



**TASK FORCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY
FINAL REPORT
JUNE 2018**



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Preface

Why a Task Force on Civil Rights History?

On January 24, 2018, the Times-Union Editorial Board published an article *Civil Rights Trail Skips Us* citing the creation of a new U.S. Civil Rights Trail which reads:

This editorial page has been commenting in recent months on Jacksonville's proud history involving its African-American residents and its civil rights history. Much of the impetus for this emphasis is based on the lack of attention this history has been given in Jacksonville. A new example of this forgotten history comes in the announcement of a new U.S. Civil Rights Trail. It covers 14 states and more than 100 historic landmarks. Yet Florida is not included, despite all the great history in this state, but especially in the Jacksonville and St. Augustine areas. Where are our civil rights memorials? A Woolworth lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C., the site of sit-ins in 1960, is now a civil rights museum. Jacksonville had sit-ins near Hemming Park. Where's our civil rights museum? The Ritz does a lot but it deserves more funding and support. For instance, plaques are not enough at James Weldon Johnson's home site in LaVilla or for A. Philip Randolph in the Prime Osborn Convention Center. The shame is that the rest of the nation is unlikely to know that James Weldon and Rosamond Johnson, writers of "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," wrote this classic in Jacksonville for Stanton students. Jacksonville is the site of major educational institutions for African-Americans including Edward Waters College, Stanton and Darnell-Cookman schools. Florida and Jacksonville need to be on the Civil Rights Trail. First, Jacksonville must act with more than plaques.

There have been 18 individuals inducted into the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame; six of those individuals, one-third of all inducted, are from Jacksonville: Dr. Arnett Elyus Girardeau Jr., Earl M. Johnson, Rutledge Henry Pearson, Sallye Brooks Mathis, James Weldon Johnson, and Asa Philip Randolph. Indeed, Jacksonville has a rich civil rights history that should be more widely known and celebrated, including tourism promotion efforts at the national, state, and local levels.

While Visit Florida is taking action to rectify Florida's exclusion from the recently created U.S. Civil Rights Trail, the Council President's research and discussions leading to such efforts suggested this was the time to leverage these events into a positive outcome for our community.

Executive Summary

Council President Anna Brosche introduced legislation to the Jacksonville City Council to appoint a Task Force on Civil Rights History in February 2018, which was passed unanimously upon introduction. The Task Force undertook an in-depth review of Jacksonville's history with regard to events, persons, places, themes and causes related to America's civil rights movement and suggest ways that persons, places and events important to the national movement that have connections to Jacksonville can be properly recognized and explained for the education and benefit of all our local citizens and for visitors to Jacksonville who may be unaware of the City's important role in the civil rights movement.

The Task Force was formed of 27 citizens with experience and deep historical knowledge, a variety of valuable perspectives, and a keen interest in serving and carrying out its mission.

The Task Force met from March 2018 through June 2018, and each member served on one or more of the four subcommittees set up to accomplish its mission: Finance; Marketing; Inventory; and Repository. A summary of subcommittee recommendations follows.

TASK FORCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY

CHARGE: Make recommendations for how the City of Jacksonville can better reflect and educate about its rich civil rights history.

CHAIRS: The Honorable Warren Jones, Duval County School Board, Co-chair
Ju'Coby Pittman, Clara White Mission, Co-Chair

MEMBERS: Tony Allegretti, Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville
Dr. Alan Bliss, Jacksonville Historical Society
Dr. Richard Danford, Jacksonville Urban League
Brenda Frinks, Sun City Events & Entertainment
Dr. Tim Gilmore, Florida State College at Jacksonville
Dr. Marvin Grant, Edward Waters College
Chris Hand, Eavenson, Fraser, Lunsford & Ivan
Maria Hane, Museum of Science and History
Rhiley Hodges, Paxon School for Advanced Studies
The Honorable Rodney L. Hurst, Sr.
Dr. Brenda R. Simmons-Hutchins, Black History Calendar
Rahman Johnson, Edward Waters College
Tim Johnson, Police and Fire Pension Fund
John Lumpkin
Eric Mann, YMCA
Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr.
Hope McMath, Yellow House
Marsha Phelts
Marcus Pollard, Jacksonville Jaguars
Isaiah Rumlin, Jacksonville Branch of the NAACP
Darnell Smith, Florida Blue
Monica Smith, Visit Jacksonville
Adonnica L. Toler, Ritz Theatre and Museum
Lloyd Washington, Durkeeville Historical Society
Alton Yates

STAFF: Yvonne P. Mitchell, Council Research Division

Finance Subcommittee

The subcommittee shall: 1) develop a budget; and 2) identify a variety of potential funding sources.

