



AS GOES THE SOUTH

FEATURES

FEATURED FACES



DR. CARLOS ALEMAN **CEO OF THE HISPANIC INTEREST COALITION OF ALABAMA (HICA!)**

Dr. Carlos E. Alemán has made the Birmingham area his home since 2013, holding several meaningful roles connected to building the future of Birmingham. He is the CEO of the Hispanic and Immigrant Center of Alabama, an organization working to build prosperity, inspire hope and advocate for Latino and immigrant communities across Alabama. A son of Nicaragua, who grew up in San Francisco, Dr. Alemán became the first Latino elected to public office in Alabama when he was elected to Homewood's City Council in August 2020. He currently serves on the Alabama State Workforce Board and is on the advisory board for the Alabama State Minority Office. He is also a board member of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, REV Birmingham, and the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham. Dr. Alemán was selected as a 2025 Ascend at the Aspen Institute Fellow. Dr. Alemán is a former Assistant Professor of History and Latin American Studies at Samford University. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Latin American/Latino Studies from UC Santa Cruz and his Ph.D. in History from Michigan State University.

COLIN ALEXANDER **PROGRAM MANAGER, CITY OF BIRMINGHAM DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Colin Alexander, a Birmingham native, is a Program Manager with the City of Birmingham's Department of Transportation. Colin received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Birmingham-Southern College and a Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Urban Planning from The George Washington University - College of Professional Studies. A gifted baritone, he has for 16 years been a section leader in the Cathedral of St. Paul Choir. He has previously been both a Russian Opera Workshop Artist (2014) and Lyric Opera Studio Weimar Artist (2014 and 2015). Colin is a current member of the Temple Emanuel Choir and has performed on concert and operatic stages across the US and Germany.



FEATURED FACES



CYRONDYS JACKSON

CHIEF MEDIA OFFICER, MOOVMO | COUNSELOR, STUDENT RECRUITER

Cyrondys “CJ” Jackson, a lifelong Jefferson County resident, has an extensive media and marketing background that spans nearly two decades and multiple platforms, including news content, self-improvement, education, politics, sports, entertainment, finance, philanthropy, and social and community engagement. She is currently the Chief Media Officer and Director of Business Development at Moovmo, a ride share company that provides accessible transportation in Birmingham. Ms. Jackson is also a skilled counselor with Turnaround Counseling Services, providing client assessments, substance use disorder groups and counseling services to individuals, children, adolescents, adults, families and couples. For 21 years, Ms. Jackson has served as a Student Recruiter for Lawson State Community College where she works to develop and implement student recruitment strategies designed to increase college enrollment, retention and visibility. Previously, Ms. Jackson was a reporter and anchor for ABC Television and for Cox Radio where she also served as a talk show host. She is the founder of TV Latino, a media consulting company aimed at reaching minority groups. Ms. Jackson holds a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from Amridge University and a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast Journalism and Public Relations from Miles College.

DAVID FLEMING

PRESIDENT & CEO, REV BIRMINGHAM

David Fleming is the President and CEO of REV Birmingham, a place-based revitalization and economic development nonprofit working to create vibrant commercial districts in Birmingham. REV focuses on downtown Birmingham and Woodlawn, utilizing stakeholder engagement, clean and safe objectives, design and development, marketing, promotion and business recruitment and retention to accomplish their goals. Under his leadership, REV implemented the city’s first Bikeshare system and has facilitated over \$1 billion in investments in downtown Birmingham. Previously David was the Executive Director of Main Street Birmingham and also held the role of Vice President for Urban Planning and Development with Operation New Birmingham. David holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science from Samford University and a Master of Arts degree in Public/Private Management from Birmingham Southern College.



