



Policemen ordering snarling dogs to attack a crowd of demonstrators, firemen wielding spitting water hoses at schoolchildren, and four little girls dying tragically in a church bombing – these are images people remember when they think of Birmingham, Alabama, in the 1950s and '60s. But there are also stories of triumph and heroism; Birmingham citizens, both Black and White, risked their lives to confront segregation and say, “enough is enough.”

Today, thousands of visitors from around the world visit the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) to witness firsthand the powerful lessons of the Movement. BCRI's award-winning permanent exhibition is a self-directed journey through the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and '60s and on to the human rights struggles of today. The state-of-the-art facility offers 58,000 square feet of space, including archives, galleries, community meeting rooms, changing exhibit spaces and administrative offices.

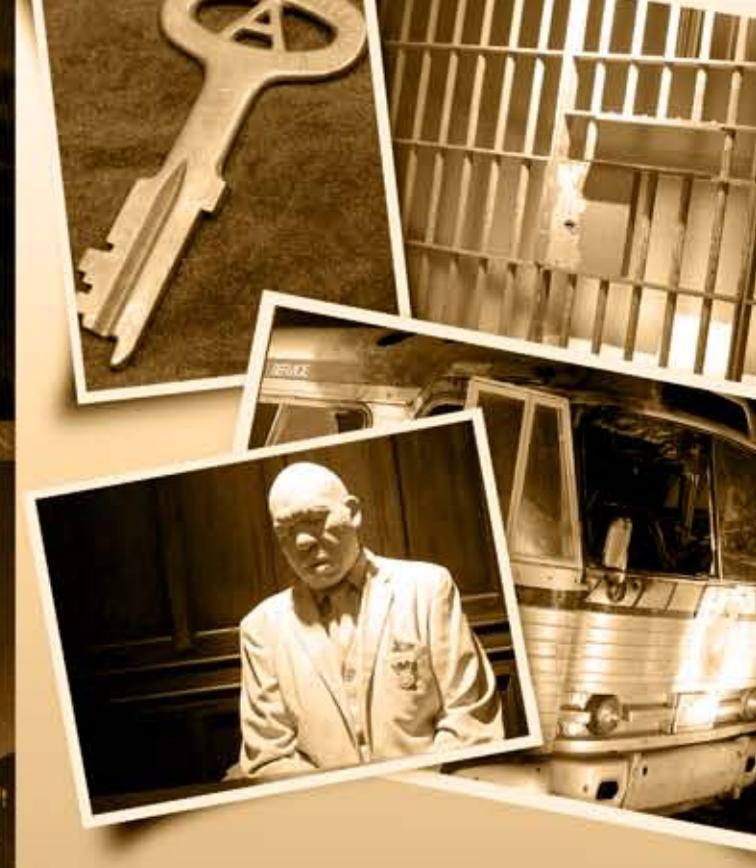


**BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS INSTITUTE**

JUSTICE TO ALL MEN OF WHATEVER STATE OR PERSUASION



JUSTICE TO ALL MEN OF WHATEVER STATE OR PERSUASION



**HOURS:**  
Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Sunday, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

**ADMISSION:**  
Admission charged; Children 17 and under (living in Jefferson County, Alabama) free; Group, senior and student discounts available.

**DONATIONS & EVENTS:**  
To make a donation or schedule an event, call 866-328-9696, ext. 236.

*a walk through*  
**HISTORY**

**BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS INSTITUTE**

520 Sixteenth Street North • Birmingham, AL 35203  
Phone: 866-328-9696 • [www.bcri.org](http://www.bcri.org)

*a walk through*  
**HISTORY**

Cover image of Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth: Matt Herron



# The journey BEGINS HERE

## BARRIERS GALLERY

From segregated water fountains to separate schools, the Barriers Gallery conveys the inequity of life for Blacks and Whites under segregation from the 1920s up to 1954.

