

The background is a dark red collage. It includes a vintage sign in the top left that says "It's nice TO HAVE YOU IN BIRMINGHAM". In the top right, there's a portrait of a man in a suit. Below that is a portrait of a woman with curly hair. The center features large, faint, stylized letters that spell out "AS GOES THE SOUTH". At the bottom, there's a silhouette of a person in a dynamic pose, possibly a dancer or athlete. The overall theme is Southern history and culture.

AS GOES THE SOUTH

D I S C U S S I O N G U I D E



“AS GOES THE SOUTH, SO GOES THE NATION.”

- W.E.B. DUBOIS, PH.D | AMERICAN HISTORIAN



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FILM SUMMARY

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA IS NOT WHAT YOU THINK IT IS.

As Goes The South is a 45-minute film about Birmingham, Alabama that reveals the character of a modern, Southern city hidden behind the outsized reputation of the state of Alabama. It acknowledges Birmingham's fight for progress in one of the nation's most hostile state governments since Reconstruction, but it doesn't linger on the fight.

As Goes The South also highlights the city's promise, creativity, resilience, and most importantly, its people - against all odds.

Birmingham is surprisingly beautiful with mountainous views, a stunning skyline, and well-preserved 100-year-old architecture situated seamlessly with world-class entertainment venues hosting the biggest artists of our time. The film captures the dynamism of the city's landscape; it is a beautifully orchestrated city symphony.

As Goes The South has vibrant colors and a cohesive soundtrack that is as bombastic as it is soulful - like Birmingham herself. Birmingham deserves to be seen beyond black and white.

The film depicts a new generation of community leaders, policymakers, and artisans working collectively to address outdated narratives about their community. This hopeful and visually rich narrative illustrates that Birmingham's journey- like many other cities in the South - isn't just about local progress; it's a story of resilience in the face of state-sponsored opposition that has always been an inspiration to the nation. It's time to remind people, in 4K.

IF BIRMINGHAM AND THE SOUTH CAN WIN, AMERICA CAN WIN.

NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Dear Community,

We greet you as principal creators of *As Goes the South*, in the magic of sharing our film with the world. The film and related elements, like this discussion guide, is a product of a deep partnership with one another and with the communities we serve.

We refer to *As Goes The South* as a film - not a documentary, because documentaries tell the story of what has happened or what is happening. While our film does conjure images, associations and memories, it also goes beyond the past and present. This film is more about what is possible, than what has happened.

As Goes The South represents a tapestry of assertions, truths, happenings and possibilities of Black, Brown and White leaders across Birmingham, who have chosen to lean into their relationships, their cultures, and their city in spite of the dominant culture and public policies that may harm them and the people they serve.

Neither of us were born in the American South, but this is where we found social, political, and cultural belonging, and are living in our purpose.

Please consider this film our love letter and our responsible bearing of witness to the sacred history and transformative futures uniquely situated in the American South.

We are so proud of this film, and we are grateful to you for choosing to engage with it.

In community,
Ed and Noel



Ed Fields is a civic strategist, essayist, and poet. He spent 25 years as a social entrepreneur, serving as a marketer and executive administrator for a number of nonprofit, media, and public entities. Ed is the founder of multiple civic organizations and producer of dozens of public campaigns that center the dignity of people, improve organizational reputation, and position organizations for strategic growth. Ed currently serves as Senior Advisor & Chief Strategist for the City of Birmingham Mayor's Office and co-founder of The Southern Futures Project, a narrative change project with Noel Didla.

Raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Ed attended Alabama State University where he received a B.S in Business Administration, Marketing. He also holds an Executive Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from The University of Alabama Culverhouse College of Business. Learn more about Ed's work at HonestlyEd.com.



Noel Didla is an immigrant from Guntur, South India, making Jackson, Mississippi home. Noel has invested in people centered movements and systems change work in Jackson, Mississippi, the Deep South, Gulf South, and the Global South. Noel is the co-steward of the Deep South Solidarity Fund, a 5 year giving experiment that focuses on funding BIPOC individuals, institutions and social justice infrastructure in Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi Georgia, and Alabama. Noel is committed to a lifetime of principled struggle with people and places that are home and inform her belonging.