FEATURED FACES



DEJUANA THOMPSON **PARTNER AND LEAD STRATEGIST, BLACK EQUITY STRATEGY** **AND TRUST AND FOUNDER, WOKE VOTE**

DeJuana L. Thompson, a Birmingham native, is a political strategist and organizer who has developed campaigns with a range of impact from local Birmingham to the broader nation. She is currently a partner and lead strategist with the Black Equity Strategy and Trust, a boutique consulting firm that handles engagement strategies, leadership development, rapid response initiatives, and curates high-end logistics and premium cultural experiences for community change. She is also the Founder of the “Woke Vote” campaign which works to empower historically disengaged voters. Ms. Thompson first got her start in local politics as a committee assistant to the Birmingham City Council, later becoming a special projects coordinator and a council neighborhood liaison. She has managed voter engagement campaigns for both of President Barack Obama’s initial and re-election campaigns. In 2015, she was appointed as a Senior Advisor in the U.S. Small Business Administration. She also served as the National Deputy Director for Community Engagement and the National African-American Engagement Director for the Democratic National Committee. Ms. Thompson has a Master’s degree in Political Management from George Washington University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech Communication with a minor in African American studies from Berea College. She also completed a Master’s Certificate in Effective Project Management from Rockhurst University.

DON LUPO **DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM MAYOR’S OFFICE OF CITIZENS ASSISTANCE**

Don Lupo, the Director of Birmingham Mayor’s Office of Citizens Assistance is a connector between those in need and resources in the city. For 26 years, he has served in the role of liaison between the Mayor’s Office, City Services, and the city’s residents. Driven by his mother’s dedication to serving those in need, he picked up the call to public service at 48 years old when he became President of the Redmont Neighborhood Association in Birmingham. After six years, he began working with the Mayor’s Office, helping residents with issues like getting potholes filled to coordinating local restaurants and businesses to provide meals for shelters serving unhoused residents. Mr. Lupo is a longtime board member of Firehouse Ministries Homeless Shelter, where he helped raise millions for their new 100 bed facility completed in 2020. Mr. Lupo holds a degree in religion from Samford University and worked for 28 years in men’s clothing retail.



FEATURED FACES



MR. EUGENE JONES **FOUNDER/OWNER, HISTORIC TALK OF THE TOWN BARBERSHOP**

Eugene Jones is the Founder and Owner of Talk of the Town Barber and Style Shop, which has been around for 53 years. At his barbershop, he encourages both political and historical engagement amongst his customers, citing his clients' living connections to key moments in Birmingham's history. His shop's walls are lined with pictures of Civil Rights activists, politicians and other well-known individuals who have come to the shop. Mr. Jones is a professional barber, barber instructor, and the former Jefferson County Barber Commissioner. He studied barbering arts, beauty, and cosmetology at Lawson State Community College. Mr. Jones is a United States Army veteran, having served in Vietnam.

DR. IMANI PERRY **PROFESSOR OF STUDIES OF WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY, AND OF AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, HARVARD UNIVERSITY**

Originally from Birmingham, Dr. Imani Perry is the Henry A. Morss, Jr. and Elisabeth W. Morss Professor of Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality and of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. She's achieved the highest levels of academia having earned her Ph.D. in American Studies from Harvard University, a J.D. from Harvard Law School, a Law's Master of Laws degree from Georgetown Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale College in Literature and American Studies. Her work centers historical Black intellect and imagination amongst the background of Western domination. A MacArthur Genus Grant recipient and National Book Award winner, Dr. Perry has written eight books. Her most recent book *Black in Blues: How a Color Tells the Story of My People*, published earlier this year and explores the connections between the color blue and the Black experience throughout history.



FEATURED FACES



JARROD LOADHOLT PARTNER, ICE MILLER

Jarrold Loadholt is a partner in Ice Miller's Government Affairs & Regulatory Law Group located in Washington, D.C.. In this capacity, Mr. Loadholt leads the firm's Federal Public Policy & Consulting practice that advises and counsels corporate, governmental, and nonprofit clients regarding complex legislative, regulatory, and compliance matters and collaborates with corporate, civic, and governmental executives on public affairs and political strategy across federal, state, and local policy environments. In this role, he secured a FY23 Community Project Funding request for \$4.1 million for the Birmingham Valley Creek Rails to Trails Project to redevelop and construct a 4.57-mile recreation and transportation project for Birmingham residents. In FY22, he secured a Community Project Funding request for \$3 million for the redevelopment of North Birmingham Elementary School into affordable housing. Before this role, Mr. Loadholt was the Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs for Credit Karma where he developed the government relations function for the company. Mr. Loadholt previously served as Senior Counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Financial Services. Mr. Loadholt holds a J.D. from the New York University School of Law and a Master of Public Administration in Housing, Urban Development and Transportation from the Harvard Kennedy School. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Morehouse College. Mr. Loadholt is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

JIMMY GRIFFIN STORE MANAGER, RENAISSANCE RECORDS

Jimmy Griffin, a famed store manager of Renaissance Records, has been called a musical encyclopedia, psychic, and a true gentleman who fosters community in Birmingham through a love of music. A fixture at the store since 2014 and at the previously esteemed Charlamagne Record exchange for 30 years, Mr Griffin is known for his thorough knowledge of the store's immense inventory, his memory of his customer's individual areas of interests and ability to expose customers to new music. Mr. Griffin also has his own musical pedigree as a skilled drummer, guitar player and vocalist, having performed with a popular blues/roots Birmingham band called Trains 'N' trouble.



FEATURED FACES



JOE MINTER ARTIST

A Birmingham native, Joe Minter is an acclaimed self-taught sculptor, whose works honor and educate about the Black American experience in the United States and feature wood, metal, and a variety of found objects. Mr. Minter's art is informed by his variety of experiences as a metal worker, furniture builder, mechanic and local and global events that involve or have affected Black Americans. After retiring, Mr. Minter began building African Village in America, an installation at his home in Titusville, AL that includes his sculptures and other works of art. Mr. Minter is also a painter, whose spirited paintings cover a variety of subject matters including nature scenes and the collective trauma of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Minter's sculptures have been featured in exhibitions at the National Gallery of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Studio Museum in Harlem, and the Royal Academy of Art, London, among others. In 2024, he was selected as one of four Artist Choice grantees from the Ruth Foundation for the Arts.

JOHN MCCALL-PITTS CREATIVE DIRECTOR, PITTS & PRENEUR COMPANY

John McCall-Pitts is the creative director of the Pitts & Preneur Company, which utilizes videography, website development, and design professionals to help promote brands and their events. In this role, he has worked with government agencies and major organizations to create impactful communication materials, including websites, publications, and video content. He also operates Meteor Marketing, which offers a suite of strategic content, marketing and branding solutions to companies and organizations. Previously, Mr. Pitts was an Access Advisor with the First Horizon Bank where he developed media content that highlighted First Horizon Bank's impact on communities through providing opportunities in housing, capital, counsel, and education. As a Junior Board Member with the Railroad Park Foundation, he developed and managed a content strategy that showcased the park's activities and mission and played a pivotal role in organizing and executing major fundraising events. Mr. Pitts holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Management Information Systems and Services from the University of Alabama-Birmingham Collat School of Business.



FEATURED FACES

MONIQUE GRIER

DIRECTOR OF ROSS BELL YOUTH DETENTION CENTER

Monique Grier is the Director of Youth Detention with the Jefferson County Commission in Birmingham, where she provides leadership, oversight, planning and coordination of the Ross Bell Youth Detention Center's daily operations. Previously, she was the Faith and Community Partnership Coordinator with the Georgia Department of Community Supervision. She was also the Director of Community Reentry at the Georgia Department of Corrections, where she established vital linkages to services, employers, and faith leaders. Prior to that, Ms. Grier served the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice as the Statewide Community Program Coordinator for Chaplaincy Services. Ms. Grier is a member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi and past President of the Alabama Detention Administrator's Association. She has held several national level roles such as appointments to the American Correctional Association Steering Committees: Legal Issues, Juvenile Justice, and Policy and Resolutions, the National Association of Counties' Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee, and the local Birmingham-Jefferson County Justice and Governance Partnership Leadership Council. Ms. Grier holds a Master of Arts in Public Safety Administration from Columbus State University's Georgia Law Enforcement Command College and a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Georgia State University.



SALAAM GREEN

POET, SPEAKER, HEALER

POET LAUREATE OF BIRMINGHAM

TEACHING WRITER AT THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES – VACCA CAMPUS

Salaam Green, a storyteller and healer, is the inaugural Poet Laureate of Birmingham, Alabama (2024–2025) and Founder of The Literary Healing Arts Foundation and Services, which promotes the healing power of words through literary art devices and techniques. As a Teaching Writer at the Department of Youth Services and a facilitator with the RESET Diversion Program with the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office she leads writing and healing workshops for system-involved youth and adults in Birmingham. In June 2025, Ms. Green released a collection of poems entitled The Other Revival. In 2025, she received an Academy of American Poets Laureate Fellowship. A native of Greensboro, she is a Kellogg Foundation Racial Healing Facilitator and an Alabama Humanities Foundation Road Scholar. Ms. Green also serves as a faculty member of Jefferson State Community College, Jacksonville State University and Gadsden State Community College as an instructor of Family and Consumer Science and Early Childhood Education. She is also an Education Training Specialist for Alabama Public Television and the Alabama State Department of Education in the area of child development. Ms. Green holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Montevallo and a Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education from the University of North Dakota.



FEATURED FACES



MAYOR RANDALL WOODFIN **MAYOR, CITY OF BIRMINGHAM**

Mayor Randall Woodfin, Esq, a lifelong Birmingham resident, was recently elected to his third term as the Mayor of Birmingham where he follows a leadership philosophy of “putting people first.” During his two terms as Mayor, he has prioritized revitalizing Birmingham’s neighborhoods through millions of dollars invested in street paving, demolition, and affordable housing. Also under his tenure, his office launched the Birmingham Promise initiative, which has provided tuition assistance and other supports to 1,600 Birmingham City Schools graduates, offering a pathway to higher education and career success. Before being elected mayor in 2017, he served on the Birmingham Board of Education after determining that seeking public office was the way he could have the most impact on his city. In 2009, he became an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Birmingham, a position he held until he was elected mayor. Mayor Woodfin has also worked for the Birmingham City Council, the Mayor’s Office Division of Youth Services and for the Jefferson County Committee on Economic Opportunity. He has worked as an organizer, building campaigns at the local, state and federal level and was a featured speaker at the 2020 Democratic National Convention. In January, 2025, Mayor Woodfin published his memoir, entitled Son of Birmingham: A Memoir. Mayor Woodfin earned his J.D. from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Morehouse University where he was also the student body president and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

T. MARIE KING **DIRECTOR OF YOUTH PATHWAYS AND EXPERIENCES, JONES VALLEY TEACHING FARM**

T. Marie King is the Director of Youth Pathways and Experiences at Jones Valley Teaching Farm, where she develops young leaders and prepares them for the next chapter in their lives by creating pathways to economic mobility for high school students and young adults. T. Marie is also an award winning film producer, having produced the Emmy-nominated documentary Shuttlesworth, which highlights the life and legacy of civil rights leader Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth. Ms. King is also an activist and trainer with the Strategic Community Alliance, providing training to enhance equity and inclusivity practices. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Urban and Global Economic Development, a Master’s in Leadership, and a Master of Divinity.



FEATURED PLACES



JONES VALLEY TEACHING FARM USES FOOD AS A FOUNDATION SO THAT YOUNG PEOPLE CAN LEAD, CREATE, AND GROW A HEALTHY FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR COMMUNITY.

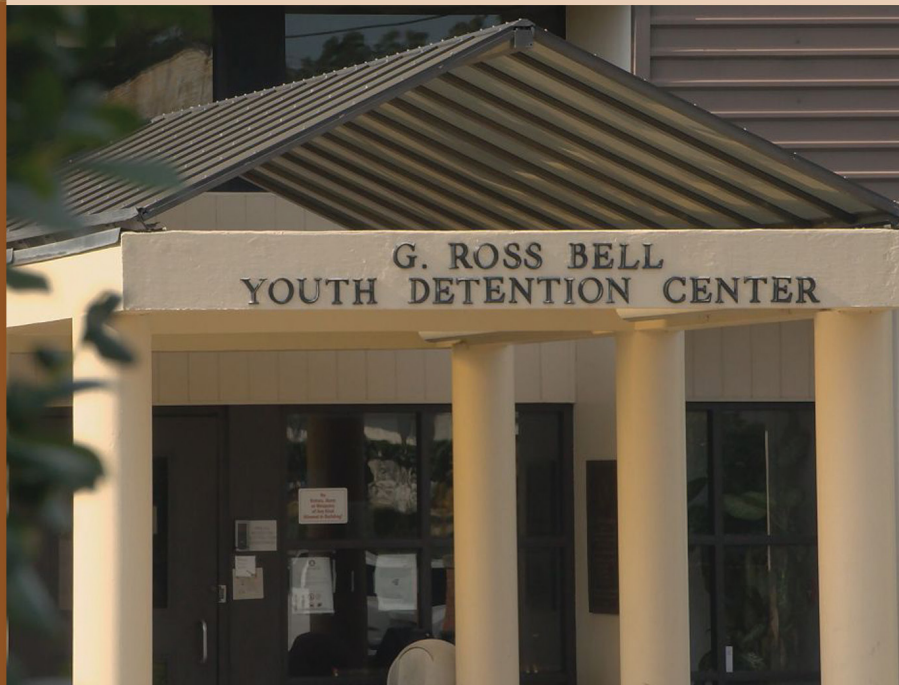


REV BIRMINGHAM IS A PLACE-BASED REVITALIZATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NONPROFIT WORKING TO MAKE THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM A MORE VIBRANT PLACE. THEY'RE LOOKING FOR A BEAUTIFUL COMBINATION OF AUTHENTIC PLACES AND DIVERSE PEOPLE AND WORK TOWARD THEIR MISSION BY STRENGTHENING PLACES, CREATING EXPERIENCES AND SUPPORTING BUSINESS OWNERS.



CITY WALK SKATEPARK IS THE LARGEST SKATE PARK IN CENTRAL ALABAMA. MANAGED AND SUPERVISED BY ACTION PARK ALLIANCE, CITY WALK SKATE PARK IS A WORLD CLASS FACILITY DESIGNED BY NEW LINE SKATE PARKS AND BOASTS OVER 58,000 SQUARE FEET OF SKATE-ABLE AREA.

G. BELL ROSS YOUTH DETENTION CENTER IS A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY OPERATED BY THE JEFFERSON COUNTY HOUSING UP TO 80 RESIDENTS FROM 9 TO 18 YEARS OLD. THE JUVENILE JUSTICE TASK FORCE, FORMED IN 2018, SUPPORTS THE CENTER BY FORGING PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY RESOURCES SUCH AS THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA BIRMINGHAM DIVISION OF ADOLESCENT MEDICINE, AND THE JEFFERSON-BLOUNT-ST CLAIR MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY TO BENEFIT YOUTH IN THE PROGRAM. IN MAY 2022 RANDALL HORTON'S NEW JERSEY-BASED "RADICAL REVERSAL" TEAM OUTFITTED A RECORDING STUDIO IN A SMALL ROOM AT THE CENTER AND ENGAGED SMALL GROUPS OF RESIDENTS IN CREATIVE PROGRAMS. IN 2024 THE BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL APPROVED \$50,000 IN AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING TO SUPPORT CREATIVE ARTS ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS AT THE CENTER IN COORDINATION WITH UAB ARTS IN MEDICINE.



FOURTH AVE MOVING FEATURED PLACES

HISTORIC 4TH AVENUE BUSINESS DISTRICT WAS THE VIBRANT CENTER OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY IN BIRMINGHAM DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY. UNDER JIM CROW LAWS, BLACK RESIDENTS WERE PROHIBITED FROM PATRONIZING WHITE ESTABLISHMENTS, SO THEY OPENED THEIR OWN. IT IS ONE OF THE ONLY SURVIVING BLACK BUSINESS DISTRICTS IN THE SOUTHEAST STILL OPERATING WITH A MAJORITY BLACK OWNED BUSINESS ECOSYSTEM AND PROPERTY OWNERSHIP.

