the Dream Defenders. In July 2019 he joined the Bernie Sanders campaign as a National Surrogate and was later named a Senior Advisor.