



# Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force



# HCRC Task Force Charge



Create a timeline that identifies people, places, and events significant in the Town's civil rights struggle

# HCRC Task Force Members

- **Ken Broun**
- **Nancy Oates**
- **Donna Bell**
- **Sally Greene**
- **James Britt**
- **Reginald Hildebrand**
- **Dianne Jackson**
- **David Mason**
- **Danita Mason-Hogans**
- **OJ McGee**
- **Mae McLendon**
- **Jim Merritt**
- **Cecelia Moore**
- **Megan Stanley**
- **Albert Williams**

# HCRC Task Force Process

Working Group



Research & draft  
timeline

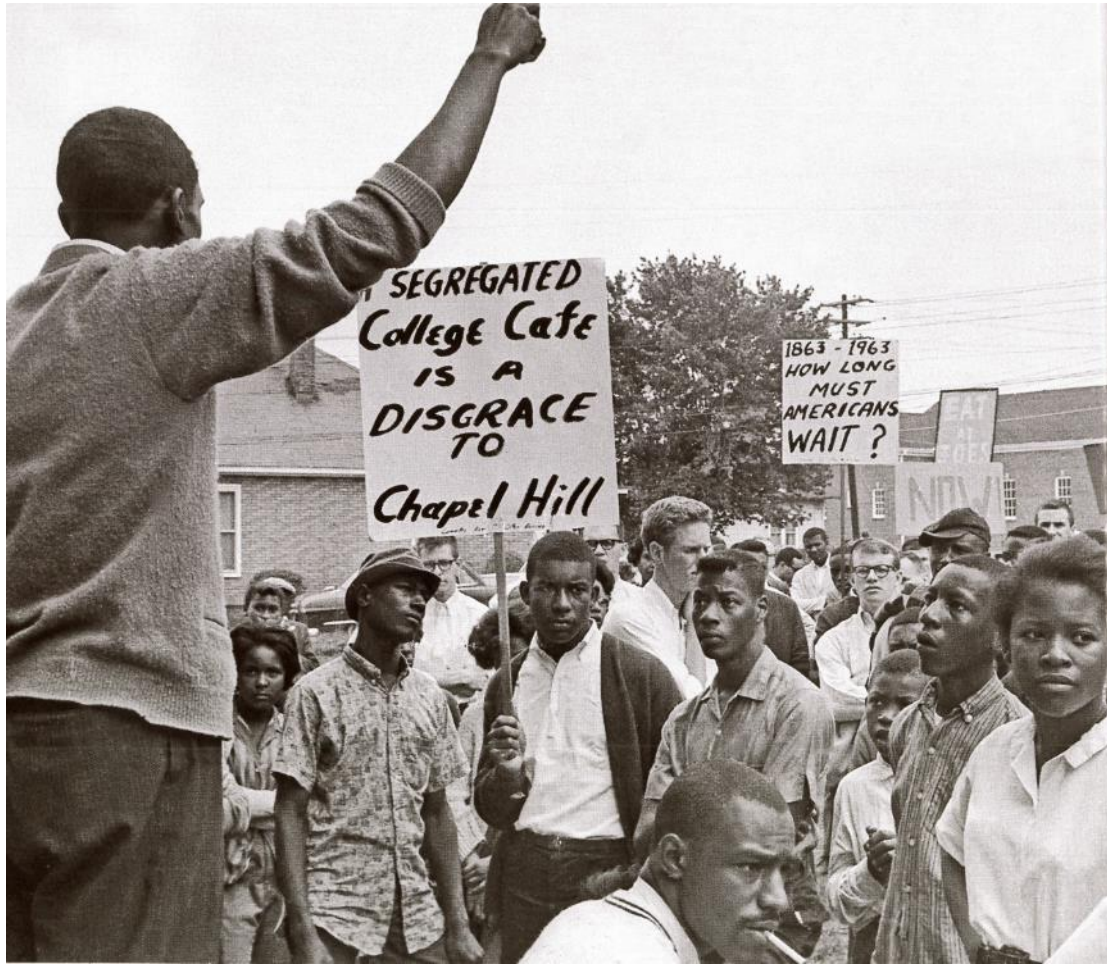
Chapel Hill Nine  
Subcommittee



Develop  
recommendations



# HCRC Task Force Guiding Values



# HCRC Task Force Outcomes/Goals

- Deliver to Council a living document, open to revision and new information
- Develop a collaborative process for collecting community history
- Design mechanism for interactive community engagement
- Develop a set of recommendations for next steps