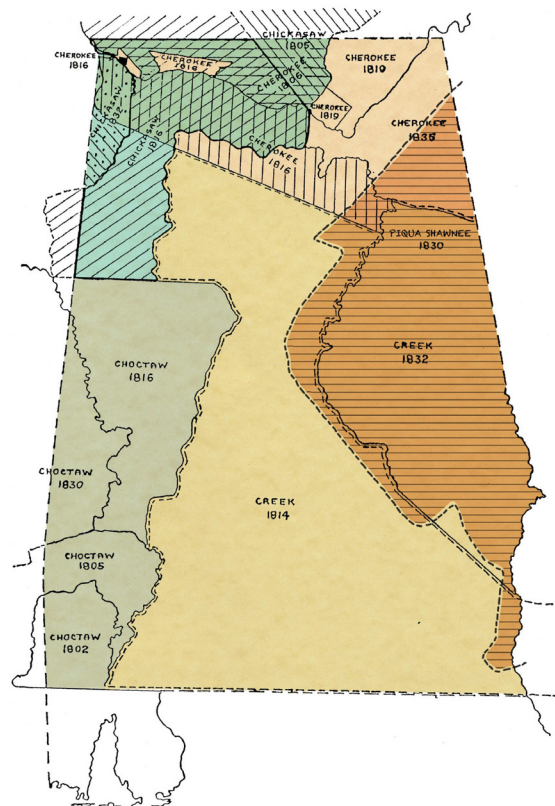
GROUNDING

AS GOES THE SOUTH IS GROUNDED IN A DEEP CONNECTION TO RESPONSIBLE STORY TELLING OF PEOPLE AND THEIR PLACE.

History evidences erasures of indigenous peoples, cultures and their connections to life. It has resulted in structural racism, social inequities, unjust institutional policies, and prejudicial human behaviors that continue to normalize historical harms and contemporary actions. This film acknowledges the land, what has happened on the land, and how every person that watches this film can celebrate native histories and practices as a cultural practice honoring ancestral memories across the Southeastern U.S.

We invite you to identify and acknowledge the territory where you live. Investigate the names of local towns and waterways in your area. Which ones are indigenous in origin? Go farther than acknowledgment and celebrate Native histories and practices as a form of personal and societal care.

Visit [**Whose Land?**](#) to identify which indigenous tribes stewarded the land, water bodies and life forms we call home.



USING THIS GUIDE



This guide is structured to support meaningful conversation. Rooted in a belief in the strength and significance of the South, it's created for individuals who want to use *As Goes the South* as a tool to spark dialogue with family, friends, classmates, coworkers, and communities about the roles of place and history in shaping our world.

The film may also inspire reflections on how we build community and tackle complex social challenges. This guide encourages discussions grounded in curiosity and mutual respect, where people share perspectives, listen deeply, and remain open to new insights.

The discussion questions are thoughtfully designed to engage diverse audiences and deepen understanding of the film's themes. Rather than covering everything, focus on one or two prompts that resonate most with your group's goals or interests. And importantly, leave space to talk about possible actions.

Avoid judging the type or scale of action taken—collectively or personally. Trust that any step taken with love and intention holds value. No action is too small or too ambitious. Ending with ideas for next steps can help participants walk away feeling hopeful and motivated, even when the dialogue has been challenging.

If you're interested in organizing a screening, please email asgoesthesouth@gmail.com.

KEY THEMES



As Goes the South is an excellent tool for learning and outreach and will be of interest to people who want to explore:

- **Art, Culture, & Public Spaces**
- **Leadership, Partnerships & Relationships**
- **Public Policy, Narrative Change, & Strategic Collaboration**

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

These prompts are designed to spark deep reflection and dialogue around how communities evolve, how perceptions can shift, and the potential for hope and resilience to transform societal narratives.

Please take a few quiet moments to reflect on what you have seen. As you reflect, take some time to jot down or think about what has shifted in your perception about Birmingham and what you notice about the way the film presented individuals' stories.

EMOTIONS AND EXPERIENCES

- Where are you from and what was one of your favorite places you reference when you think of home?
- Can you recall a public space or artistic expression from the South that changed your perception of that community? What emotions did it evoke?
- A major theme in the film was the presence and acknowledgement of history and how many of the individuals featured are living embodiments of their history. How are you an embodiment of your history? How does your history show up in what you do?

ASSUMPTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

- What preconceptions do you have about the role of public spaces and art in shaping a community's identity? How do the film's visuals challenge or confirm these?
- How might assumptions about Southern culture overlook the contemporary creativity and diversity showcased through art and public spaces?
- How might perceptions of power dynamics and relationships shift when communities prioritize local leadership and grassroots partnerships?

IMAGINATIONS AND POSSIBILITIES

- This film uplifts some of the people in Birmingham who may not be well known outside the region. Can you name 2-3 people who are known in your community that deserve more recognition and share with a small group why?
- Envision future models of collaboration across Southern communities—what kinds of partnerships could help foster regional resilience and cultural vibrancy?
- What policies or initiatives could support the sustainable growth of the region's cultural assets and community-led efforts for change?

FEATURED FACES



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

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 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, an LLM from Georgetown University Law Center and a BA 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.

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, who 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.



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. Aleman 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 a former Assistant Professor of history and Latin American Studies at Samford University. He received his BA in History and Latin American/Latino Studies from UC Santa Cruz and his Ph.D. in History from Michigan State University.

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, working on 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 received a Bachelor of Art’s degree in Political Science from Morehouse University where he was also the student body president and earned his J.D from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University.



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 national landscape. 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 curating premium cultural experiences for community change. She is also the Founder of “Woke Vote” campaign to empower historically disengaged voters. Ms. Thompson got her start in local politics as a committee assistant to the Birmingham City Council, later becoming special projects coordinator and council neighborhood liaison. She has managed voter engagement campaigns for both of President Barack Obama’s initial and re-election campaigns. 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 Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech Communication with a minor in African American studies from Berea College. She also holds a Master’s Certificate in Effective Project Management from Rockhurst University.



FEATURED PLACES



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.

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.



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.

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.

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.



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.



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.



RESOURCES: ORGANIZATIONS, TOOLS, AND FACTS

So, what's next? Our hope is that with the discussions and reflections you've engaged in about the themes in this film, particularly the unique history, challenges and possibilities highlighted in the South, that you take those discussions further through actionable steps.

To facilitate this process, we identified the resources below that will help you to dig deeper into some of the key topics and themes that may have resonated with you from the film. These resources are just a few we've chosen to highlight where you can learn more about the people and organizations contributing to the healing, progress, and growth specifically in the South, but have broad reach and application nationally, because, "As the South Goes"... So please use the resources below to build your knowledge, inspire, and inform your next steps.

Right to Food/Hunger, Black Landloss, & Tribal Sovereignty

Feeding Alabama

Feeding Alabama works to end hunger by assisting the food bank network in obtaining more food and funds, fostering public awareness of the food banks' mission, and creating partnerships to help alleviate hunger in Alabama. Feeding Alabama plays an integral role in the fight to end hunger in Alabama. To learn more, please visit the website -

<https://feedingalabama.org>.

The Alabama Heirs Property Alliance

The Alabama Heirs Property Alliance focuses on addressing heirs property issues that are impacting Alabama landowners, residents, and communities. These efforts are thanks to a collaboration between the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Alabama A&M University, Auburn University, and Tuskegee University. Drawing on the research, teaching, and Extension land-grant mission, the alliance seeks to provide the transfer of research-based knowledge and technical assistance to enhance economic and social well-being of Alabamians through the resolution and prevention of heirs property. Access resources here -

<https://www.aces.edu/blog/tag/alabama-heirs-property-resources/>.

Federation of Southern Cooperatives

The Federation of Southern Cooperatives is a cooperative association of Black farmers, landowners, and cooperatives that works to build cooperative business, save Black-owned land, and serves as the voice of Black farmers, landowners and cooperatives across the South educating legislators and the general public. To learn more, please visit the website -

<https://www.federation.coop/programs-and-resources>.

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET)

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) is an organization of 33 Tribal nations dedicated to enhancing the development of its member federally recognized Indian Tribes, improving the capabilities of Tribal governments, and assisting member tribes in dealing effectively with public policy issues and in serving the broad needs of Indian people. USET offers a range of support for Tribes including technical assistance and funding for projects. Please visit their resources -

<https://www.usetinc.org/home/resources/>.

