



468 South Perry Street
P.O. Box 300900
Montgomery, Alabama
36130-0900
Office: (334)230-2690
Fax: (334)262-1083



www.preserveala.org

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEDIA RELEASE

The Alabama Historical Commission protects, preserves, and interprets Alabama's historic places and is the State Historic Preservation Office.

Lisa D. Jones, Acting Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 29, 2016

Contact: Jacquelyn Kirkland, (334)230-2690 or jacquelyn.kirkland@preserveala.org

FREEDOM RIDES MUSEUM EXPANDS TOUR HOURS DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH, INVITES PUBLIC TO 55TH ANNIVERSARY

Beginning February 1, 2016, the Freedom Rides Museum will be open for tours Tuesday-Saturday, 12:00 noon until 4:00 pm. Visitors are invited to view the museum's current exhibit *Travelin' Down Freedom's Main Line* which includes original and compelling works of art, architecture, photographs and the stories of Freedom Riders. The exhibit places the Freedom Rides in the context of the civil rights movement and its iconic Alabama events. In their own words, riders, young and old, tell about their commitment (or not) to nonviolent direct action. What happened when they told their parents (or didn't) that they were going on the ride. What it was like to be in jail and how the rides changed them (or didn't). Guided tours will be available each day that the museum is open.

*"It is significant that we are expanding the hours for the Freedom Rides Museum during Black History Month because the theme for this year is **Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories**,"* according to Lisa D. Jones, Acting Executive Director of the Alabama Historical Commission, which manages and operates the museum. Jones goes on to say that *"This museum has become a sacred site where we can reflect on the courage of these young Freedom Riders, black and white, who risked their lives to challenge injustice and bring about major change in America."*

On May 20-21, 2016, visitors are invited to attend events at the museum to commemorate the 55th Anniversary of the Freedom Rides. The museum invites all Freedom Riders and their families to take part in the commemorative events. If you or your loved one participated in the Freedom Rides or played a role in the Rides and are interested in participating in the anniversary events in May, please contact the Site Director for the Freedom Rides Museum, Dorothy Walker at 334/230-2676 or by email at freedomridemuseum@gmail.com.

A schedule of events will be posted on the museum's website at www.freedomridemuseum.org. Information on the events will also be posted online at the museum's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Freedom-Rides-Museum/516341675104377>.





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The Freedom Rides Museum is operated by the Alabama Historical Commission and is located in Montgomery's Historic Greyhound Bus Station at 210 South Court Street.

About the Alabama Historical Commission

Located in historic downtown Montgomery at 468 S. Perry Street, the Alabama Historical Commission is the historic preservation agency for the State of Alabama. The agency was created by an act of the state legislature in 1966 with a mission of safeguarding Alabama's historic buildings and sites. The Commission is tasked with the acquisition and preservation of historic properties and educating the public about historic sites in Alabama. For a complete list of historic sites, hours of operation, and admission fees please visit <http://preserveala.org/>

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