Members:

Chris Hand, Co-Chair
Marcus Polland, Co-Chair
Maria Hane
Darnell Smith
Hope McMath
Eric Mann

Marketing Subcommittee

The subcommittee shall: 1) develop a marketing plan for Jacksonville civil rights history; 2) identify parties to establish possible marketing partnerships, and 3) determine options for creating a local civil rights trail.

Members:

Tim Allegretti, Co-Chair
Monica Smith, Co-Chair
Alton Yates
Dr. Alan Bliss
Marsha Phelts
Brenda Frinks
Rhiley Hodges

Inventory Subcommittee

The subcommittee shall: 1) create an inventory of people, places, things, and situations reflective of civil rights history; and 2) prioritize inventory to identify people, places, things, and situations that should receive local, state, and federal historic designation.

Members:

Dr. Tim Gilmore, Co-Chair
The Honorable Rodney Hurst, Co-Chair
Dr. Brenda R. Simmons-Hutchins
Isaiah Rumlin
Bishop R. McKissick

Repository Subcommittee

The subcommittee shall: 1) determine where the inventory and historical information should live; 2) identify physical locations that should house items based on inventory.

Members:

Adonnica Toler, Co-Chair
Rahman Johnson, Co-Chair
John Lumpkin
Lloyd Washington

Richard Danford
Dr. Marvin Grant

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Adopted June 20, 2018

Goal:

To promote and educate citizens and visitors about Jacksonville's rich Civil Rights History

1. Place the Civil Rights History Timeline on the COJ website
2. Utilize the Ritz Theatre as a repository of physical artifacts
3. Develop an interactive website/application for the digital timeline
4. Participate in the U. S. Civil Rights Trail
5. Establish a Jacksonville Civil Rights District "Campus"
6. Establish a Civil Rights History Museum

Achievements:

1. The Task Force completed the Civil Rights History Timeline and forwarded it to the Jacksonville Library for oversight as the digital repository.
2. Visit Florida has committed to contribute \$15,000 annually to Travel South USA for cities to be eligible to participate in the U.S. Civil Rights History Heritage Trail.

General Recommendations:

1. Visit Jacksonville should pursue the application for the U.S. Civil Rights Heritage Trail. Visit Jacksonville is encouraged to apply using the broadest possible criteria while staying consistent with the application and is encouraged to communicate with the Task Force in developing the application.
2. The City of Jacksonville should establish a Civil Rights History District within LaVilla to preserve and promote the neighborhood and its significant role in Jacksonville's history to include structures such as the Lift Ev'ry Voice & Sing Park. The park's construction should be consistent with the vision of the Durkeeville Historical Society. It is requested that the value of historical preservation is considered in the LaVilla development strategy. Also, the City and key stakeholders should examine the proposal by Adrienne Burke and Ennis Davis published in the June 2018 issue of J. Magazine titled "Here is the Plan to Revive La Villa." (Appendix A)
3. The City of Jacksonville should ensure that the Civil Rights History Timeline remains an ongoing digital exhibit that is displayed for marketing and educational purposes with its historical perspective.

FINANCE RECOMMENDATIONS (Appendix B):

The City of Jacksonville should invest in highlighting civil rights history through the Duval County Tourist Development Council (TDC). As explained at www.coj.net/city-council/tourist-development-council.aspx, “*The Duval County Tourist Development Council (TDC) is the governing body that oversees the collection and distribution of the local-option tourist development tax authorized to counties by Florida Statutes.*”

The City of Jacksonville should pursue a variety of grant funding sources to support the above referenced goals. These sources should include, but are not limited to, National Parks Service, Institute of Museum and Library Services, and National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The overall goals of this task force cannot be achieved through the investment of public dollars alone. As with most endeavors, long-term success depends on strong public-private partnerships. To that end, the City of Jacksonville and other community stakeholders must work closely with local, state, and national philanthropic and non-profit communities to provide opportunities for organizational and individual investment in preserving/promoting Jacksonville’s civil rights history.

MARKETING RECOMMENDATIONS (Appendix C):

The City of Jacksonville should immediately pursue funding from the Tourist Development Council (TDC) to apply for membership in the U.S. Civil Rights Heritage Trail. The Task Force approved the submission of at least two locations. The cost is a one-time \$3,500 application fee, per location. Jacksonville’s Civil Rights History is significant and when marketed properly will impact our city revenue through “heads in beds.” Marketing efforts suggested target the youth, local residents, and visitors through technology and other materials.