## CONFRONTATION GALLERY

As visitors walk through the Confrontation Gallery, they hear voices of adults and children, both Black and White, sharing things they would only share behind closed doors. Visitors are confronted with these statements and ask themselves, "Could that have been my voice?"

## MOVEMENT GALLERY

The Movement Gallery takes you through the history of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1963, highlighting the Montgomery Bus Boycott and Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights.

- Dramatic media presentations are made in four mini-theatres:
- "Bus Ride to Freedom" mini-theatre features a burned-out bus and a large-screen video program with original footage depicting the Freedom Rides.

- "Give Us the Vote" mini-theatre includes a three-dimensional graphic display of would-be voters, and a 12-monitor video wall shows a film recounting the history of the struggle to vote.
- "Birmingham: The World is Watching" chronicles events in Birmingham in 1963 with the actual door from the jail cell where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote "Letter From Birmingham Jail" and a display of television sets airing news footage from the period.
- "The March" spotlights The 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom with large-screen projection and audio programs including King's "I Have A Dream" speech.

## MILESTONES GALLERY

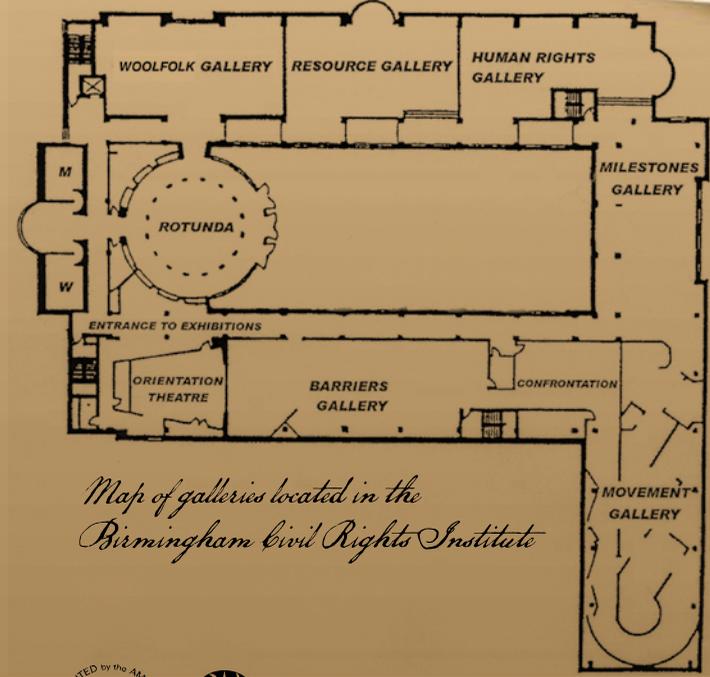
Life-size figures in the exhibit "walk to freedom" near a window view of Kelly Ingram Park, site of the 1960s demonstrations. Images on the walls depict the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and then chronicle the historic Selma-to-Montgomery March. In the "Mayor's Office," gains made during the administration of Birmingham's first African American Mayor, Richard Arrington, Jr., are noted. Timelines note strides made throughout the state and nation up to the opening of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in 1992.

## HUMAN RIGHTS GALLERY

This newly expanded gallery links the struggle for equality in Birmingham to movements for human rights throughout the world. Featuring interactive multimedia stations, this gallery includes displays on selected international human rights movements, a listening area where visitors can sample music from global human rights struggles, and computer stations where visitors can reflect and share their opinions about current issues. A focal point for the renovated gallery is one of the restored armored personnel vehicles used by Eugene "Bull" Connor in Birmingham.

## RICHARD ARRINGTON, JR. RESOURCE GALLERY

This gallery is a state-of-the-art computerized interactive learning center. It is named for Birmingham's first African American mayor and visionary for the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. The gallery's computers feature video clips from the BCRI Oral History Project, documenting the history of the Movement in the words of its participants.



Map of galleries located in the  
*Birmingham Civil Rights Institute*



Smithsonian Institution  
Affiliations Program