Climate, Environment & Resilient Public Infrastructure

Building Resilience in the Southeast

The U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit is a federal framework that communities can use to identify geographic specific climate-related hazards and issues and develop and implement climate resilience plans. The toolkit includes case studies, regional pages, specific climate hazard pages, climate mapping, etc. There is a section entitled, "Building Resilience in the Southeast" that highlights information on topics related to the South. Access the toolkit here -

<https://toolkit.climate.gov/building-resilience-southeast>.

Southern Environmental Law Center

The Southern Environmental Law Center is the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan environmental legal advocacy organization rooted in and focused on the South. They work to protect the region's air, water, land, wildlife and the people who live here. They aim to move the region away from fossil fuels to clean energy, righting environmental injustice, stopping pollution, and protecting nature. Learn more about SELC here -

<https://www.selc.org>.

ASCE Report Card for America's Infrastructure

Every four years since 1998, The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has prepared a comprehensive assessment of the nation's major infrastructure systems in its Report Card for America's Infrastructure. The Report Card assigns easily understandable letter grades for each category and uses a concise but replicable methodology to analyze all aspects of system performance. Access the 2025 Report Card here -

<https://infrastructurereportcard.org/making-the-grade/report-card-history/>.

Southeast Climate and Energy Network (SCEN)

SCEN is a network of organizations working to advocate meaningful and effective solutions to climate justice and racial equity in the Southeast. They confront the climate crisis by creating strategic alignment, growing capacity, and building power among member organizations and their communities in the Southeastern United States. The network aims to leverage collective power to provide leadership, training, funding, and rapid response to threats, fostering a powerful, inclusive, diverse, and interconnected Southeastern climate movement. Learn more about SCEN here -

<https://www.scen-us.org/>.

RESOURCES: ORGANIZATIONS, TOOLS, AND FACTS

Mass Incarceration, Criminal Justice & Law Enforcement

Alabama Appleseed's Prison Reform Toolbox

Alabama Appleseed has been dedicated to guiding communities across Alabama to a better understanding of the human rights crisis in prisons. They do this by lifting up stories of individuals and families most harmed by the broken system, by researching and documenting evidence-based solutions and alternatives to needless incarceration, and by providing legal services that free older, rehabilitated Alabamians who then share their personal stories of hope and redemption. A resource for Alabamians to learn about the human rights crisis in Alabama state prisons, share their knowledge with others, and work for change. Access the toolkit here - <https://alabamaappleseed.org/news/learn-connect-advocate-appleseeds-prison-reform-toolbox>.

NAACP Criminal Justice Fact Sheet

The NAACP has a wealth of resources to help Americans understand their rights, fight for justice, and secure a better future for Black people in America. They are committed to supporting the next generation of civil rights leaders. The criminal justice system is heavily impacted by the bias of police mentality, as well as outdated judicial precedents. It is largely driven by racial disparities, which directly obstruct and deconstruct our minority communities. Read more by visiting the fact sheet - <https://naacp.org/resources/criminal-justice-fact-sheet>.

Equal Justice Initiative (EJI)

The United States incarcerates its citizens more than any other country. Mass incarceration disproportionately impacts the poor and people of color and does not make us safer. Equal Justice Initiative is working to end the misguided reliance on over-incarceration. EJI believes ending mass incarceration is the civil rights issue of our time. They challenge excessive punishment in court, advocate for parole and provide re-entry support, and advance systemic reform through research, education, and narrative work. Learn more about EJI's work here - <https://eji.org/criminal-justice-reform/>.

The Social Costs of Policing

The Vera Institute for Justice published a number of resources to explore the social costs of policing. When measuring the effect that policing has on public safety, it must include the social costs of policing that make communities less healthy and prosperous. These social costs include damage to the health of individuals and communities, suppression of educational achievement, harm to economic security, and reductions in civic participation and community engagement. Explore these resources here - <https://www.vera.org/publications/the-social-costs-of-policing>.