INVENTORY RECOMMENDATIONS (Appendix D):

The Jacksonville Civil Rights Movement Timeline (JCRMT) is a narrative chronology of organized civil rights efforts led by Blacks and Whites in Jacksonville to significantly end racism, racial discrimination based on skin color, and gain equal rights under the law for Jacksonville’s Black citizens. Although the reactions to these efforts were both tumultuous and violent, the JCRMT was nonviolent and resulted in noteworthy accomplishments. The JCRMT also includes significant racial milestones. The narrative begins in the 1830’s and continues to this day.

The struggle for civil rights includes: 1) a reckoning of endurance under and resistance against those crimes against and infringements upon Black people’s civil rights; 2) efforts to fight racism; 3) efforts to end racial discrimination; 4) the fight for equal rights;

5) beyond the legal struggle, a battle for cultural fairness; and 6) the struggle against white supremacy and racism expressed culturally, either implicit or explicit.

It was the decision of the Civil Rights History Inventory Subcommittee not to include every instance of racial violence and overt racism that did not include a particular response in the progress of Black people's civil rights. Such instances as lynchings and Klan rallies, in and of themselves, without corresponding civil rights advances, were deemed "injustices too many to name."

The Civil Rights History Timeline should be a fluid document that is periodically updated with pertinent information that reflects its narrative.

REPOSITORY RECOMMENDATIONS:

The subcommittee reviewed a list of suggested repository locations (Snyder Memorial Church, Ritz Theatre, Old Stanton, and the city building across from the Ritz) to house physical artifacts and the actual timeline as a digital artifact.

It was suggested that the digital timeline would eventually have features for interactive mobile excursions on the heritage trail which would include places like the Snyder Memorial Church, Old Stanton, and similar significant sites. Further discussion concluded that the Ritz Theatre would be the repository of physical artifacts which includes references to external sites; and the digital version of the timeline should be on coj.net. The timeline should be utilized and application development begins upon the approval of the Task Force and presentation to the City Council.

- Phase 1 involves the completion of and posting of the timeline to the library's webpage.
- Phase 2 is the development of an official website and preliminary plans to provide open access to the Civil Rights Trail.
- Phase 3 includes the creation of an application to accompany the timeline.
- Phase 4 should begin the process of establishing a permanent repository.

The City of Jacksonville should direct the Office of General Council to assist the Ritz Theatre with developing necessary long-term loan agreement of physical artifacts for display or storage.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The members of the Task Force on Civil Rights History are honored to have served. The City of Jacksonville is encouraged to extend the work of the Task Force or establish a Board or Commission on Civil Rights. The work that should continue includes, but not limited to, gathering details regarding a Civil Rights District "Campus", pursuing a Civil

Rights Museum, identifying all local historical sites, overseeing the development of an interactive mobile heritage application and a civil rights educational curriculum.

The momentum of the Task Force should continue so that cultivation and promotion of this city's civil rights movement is allowed to bring proper honor and recognition to the significant events and people that overcame injustices.

The completion of the Civil Rights Timeline is significant in Jacksonville's history. It serves as a source of information to celebrate, advocate, and educate every citizen about Jacksonville's rich history.

APPENDIX A
TASK FORCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY
LaVilla Civil Rights Historic District Recommendation

For the reasons set forth below, the Task Force recommends the establishment of a historic district in LaVilla to preserve and promote the Downtown neighborhood's significant role in Jacksonville civil rights history.

- LaVilla was known as a “Mecca for African American culture and heritage” and the “Harlem of the South.”
- The neighborhood contains key landmarks which help to chronicle Jacksonville's civil rights history, including:
 - The Ritz Theatre & Museum, which the Task Force recommended as a repository for civil rights artifacts;
 - Lift Ev'ry Voice & Sing Park, which the Task Force recommends be developed consistent with the vision of the Durkeeville Historical Society;
 - Brewster Hospital, which is being restored for active use by the North Florida Land Trust;
 - Historic Shotgun Houses, which received City of Jacksonville historic designation in 2013;
 - Genovar's Hall, “a venue frequented by music legends like Louis Armstrong, Ray Charles, and James Brown.” See www.jacksonville.com/jmagazine/20180617/here-is-plan-to-revive-lavilla
 - Old Stanton High School, where James Weldon Johnson and his brother John Rosamond Johnson graduated from and taught, and where their famous composition, the African-American national anthem “Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing”, was first performed;
 - The Clara White Mission, founded by humanitarian and civil rights pioneer Eartha White, has an extensive history related to her trailblazing work. See <http://theclarawhitemission.org/explore/about/history/>. Additionally, since 1932 it has been located on the site of the former Ashley's Globe Theater, “where Ma Rainey, the ‘mother of blues,’ received three or four encores every night for her performances in 1911.” See www.jacksonville.com/jmagazine/20180617/here-is-plan-to-revive-lavilla.
 - Broad Street, including “nearly four continuous blocks of structures dating back to

