

July 9, 2010

CALL for ARTISTS

Title: **The Road to Equality: The 1961 Freedom Rides**

Location: Montgomery, Alabama

About: For the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Rides in 2011, the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) and the Alabama State Council on the Arts (ASCA) seek to select artists to create works of art that will commemorate, tell the story, and/or inform viewers about the history and importance of the 1961 Freedom Rides and the power of non-violent protest. This is a thematic exhibition open to all interpretations of the Freedom Rides. The Commission is not looking for specific representation but hopes the work will communicate a depth of feeling, meaning, and human understanding of this time and history. The final artwork should communicate the events and feelings of the past, be thought-provoking and challenging, and look to the future with inspiration.

HISTORY In May 1961, Freedom Riders left Washington, D.C. for New Orleans, La. They passed through Richmond, Petersburg, and Lynchburg, Va.; Greensboro and Charlotte, N.C.; Rock Hill, Winnsboro, and Sumter, S.C.; and Augusta and Atlanta, Ga. before violence in Anniston and Birmingham, Ala., led them to abandon the busses and fly to New Orleans. Students from Nashville came to Birmingham to continue the Ride. A mob attacked the students in Montgomery. The Freedom Riders eventually continued to Jackson, Miss., where police arrested them.

AHC and ASCA seek submissions from artists who are native to or working in areas along these routes or whose body of work addresses the struggle for equal rights in America.

Venue: The historic Montgomery Greyhound Bus Station was the site of violence against the Freedom Riders. Much of the building has been altered since 1961, but the Alabama Historical Commission has restored the street façade, including replicas of the original Greyhound signs. For more on the Bus Station, see www.montgomerybusstation.org.

AHC is currently adapting the interior to eventually be part of a larger Freedom Rides Museum. The space will include three exhibits on aspects of the Rides or the building, and one that will capture visitors' thoughts and feelings. The rest of the space, approximately 1,000 square feet, will be the gallery for selected works. The interior has a ten-foot ceiling and modern museum lighting. Because the bus station is partially on the grounds of the Federal courthouse, the U.S. Marshall Service will provide security.

Submission: By September 1, 2010, please submit an application including ten (10) JPEG images of existing work, a statement about the work proposed for this exhibition, and a resume. The exhibition curator, Georgine Clarke, Visual Arts Program Manager, Alabama State Council on the Arts, will select

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artists to create pieces—or who have existing pieces—to be displayed in the historic Montgomery Greyhound Bus Station, the future Freedom Rides Museum.

Get the application form, in PDF format, from

http://preserveala.org/pdfs/sites/greyhound_bus_station/MBS_artist_application.pdf.

Mail submissions on CD to Georgine Clarke, Alabama State Council on the Arts, 201 Monroe Street, Montgomery, AL 36130-1800; or email to Georgine.Clarke@arts.alabama.gov.

Limitations: Art must be delivered ready to install. Two-dimensional work will not be larger than 6' x 6' feet, and three-dimensional work will not be larger than 4' x 4' x 7' high or weigh more than 500 pounds, without prior notice to the Alabama Historical Commission. Installation pieces with more than one component will be accepted. All media including electronic media will be considered.

Budget: Selected artists will receive a \$500 honorarium and a \$500 allowance to deliver and pick up their work. Artists will be required to transport work to and from Montgomery. Artists will retain ownership of their works, which they will pick up at the end of the one-year exhibition period.

Schedule:	Deadline for submission	September 1, 2010 (postmark)
	Announce selected artists	November 5, 2010
	Art work delivered to Montgomery	April 20, 2011
	Installation complete	May 10, 2011
	Press preview	TBD
	Opening reception	May 20, 2011
	Public opening	May 21-22, 2011