A. G. GASTON MOTEL IS THE SITE WHERE REV. FRED SHUTTLESWORTH, DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., REV. A.D. KING, REV. RALPH ABERNATHY AND OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS MET IN ROOM 30—THE “WAR ROOM”—TO STRATEGIZE AND PLAN “PROJECT C,” THE 1963 CAMPAIGN OF PROTESTS AND MARCHES. THESE ACTIONS IN BIRMINGHAM CHANGED THE WORLD AND THE COURSE OF THE NATION IN GRANTING CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO ALL CITIZENS. TODAY, THE A.G. GASTON MOTEL IS THE KEY HISTORIC SITE OF THE BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS NATIONAL MONUMENT, A COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM.



SIXTEENTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH WAS THE FIRST BLACK CHURCH IN BIRMINGHAM. IT FUNCTIONED AS A MEETING PLACE, SOCIAL CENTER AND LECTURE HALL FOR A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES IMPORTANT TO THE LIVES OF THE CITY'S BLACK CITIZENS. THE CHURCH BECAME KNOWN AROUND THE WORLD WHEN A BOMB EXPLODED, KILLING FOUR YOUNG GIRLS ATTENDING SUNDAY SCHOOL AND INJURING MORE THAN 20 OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1963.



BIRMINGHAM XPRESS (BX) IS ALABAMA'S VERY FIRST BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT) SYSTEM. THE BX OFFERS THE SPEED AND EFFICIENCY OF A RAIL SYSTEM WITH THE FLEXIBILITY OF A BUS, SEAMLESSLY CONNECTING NEIGHBORHOODS COVERING 25 NEIGHBORHOODS FROM THE WOODLAWN TRANSIT CENTER IN THE EAST TO THE CROSSPLEX TRANSIT CENTER IN THE WEST, RUNNING EVERY 15 MINUTES AND EQUIPPED WITH WIFI. BX HELPS PROVIDE THE UPGRADED INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED TO MOVE BIRMINGHAM INTO THE BEST OF WHAT'S POSSIBLE ACROSS ALL SECTORS OF TRANSPORTATION.

FEATURED PLACES



JOE MINTER'S AFRICAN VILLAGE FOUND ART EXHIBIT. JOE MINTER IS A NATIONAL TREASURE. BUT LIKE MANY BLACK ARTISTS OF HIS GENERATION IN THE SOUTH, HIS WORK HAS GONE LARGELY UNRECOGNIZED IN HIS HOMETOWN OF BIRMINGHAM, EVEN WHILE BEING SHOWN AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, THE WHITNEY, AND THE NATIONAL GALLERY. HIS WORK FEATURES WOOD, METAL, AND FOUND OBJECTS THAT HE USES TO CREATE SCULPTURES THAT HONOR AND CELEBRATE IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE EXPERIENCE OF BLACKS IN AMERICA. TOURS OF AFRICAN VILLAGE ARE AVAILABLE.



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. FOUNDED IN 1992, BCRI REACHES MORE THAN 150,000 INDIVIDUALS EACH YEAR THROUGH AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES. THE INSTITUTE STANDS STRONG AS THE CORNERSTONE OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS STORY, A LIVING MEMORIAL WITH AN ONGOING MISSION.



RENAISSANCE RECORDS IS A MUSIC LOVERS' DREAM AND A PLACE WHERE MUSIC BRIDGES AND FACILITATES AN APPRECIATION OF HISTORY AND CULTURE. STARTED IN 2003, THE OWNERS GARY AND SHIRLEY BOURGEOIS AND GIFTED STORE MANAGER JIMMY GRIFFIN HAVE A PASSION NOT ONLY FOR MUSIC, BUT FOR THE COMMUNITY THAT THEY'VE BUILT AROUND MUSIC AT THEIR STORE.