# HCRC Task Force Community Input

**Share your experiences with us.**

**Tell us your stories.**

[chapelhillpubliclibrary.org/civilrights](http://chapelhillpubliclibrary.org/civilrights)

## ONLINE

Fill out our online form. You can fill it out as many times as you like.

[chapelhillpubliclibrary.org/civilrights](http://chapelhillpubliclibrary.org/civilrights)

## BY PHONE

Share your thoughts on important PEOPLE, PLACES, and EVENTS of Chapel Hill's Civil Rights movement.

Record a voicemail message:  
(919) 642-3629

## IN PERSON

We can record your memories and experiences in person.

Contact Molly: 919-969-2028  
[mluby@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:mluby@townofchapelhill.org)



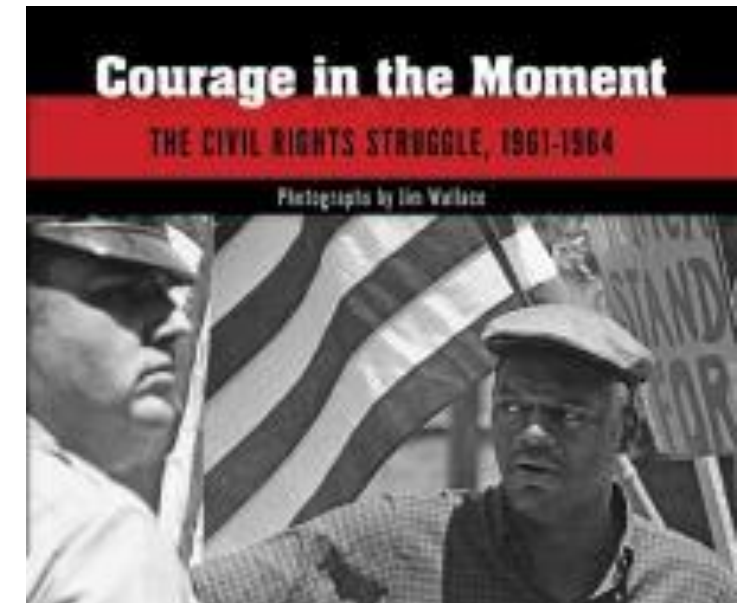
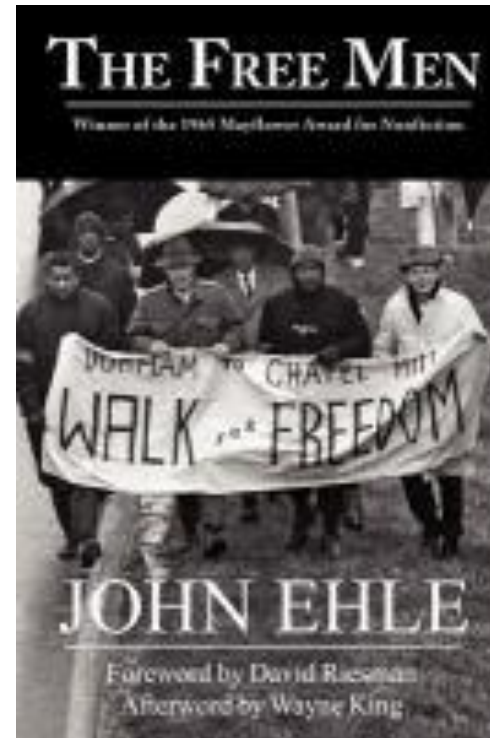
# HCRC Task Force Community Input





# Findings: Written History

- 1963-1964: well documented in *The Free Men and Courage in the Moment*
- Movement led by university students & faculty



# Findings: Our Community Teaches Us

- Indigenous movement with long community history
- Direct action powered by young high school students in 1960
- Largely unrecognized
- Led the way for later protests in 1963-1964



# Findings: Chapel Hill Nine

Clarence Merritt Jr., 17

Douglas Perry, 17

James Merritt, 16

Harold Foster, 18

Dave Mason Jr., 17

William Cureton, 18

Albert Williams, 16

Earl Geer, 16

John Farrington, 17

## Negro Teenagers Are Found Guilty Of Trespassing

Nine Negro teenagers charged with trespass as the result of a spontaneous sit-in demonstration at Colonial Drug Store last month were found guilty in Chapel Hill Recorder's Court Tuesday.

Each of the nine was fined \$10 and costs and given a suspended 30-day jail sentence.

The teenagers, who were defended by Durham attorney Floyd B. McKissick and Lisbon C. Barry, are Clarence Merritt Jr., 17; Douglas Perry, 17; James Merritt, 16; Harold Foster, 18; Dave Mason Jr., 17; William Cureton, 18; Albert Williams, 16; Earl Geer, 16; and John Farrington, 17.

Chapel Hill



# HCRC Task Force: Recommendations

## Share and Engage: Display Timeline throughout the Town

**THE SPARK**  
February 1  
The NAACP chapter is founded in Chapel Hill.

**COMMUNITY ORGANIZING**  
Throughout the Spring  
The NAACP chapter is founded in Chapel Hill. The chapter is active in the community, organizing the sit-in at the Colonial Drug Co. and the 'Open Our Future' campaign.

**MOVIE THEATERS PICKETING AND PROTESTS**  
Throughout the year, picketers focus on desegregating Chapel Hill theaters. This movement eventually focuses on Citizens for Open Theaters.

**MAY 8-9**  
The sit-in at the Colonial Drug Co. is held in support of members who are arrested.

**SUMMER SPARK REIGNITES**  
After negotiations result in little change, Lincoln High School students stage a sit-in at "Big Johnny" Colonial Drug. Chapel Hill News students are arrested.

**SCHOOL DESEGREGATION**  
The NAACP chapter is active in the community, organizing the sit-in at the Colonial Drug Co. and the 'Open Our Future' campaign.

**OPEN OUR FUTURE**  
The NAACP chapter is active in the community, organizing the sit-in at the Colonial Drug Co. and the 'Open Our Future' campaign.

**VIOLENT CLASH**  
Dinner tables, along with other protesters, closed with chairs and overturned at a protest at the Duke Inn. The inn was taken by the hoodlums. Five degrees burns and had its stomach dumped. There is violence at Duke's dining hall demonstration.

**CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE**  
14 protesters, black and white, are arrested at the Merchants Association headquarters on Franklin in the fall mass sit-in demonstration.

**FREEDOM FOR CHRISTMAS**  
Approximately 200 arrests after protests, including Karen Parker who was part of a group protesting at Lee's restaurant. Of note, demonstrators never agreed to press charges against any perpetrators of the violence.

**CIVIL RIGHTS ACT**  
The Civil Rights Act passed by Congress. Black members of the community had civil rights law by visiting formerly segregated stores. Denial of service and attacks at two veterans' meals led and Governor's file 4-108.

**BEFORE THE VOTE**  
"Freedom walk" from Durham to Chapel Hill. James Farmer of CORE leads, urging the Chapel Hill Board of Aldermen to pass the public accommodations ordinance.

**PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS VOTE #2**  
Chapel Hill Board of Aldermen votes to pass the public accommodations ordinance. The ordinance is passed by a 5-4 vote. The ordinance is passed by a 5-4 vote.

**AFTER THE VOTE**  
The town of 18, January 1965, and many to look out for early school days in the largest demonstration on the day. At demonstration, an arrest.

**HOLY WEEK FAST**  
Bobby "Red" Wood "fasts" on the post office steps to protest the report of segregated housing in Chapel Hill. The fast is observed in New York Times every day. The fast also has been a site of about 100 arrests at the town's high school on seventh day.