Civic Engagement, Leadership & Electoral Power Building

Common Cause 2024 Democracy Scorecard

Common Cause regularly releases a scorecard tracking the positions of every Member of Congress on issues vital to the health of our democracy. Members of the House and Senate voted on key democracy issues – including voting rights, judicial ethics and campaign finance disclosure – counted in the Scorecard and distributed to members, allies, and state and national media. Visit the Scorecard here - <https://democracyscorecard.org/>.

Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act

Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 prohibits voting practices or procedures that discriminate on the basis of race, color, or membership in one of the language minority groups identified in Section 4(f)(2) of the Act. Most of the cases arising under Section 2 since its enactment involved challenges to at-large election schemes, but the section's prohibition against discrimination in voting applies nationwide to any voting standard, practice, or procedure that results in the denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen to vote on account of race, color, or membership in a language minority group. Learn more about the importance of the guarantees in Section 2 to voting rights - <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/section-2-voting-rights-act-supreme-court>.

The South's Got Now/Decidimos and Vote Your Voice Campaigns

The Southern Poverty Law Center offers resources for empowering voters in the South, civic engagement, and electoral power building. The South's Got Now/Decidimos campaign works to unite and engage voters and the Vote Your Voice campaign offers grants to organizations in the south to build capacity and scale up their voter outreach and civic engagement efforts. Learn more about strengthening democracy here - <https://www.splcenter.org/racial-justice-issues/strengthening-democracy/>.

Co-Governance Tool for a Multiracial Democracy

Race Forward's Co-Governance Tool for a Multiracial Democracy is a practical guide designed to help governments and communities share power and design equitable decision-making structures. The tool outlines frameworks, principles, and real-world examples for building authentic partnerships that center racial equity and collective accountability. It supports teams in moving from engagement to shared governance, an approach increasingly adopted by cities and communities across the South. Explore the tool here - <https://www.raceforward.org/resources/toolkits/co-governance-tool-multiracial-democracy>.

BIRMINGHAM FACTS

FACTS ABOUT BIRMINGHAM

- Afro-futurist, American jazz composer, bandleader, piano and synthesizer player, and poet **Sun Ra** was born and raised in Birmingham.
- Sloss Furnaces is a National Historic Landmark owned by the City of Birmingham and supported by the Sloss Furnaces Foundation. By 1890, Alabama had become the 4th highest pig iron producing state in the country—led by Birmingham and Sloss Furnaces.
- Birmingham hosted the 2022 World Games; the only Southern city and second US city to serve as a host city for the Games.
- Birmingham's nickname, "Magic City" comes from the rapid period of growth it experienced upon its founding in 1871 due to steel production fueled by the proximity of natural resources such as iron ore, coal and limestone.
- **Fiesta Birmingham** is Alabama's largest Hispanic celebration. It is a family-friendly festival that celebrates Hispanic arts & culture. For over 20 years, more than 15,000 have attended and the celebration has reached over 75 million people online.
- The Vulcan Statue, a 56 foot tall statue of the Roman god of fire and is on the U.S. National List of Historic Places. The statue was originally built for the 1904 St. Louis World Fair and found its home upon Red Mountain in Birmingham in 1936. It is made up of 18 puzzle pieces and had to be disassembled and reassembled when transported.
- Red Mountain Park, where the Vulcan Statue is located, is one of the biggest urban parks in the United States and is 40% bigger than Central Park. It is located on one of the last active ore mines and contains remnants and artifacts of Birmingham's mining history.
- The SEC headquarters are located in Birmingham.
- In the 1920s and 1930s, Tuxedo Junction, located in the Ensley neighborhood was the only place where African Americans could gather to listen to live jazz music and dance. It is said that the Jive Dance originated here. The Tuxedo Function in the Junction Jazz Festival, created to honor the culture and history of Tuxedo Junction is celebrating its 40th year and is the longest running music festival in Birmingham.
- Since its debut in 1999, Birmingham's Sidewalk Film Festival has welcomed filmmakers from across the country and around the world to screen their work at Sidewalk to an enthusiastic crowds eager to devour new independent cinema.

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OUR SPECIAL NOTE OF GRATITUDE TO THOSE WHO HELPED MAKE THIS PROJECT POSSIBLE.

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Sun Ra was an American jazz composer, bandleader, piano and synthesizer player, and poet known for his experimental music, "cosmic" philosophy, prolific output, and theatrical performances. He was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama.