



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Vulcan Hosts *Teaching 1963* Symposium to Prepare for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Birmingham Campaign

CIVIL RIGHTS CHAMPION, DR. FREEMAN HRABOWSKI, III TO PROVIDE KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Wednesday, October 31, 2012  
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Vulcan<sup>®</sup> Park and Museum

Birmingham, AL -In preparation for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1963 Birmingham Campaign, Vulcan Park and Museum will present a one-day symposium featuring renowned educator Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, III that will inspire Birmingham educators to share with a new generation the stories of triumph and struggle from the Civil Rights Movement. *Teaching 1963: Integrating Birmingham's Civil Rights Legacy in the Social Studies Curriculum* will take place on Wednesday, October 31, from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Vulcan Park and Museum. Led by experts in the fields of history and education, *Teaching 1963* is open to public and private school teachers and administrators, as well as the general public. Admission is charged; financial aid is available. For a complete schedule or to register online, log on to [www.visitvulcan.com](http://www.visitvulcan.com) or call 205.933.1409.

*Teaching 1963* participants will explore local resources and cultural events suitable for classroom or school-wide projects and acquire components of a grade appropriate one-week unit of study on the Birmingham Campaign ready to implement in their classrooms.

"Our goal is to inspire every district in Jefferson and Shelby counties to incorporate this important chapter of American history in the social studies curriculum," says Vulcan Park and Museum President and CEO Darlene Negrotto. "Birmingham was at the epicenter of what was arguably the most important movement of the modern era. Vulcan Park and Museum wants to help ensure that every student in the region understands this part of their history."

*Teaching 1963* features Birmingham native Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, III who will speak on his experience as an educator and eyewitness to the Birmingham Campaign. A child-leader in the movement, Hrabowski was prominently featured in Spike Lee's 1997 documentary, *Four Little Girls*, on the racially motivated bombing of Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. He and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, where he serves as President, were recently featured on CBS's *60 Minutes*, attracting national attention for the campus's achievements involving innovation and inclusive excellence.

"As a participant in what many consider the turning point in the struggle for civil rights, the Children's Crusade, Dr. Hrabowski has a powerful first-hand account that we know will inspire teachers to embrace this part of the social studies curriculum," says Vulcan Park and Museum Director of Education Dr. Phillip Ratliff and session presenter for *Teaching 1963*. "Dr. Hrabowski understands the importance of passing on the history he helped shape to new generations which makes him the ideal person to speak to our teachers."

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Participants will also hear from a number of experts who will provide sound methods for addressing Birmingham's Civil Rights history. The roster of session leaders includes: Dr. Wilson Fallin Jr., Professor of History at the University of Montevallo, discussing the strategies and events of the 1963 Birmingham Campaign, and Dr. Jeremiah Clabough and Dr. Susan Seay, Professors of Education at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, modeling teaching strategies designed to make this history accessible to elementary, middle and high school students.

Sponsorship opportunities are available to support *Teaching 1963* that will provide financial aid to participants in need. For details on how to get involved, contact Carl Hughes, Vulcan Park and Museum Director of Development at 205.933.1409 x23 or [chughes@visitvulcan.com](mailto:chughes@visitvulcan.com).

*Teaching 1963: Integrating Birmingham's Civil Rights Legacy in the Social Studies Curriculum* is presented by Vulcan Park and Museum with support from the Birmingham (AL) Chapter, The Links Incorporated and other corporate contributions.

### **About Vulcan® Park and Museum**

Vulcan Park and Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to preserve and promote Vulcan as the symbol for the Birmingham region, to advance knowledge and understanding of Birmingham's history and culture, and to encourage exploration of the region. Located atop Red Mountain overlooking Alabama's largest city, Vulcan Park and Museum features panoramic views of Birmingham, a tourist information center, and indoor and outdoor exhibits that recount the region's history as well as the story of Vulcan. Open seven days a week. Admission is charged. For hours, directions and admission, log on to [www.visitvulcan.com](http://www.visitvulcan.com) or call 205.933.1409.

### **About 1963-2013: The Movement that Changed the World**

For more information, visit the City of Birmingham's official 2013 website at <http://www.birmingham13.com/site>.