

Please Join Us!

On Friday, February 9, 2024 join Tennessee State University's (TSU) College of Liberal Arts and the Metropolitan Historical Commission (MHC) for a celebration of the myriad contributions of African Americans to Nashville and Tennessee history. For forty-three years, this award-winning conference has brought together historians, students, educators, community leaders and others interested in learning and celebrating African American history and culture.

The theme of this year's conference is "Marching Towards an Inclusive Future: Seismic Shifts in Tennessee Communities," with a focus on civil rights history. Knox County archivist Zachary Keith will discuss mapping the destruction of Tennessee's African American communities, then author Dr. Rachel Martin will detail the explosive beginnings of school desegregation. Paula Blackman Iacampo of Harper Collins Publishers will explore integration of the airwaves, followed by an examination of Meharry Medical College's role in the Civil Rights Movement by MMC Library Executive Director, Sandra Parham. Singer Deni E. Lowe will undoubtedly captivate all with her performance, "Songs of the Movement." After lunch, Robbie Jones of Richard Grubb and Associates will present an overview of the Nashville Student Movement from 1942-1969. Next, we'll hear about the Nashville Public Library's Civil Rights Room from one of their own, Special Collections staff member Elliott Robinson. A theatrical performance by Gerold Oliver and Tyrone Robinson will shine a light on the inspirational legacy of basketball great Perry Wallace's fortitude and the intersection of race and sports in the South. Dr. André Churchwell of Vanderbilt University will close the program with a session on the history of minority communities in Nashville.

Conference co-chairs Linda Wynn and Dr. Lea Williams, Nashville Mayor Freddie O'Connell, MHC's Tim Walker, and TSU's College of Liberal Arts Dean, Dr. Samantha Morgan-Curtis, will provide additional remarks.

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
AND THE
METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

43rd Annual



“Marching Towards an
Inclusive Future: Seismic
Shifts in Tennessee
Communities”

Friday, February 9, 2024
8:30-3:30 pm

Tennessee State University
Avon Williams Campus
330 10th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37203



Metropolitan Historical Commission

Sunnyside In Sewer Park

3000 Granny White Pike

Nashville, Tennessee 37204-2901

Conference Registration



February 9, 2024

Registration Levels:
Students- \$20

Pre-registration (through January 31, 2024)- \$30

Registration (February 1-9)- \$35

No cash or checks will be accepted on the day of the conference—please pre-register or plan to pay by card.

You can also register on-line!

<https://bit.ly/41UNE0d>

**Make checks payable to:
TSU Foundation: TSU/MHC Conference**

Mail to*:
Metro Historical Commission
3000 Granny White Pike
Nashville, Tennessee 37204

***no drop offs, Sunnyside closed for construction**

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Email Address (for confirmation)

Phone

Questions? Call us at 615-862-7970

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged.

Registration cannot be taken over the phone.



Preliminary Program

9:00 am

Welcome and Opening Remarks
Tim Walker, MHC Executive Director
Linda T. Wynn, Conference Co-Chair
Freddie O'Connell, Mayor of Nashville

9:25 am

Mapping the Destruction of Tennessee's African American Neighborhoods
Zachary Keith, Knox County Archives

9:50 am

The Explosive Beginning of School Desegregation
Dr. Rachel Martin, writer and historian

10:15 am

BREAK

10:45 am

Integrating the Airwaves
Paula Blackman Iacampo, Harper Collins Publishers

11:10 am

Meharry Medical College and the Nashville Civil Rights Movement
Sandra Parham, Meharry Medical College Library and Archives

11:35 am

Performance: Songs of the Movement
Deni E. Lowe

12:00 pm

Lunch (provided)

1:30 pm

Remarks, Dr. Samantha Morgan-Curtis, Dean of Tennessee State University's College of Liberal Arts

1:35 pm

Nashville's Civil Rights Movement Landmarks, 1942-1969
Robbie D. Jones, Richard Grubb and Associates

2:00 pm

The Civil Rights Room: No Longer a Hidden Gem
Elliott Robinson, Nashville Public Library Special Collections Division

2:25 pm

Performance: Theatrical Adaptation of Andrew Maraniss' *Strong Inside: Perry Wallace and the Collision of Race and Sports in the South*
Tyrone L. Robinson and Gerold Oliver

2:50 pm

Then and Now: The History of Minority Communities in Nashville, A Vanderbilt University project in collaboration with the Nashville Public Library
Dr. André Churchwell, Vanderbilt University

3:15 pm

Closing Remarks
Dr. Learotha Williams, Conference Co-Chair

Planning Committee

Conference Co-Chairs

Co-Founder & Co-Chair Linda T. Wynn, Tennessee Historical Commission/formerly with Fisk University Department of History and Political Science

Co-Chair Dr. Learotha Williams, Jr., Tennessee State University

Committee Members

Dr. Joel Dark, Tennessee State University
Caroline Eller, Metropolitan Historical Commission
Dr. Elizabeth Johnson, Tennessee State University
Gloria McKissack, Tennessee State University (ret.)
Fletcher Moon, Tennessee State University (ret.)
Jamaal B. Sheats, Fisk University
Sharon Hull Smith, Tennessee State University
W. Tim Walker, Executive Director, Metropolitan Historical Commission

Financial Supporters

FRIERSON FOUNDATION
METRO HISTORICAL COMMISSION FOUNDATION
SPRUCE STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
TSU FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY