



PICTURE OF MURAL IN THE BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS INSTITUTE PHOTO CREDIT: AARON COBB

# 2024 SUMMER SEMINAR

AUM CIVIL RIGHTS & CIVIC VIRTUE SOCIETY



JOHN  
TEMPLETON  
FOUNDATION  
*Inspiring Awe & Wonder*



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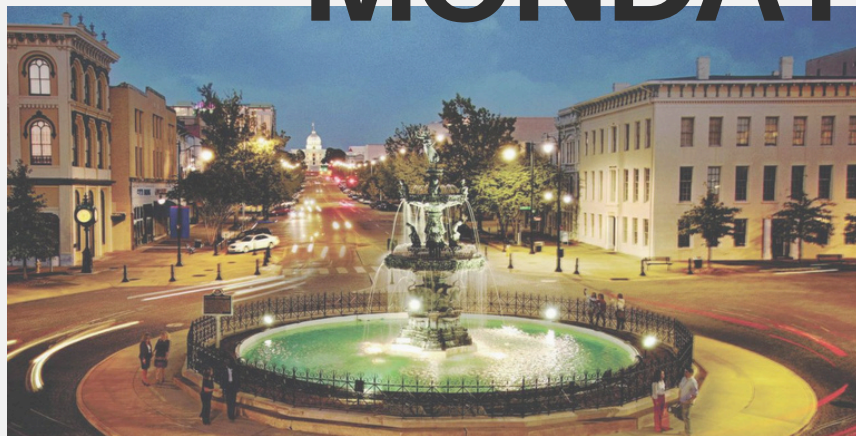
# Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Freedom Rides



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Summer seminar participants spent the morning sessions building community, by establishing norms and commitments for conversation about difficult topics and learning about the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Freedom Rides. Following these sessions, faculty, staff, and students visited the Rosa Parks Museum and completed a bus tour of important civil rights sites in and around Montgomery.

## MONDAY





# TUESDAY



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## Birmingham Civil Rights District

The focus of our second day was the civil rights struggle in Birmingham. Participants reflected on Project Confrontation, the children's crusade, and the events leading to the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church through their engagement at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Kelly Ingram Park, and a tour of the 16th Street Baptist Church. Prior to the trip to Birmingham, Dr. Julie Buckner Armstrong (University of South Florida) spoke to faculty, staff, and students in a keynote address titled, "We all did it': Space, Time, Ethics, and a 1963 Church Bombing."



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WEDNESDAY



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# Dreams, disappointment, character, and civic virtue

During our third day, we considered the political thought of the civil rights hero, Martin Luther King, Jr. through a talk by Dr. Meena Krishnamurthy (Queens University Canada) titled "From Shattered Dreams to Dreams in the Making: Martin Luther King Jr. on the Transformative Power of Democratic Disappointment." We also reflected on how to foster civic virtues through an address by Dr. Michael Lamb (Wake Forest University) titled "How to Educate Character: Seven Strategies to Develop Civic Virtue"

In our afternoon session, participants visited The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration. We also visited the Freedom Monument Sculpture. At the heart of this site is a monument listing names of formerly enslaved Black people who won freedom following the Civil War. Many CRCV participants found family surnames among those listed

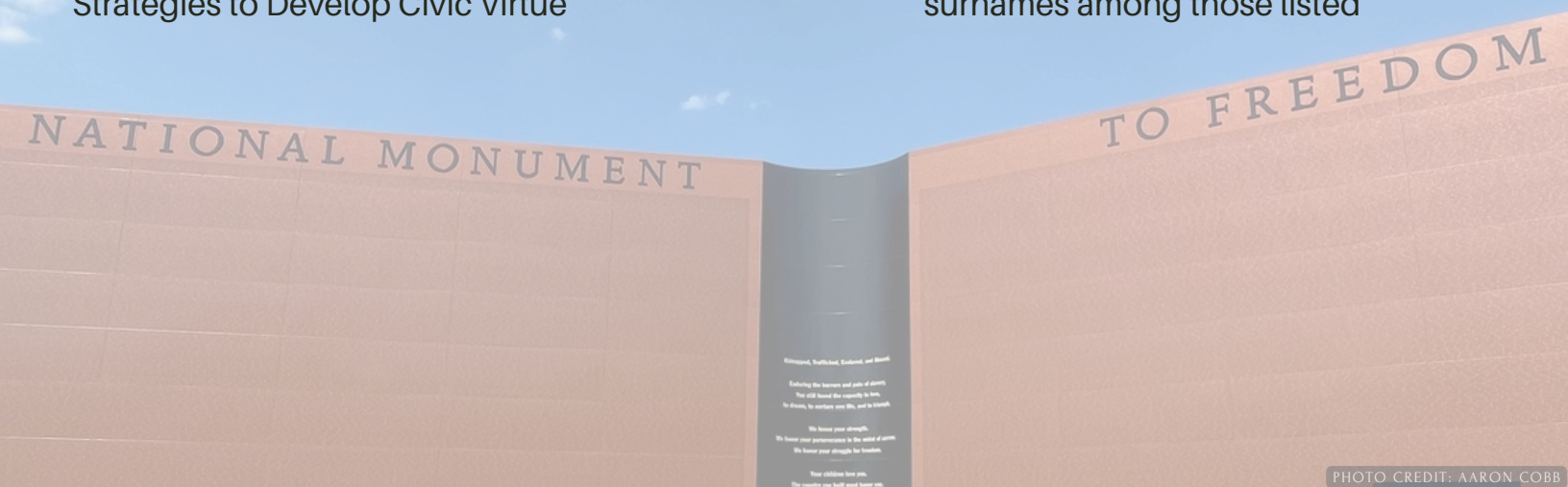


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# Art, beauty, and democracy. Civic virtue and disability justice.



Our day began with conversation about our experiences at the Legacy Museum and across the week. Participants reflected on the difficulties of confronting this history and the importance of particular virtues like courage, perseverance, humility, wisdom, and selflessness in addressing injustice. We concluded this session with a reflection on the vital work of justice and the traits we need to cultivate to join in this work.

Following these conversations, we had the opportunity to hear talks from our two Civil Rights & Civic Virtue Society Scholars. Dr. Dan Henry (Wake Forest University) spoke on the civic thought of W.E.B. DuBois in a talk titled "The Art of Reconstruction." Dr. Kevin Timpe (Calvin University) spoke about the need for civic virtue in pursuing disability justice in an address titled "Religious Freedom, Disability Discrimination, and Civic Virtue."

## THURSDAY



# Serving together in Montgomery



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## FRIDAY

On the final day of our seminar, faculty, staff, and students had the opportunity to serve with a local non-profit. Mercy House / MAP is a non-profit organization in Montgomery seeking to address issues related to poverty and its impacts on the community. Mercy House is a day shelter that provides access to food, clothing, showers, and laundry. A group of faculty assisted with creating a pop-up farmer's market for the neighborhood. Other participants worked with the Youth Navigation Program and their summer enrichment program for children and youth. In this space, faculty, staff, and students spent time playing games and participating in programming for the 130+ children and young adults who are present from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. daily.

Prior to our work on these projects, participants learned about the history of the church, New Walk of Life, as a central hub for the activities in the neighborhood. The original church met important needs during the Montgomery Bus Boycott. In addition to being a space where individuals could find transportation to their places of employment, Pastor Heard hosted important movement members, including Martin Luther King, Jr., in this space.



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