

Media Release
May 13, 2014

Freedom Rides Museum to Open New Exhibit Memorial Day Weekend

Travelin' Down Freedom's Main Line opens Memorial Day Weekend at Montgomery's Freedom Rides Museum.

Recently voted America's Best Historic City, Montgomery was the site of three of the seven major campaigns in the 1955–1965 Civil Rights Movement. In ten short years, African Americans led protests that won equal treatment in city and interstate bus travel and in public places like stores, theaters, and restaurants. And, finally, they won the right to register and vote.

The 1955–1956 Montgomery Bus Boycott and the 1965 Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March were the era's bookend protests. But the 1961 Freedom Rides, and events surrounding it in Montgomery, were a critical step along America's journey to toward full equality for all citizens.

Using artwork, architecture, photographs, and the stories of Freedom Riders, "Travelin' Down Freedom's Main Line" places the Freedom Rides in the context of the 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. What it was like to be in jail. How the rides changed them (or didn't).

Exhibit opening events take place 12–4pm Friday, Saturday, and Monday, May 23–26. Events will include docent led tours, gallery talks, and book signings.

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.

It is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 12-4pm and other days by advanced appointment for groups of 10 or more. For more details on *Travelin' Down Freedom's Main Line* and the Freedom Rides Museum go to www.freedomridemuseum.org or contact Christine.Carl@preserveala.org at 334-242-3935.

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

www.preserveala.org



#####