**KAREN PARKER**  
Karen Parker, the first African American woman undergraduate at UNC and active member of the movement, graduates with a degree in journalism.

**"RIOT" AT CHAPEL HILL HIGH SCHOOL**  
From SCMP interview with Walter Durham: "Durham describes the actual 'riot' at Chapel Hill High School in 1965. Durham, along with several of his supporters, used threats to lock down the school. Durham says that what they sought with the demonstration was to have more of a voice at Chapel Hill High School; the sign emphasizes the family atmosphere that had characterized Lincoln High School and indicates that they hoped to regenerate a similar feeling at Chapel Hill high school by drawing attention to the fact that they wanted to be included."

**SEPTEMBER 1**  
Albert Williams, among the youngest of the original Lincoln High School demonstrators, is listed as the first African American designer for the Town of Chapel Hill.

**1968 - 1969**  
Ongoing protests at Chapel Hill High School. Student body voted to change the name of their mascot to the Tipton, the former Lincoln High School mascot.

**For Mayor Of Chapel Hill**  
Howard Lee, the first African American elected mayor in a predominantly white southern town since Reconstruction. Lee went on to win his next two mayoral elections by large margins. He also ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1972 and Lieutenant Governor in 1976. He was elected to the North Carolina state senate, serving there from 1990 to 1994 and again from 1996 to 2002. In 2003, Lee became the first African American elected by the North Carolina Board of Education to be its chair.

**ELECTION OF HOWARD LEE**  
Lee became the first African American elected mayor in a predominantly white southern town since Reconstruction. Lee went on to win his next two mayoral elections by large margins. He also ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1972 and Lieutenant Governor in 1976. He was elected to the North Carolina state senate, serving there from 1990 to 1994 and again from 1996 to 2002. In 2003, Lee became the first African American elected by the North Carolina Board of Education to be its chair.



