

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**JOIN US AS WE CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSION OF 100 YEARS OF CIVIL RIGHTS
IN DETROIT ON SATURDAY, MAY 19 AT THE DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

DETROIT - The **Detroit Historical Society's Black Historic Sites Committee** presents the next installment of the “**Detroit's Civil Rights Struggle: Reconstruction through an Insurrection**” panel series on **Saturday, May 19** from **12:30 – 3:30 p.m.** at the **Detroit Historical Museum**.

This panel, the second of a three-part series, covers the years 1930-1954 and includes World War II, the Korean conflict, and the effects these events had on those who fought and returned -- as well as those left at home. It is expected that this event will be taped for future broadcast by C-SPAN for American History Television. Featured panelists for this session include:

- **Alexander Jefferson** is a retired U.S. Air Force officer and Tuskegee Airman from the 332nd Fighter Group. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He is the author of “Red Tail Captured, Red Tail Free: The Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airman and POW,” a personal memoir of those who served America in World War II and after. In 2007, he and the other surviving veterans of the Tuskegee Airmen (and their widows) were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of their service.
- **Hilanius Phillips**, who served as the head city planner for the planning and development department zoning division for the City of Detroit for 33 years. He was Detroit's first black head city planner. From 1969 to 2000, Phillips administered PA 344, which required citizen participation in the urban planning process by using citizen district councils. His efforts to alter the Detroit Cultural Center Plan saved many black historic sites that represented the cultural contributions of African Americans.
- **Frank Rashid**, a Professor of English at Marygrove College, founding member of Marygrove's Institute for Detroit Studies (IDS), and editor of the Literary Map

of Detroit on the IDS website. Among his publications are essays on the poetry of Robert Hayden, Lawrence Joseph, and Emily Dickinson. He also researches and writes about Detroit history, politics, and culture.

- **Lloyd Jackson**, assistant news director at News/Talk 760 WJR, will serve as moderator. He hosts WJR's "The Big Story," as well as special interest shows "Ask the Mayor," "Ask the Governor" and "Ask the Chief." He has won numerous awards, including honors from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters, Associated Press and the Society of Professional Journalists.

The cost of the event is \$10 for Detroit Historical Society and Black Historic Sites Committee members and \$15 for the public. For more information or to register for the event, please call **(313) 833-1801** or visit www.detroithistorical.org.

Don't miss the final panel in this series:

- **Saturday, June 9 from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.** at the **Dossin Great Lakes Museum** on Belle Isle. This event covers the period from 1955 through the July 1967 "insurrection," and featured panelists will include **Darren Nichols** of the Detroit News; **Loretta Holmes**, a Detroit resident who was at the blind pig raided by police triggering the riot; and **Tom Armstead** of Focus: HOPE.

The Black Historic Sites Committee of the Detroit Historical Society, founded in 1971, is a group of volunteers that promotes a greater understanding of the contributions of African Americans to the history of metro Detroit and the state of Michigan. The group also assists the Society with African American-themed programming.

The Detroit Historical Museum, located at 5401 Woodward Ave. (NW corner of Kirby) in Detroit's Cultural Center area, is open to the public Wednesday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from Noon to 5 p.m. On Mondays and Tuesdays, the Museum is not open to the public but available for group tours by calling **(313) 833-1733**. Adult admission is \$6. Seniors (60+), college students with valid college ID, and youth ages 5-18 pay \$4. Admission for children ages four and under is free. Parking in the Museum's lot is \$4 at all times. Permanent exhibits include the famous *Streets of Old Detroit*; *Frontiers to Factories*; *The Motor City*; and *The Glancy Trains*.

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