# HCRC Task Force: Recommendations

Share and Engage: Develop an interactive, engaging online history



Learn From the Past, Organize for the Future, Make Democracy Work

discover SNCC



PEOPLE

TIMELINE

OUR VOICES

INSIDE SNCC

MAP

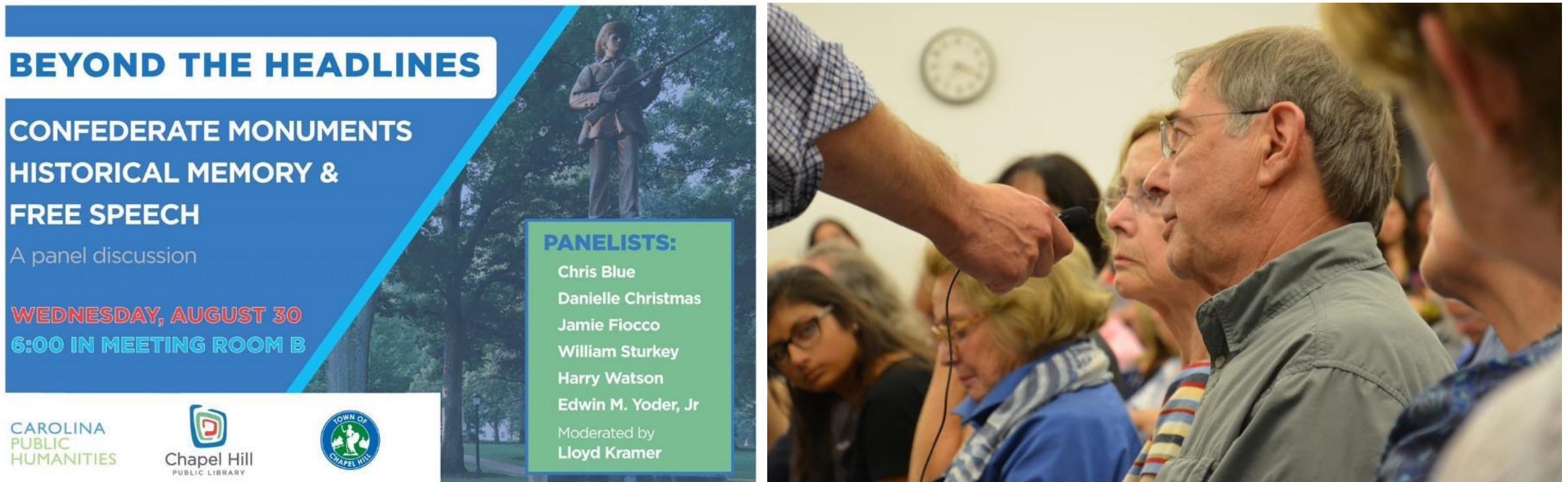
TODAY

RESOURCES

Town of Chapel Hill | 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. | [www.townofchapelhill.org](http://www.townofchapelhill.org)

# HCRC Task Force: Recommendations

## Share and Engage: Develop Community Conversation Series



**BEYOND THE HEADLINES**

**CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS  
HISTORICAL MEMORY &  
FREE SPEECH**

A panel discussion

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30  
6:00 IN MEETING ROOM B**

**PANELISTS:**

- Chris Blue
- Danielle Christmas
- Jamie Fiocco
- William Sturkey
- Harry Watson
- Edwin M. Yoder, Jr

Moderated by  
Lloyd Kramer

CAROLINA PUBLIC HUMANITIES

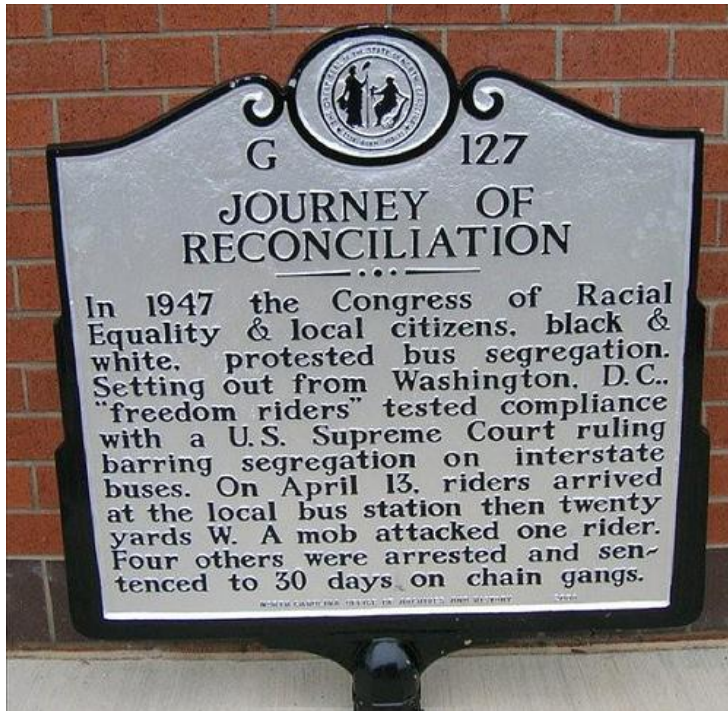
Chapel Hill PUBLIC LIBRARY

TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL



# HCRC Task Force: Recommendations

Commemorate: Authorize Chapel Hill Nine Subcommittee to plan historical marker



# HCRC Task Force: Recommendations

Commemorate: Collaborate with other community organizations



The Mighty Tigers!  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina





# HCRC Task Force: Recommendations

## Commemorate: Consider Harold Foster for Peace and Justice Plaza

We were troublemakers. We *questioned* authority and *challenged* it head on. . . we were *disobedient* to that extent, disobedient to those who told us to be obedient, but obedient to our own consciences as it were.

—Harold Foster



# Recommended Council Action

That the Council adopt Resolution R-13 to:

- accept the Task Force's report,
- dissolve the full Task Force,
- authorize the Chapel Hill Nine Subcommittee to continue its work and make a recommendation to Council in early Fall 2018, and
- authorize the Town Manager and staff to review the report and plan next steps.