the corridor's days as a major black business district. This historic row is anchored by the Masonic Temple, a five-story Prairie-Style structure that was the location of Jacksonville's first black-owned bank in 1916. Other Broad Street buildings include the Richmond and Central hotels. Constructed in-1909, the Richmond was considered Jacksonville's finest hotel for black citizens prior to desegregation. Its guests over the years included Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday."

See www.jacksonville.com/jmagazine/20180617/here-is-plan-to-revive-lavilla

- *The City of Jacksonville currently owns vacant property in LaVilla – the “Sax Seafood” building and adjoining land at 816 West Union Street – which could be used for historical preservation and promotion purposes. Though the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) has twice issued Requests for Proposals (RFPs) on the property (2013 and 2016), it has not yet identified a new use for the property.*
- *Historic preservationists are actively encouraging the restoration of LaVilla. The Task Force recommends that the City of Jacksonville and key stakeholders examine the proposal by Adrienne Burke and Ennis Davis in the June 2018 issue of **J Magazine**. See “Here is the Plan to Revive La Villa” at www.jacksonville.com/jmagazine/20180617/here-is-plan-to-revive-lavilla (attached).*

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Opinion

Here is a plan to revive LaVilla

By Adrienne Burke and Ennis Davis

Posted Jun 17, 2018 at 2:00 AM

Resurrecting Downtown's historic LaVilla neighborhood is a work in progress.

After years of starts and stops, the revitalization of Downtown Jacksonville finally appears to be picking up steam. In the past two years, according to Downtown Vision, more than \$80 million in projects have been completed, and another \$2 billion are either currently under construction or proposed.

Nowhere is this more evident than in LaVilla, where after decades of broken promises, dreams and despair, the Jacksonville Transportation Authority is constructing a \$57 million transit center, and under the guidance of the Downtown Investment Authority, more than 450 affordable and workforce residential units are being added to the mix.

While the DIA and the JTA should be commended for their efforts in finally jumpstarting LaVilla's rebirth, the reality of the matter is that, with a little understanding of the area's history, it could be much more.

LaVilla is one of only a few urbanized multicultural districts in Florida that date as far back as the late 19th century. Its history possesses something other communities, suburban strip malls and theme parks will never be able to reconstruct or properly mimic.

Yet with every old building lost, along with new infill that pays little homage to the past, Jacksonville continues to erase a distinctive opportunity that has resulted in significant economic development and tourism that many cities continue to successfully use to their benefit.

Jacksonville's first suburb

Once a Civil War campsite for the first all-African-American regiment, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry of the movie “Glory” fame, LaVilla was established by Francis F. L’Engle in 1866 and incorporated as Jacksonville’s first suburb in 1869. Adjacent to the city’s earliest railroad terminals, LaVilla by 1870 had become 70 percent black as freedmen flocked to the area for economic opportunity and safety in a racially charged South. By the time it was annexed by Jacksonville in 1887, the 1-square-mile suburb’s population had grown to 3,000.

After significant railroad investments by Henry B. Plant and Henry Flagler, LaVilla rapidly developed into a major industrial and transportation hub enticing additional immigrants to the area.

Before the emergence of Tampa’s Ybor City, it became an important cigar manufacturing center, resulting in José Martí visiting the city eight times between 1891 and 1898 to generate support for Cuba’s freedom movement.

By 1910, its concentration of Greek and Syrian immigrants was high enough to support a Greek & Syrian Club on Forsyth Street, along with 10 Greek restaurants centered around the intersection of West Bay and Broad streets.

At the same time, 67 percent of Jacksonville’s early 20th century Chinese population lived in LaVilla, and 14 of the city’s 25 Chinese-owned laundries were concentrated along or within two blocks of West Adams Street.

While Adams and Bay Streets quickly blossomed into corridors lined with small hotels, businesses, warehouses and tenement housing, Ward (now Houston) Street, surfaced as a red light district that was large enough for the Temperance Movement’s Carry Nation to declare the city a “demonocracy” after her visit in 1908. Featuring 60 bordellos with a variety of interesting names, including the New York Inn, Turkish Harlem, Senate, Spanish Marie and The Court, this district was partially responsible for LaVilla’s transformation into an early destination for vaudeville, blues and jazz performances.

Decades before Harlem even knew what a renaissance was, Pat Chappelle opened Excelsior Hall, the first black-owned theater in the South in LaVilla, and brothers James Weldon Johnson and John Rosamond Johnson were already internationally known.

In addition, Ashley Street became lined with theaters such as the Bijou, Airdome and the Globe, leading to the first published account of blues singing on a public stage there in 1910.

Between the 1920s and '60s, it became an important Chitlin' Circuit stop for black musicians and entertainers. With theatres like the Ritz, Frolic and Strand, live music venues like the Lenape Bar, Hollywood Music Store and Knights of Pythias Hall, LaVilla played host to famed jazz and blues greats such as Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Ray Charles, James Brown and Billie Holliday.

Similar to many historic minority communities across the country, for various reasons LaVilla fell on hard times during the second half of the 20th century.

In 1958, the first section of the Jacksonville Expressway opened, connecting Beaver Street with the Fuller Warren Bridge. A part of an 18-mile expressway, the highway's route was determined by avoiding areas deemed most valuable, by eliminating "blighted" neighborhoods and by serving as barriers to stop the spread of "blight." In 1950s Jacksonville, this meant paving the highway right through the center of LaVilla. A decade later, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was signed into law, ending segregation but also unknowingly ripping apart the district's economic foundation, which had been established as a mandatory response to racial oppression.

The 1990s delivered the final blow when the city relocated residents and demolished blocks of buildings as a part of the River City Renaissance plan. Until recently, the once proud multicultural district had become known for its abundance of isolated abandoned buildings, empty overgrown lots and suburban office complexes.

Recognizing what's left

Without crying over mistakes of the distant past, what remains is pretty significant and can serve as a great foundation for redevelopment if Jacksonville is ready to really get serious about exposing its underrepresented history.

On Ashley Street, Genovar's Hall, which predates the Great Fire of 1901, was a performance venue frequented by music legends like Louis Armstrong, Ray Charles and James Brown.

Ashley's Globe Theater was where Ma Rainey, the "mother of blues," received three or four encores every night for her performances in 1911. In 1932, Eartha White converted it into the Clara White Mission, where her list of famed guests included Martin Luther King, Jr., Booker T. Washington and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Then there's Old Stanton High School, where James Weldon Johnson, a nationally known composer, author, poet, diplomat and civil rights orator, wrote the song "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," which has been recognized as the Negro National Anthem.

Along Broad Street, there are nearly four continuous blocks of structures dating back to the corridor's days as a major black business district. This historic row is anchored by the Masonic Temple, a five-story Prairie-Style structure that was the location of Jacksonville's first black-owned bank in 1916.

Other Broad Street buildings include the Richmond and Central hotels. Constructed in 1909, the Richmond was considered Jacksonville's finest hotel for black citizens prior to desegregation. Its guests over the years included Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday.

Not to be outdone, the Jacksonville Urban League originated in 1935 as the Jacksonville Negro Welfare League in one of the Central Hotel's storefronts.

The Maceo Elk's Lodge is another element of underrepresented history. Built in 1914 as the Young Men's Hebrew Association, it may be the only reminder of LaVilla's forgotten era as an Orthodox Jewish community between 1880 and the 1920s.

Even buildings considered to be insignificant and unimpressive have stories to tell. The nondescript brick warehouses and storefronts along West Forsyth Street represent all that remain of businesses and saloons that once catered to the area's days as a red light district.

Implementing a resuscitation plan

With proper vision, planning and coordination, what remains of the storied neighborhood could serve as the foundation for infill and growth that preserves a part of Jacksonville's unique heritage and culture while assisting in the economic rebirth of LaVilla and Downtown.

Here are five steps that should be seriously considered to really resuscitate LaVilla:

1. Start by acknowledging how significant the neighborhood is, not only to Jacksonville, but nationally. Don't whitewash the history; understand that the community is important to black and immigrant history. Don't do something simple but not genuinely meaningful like a proclamation; instead, show its significance by being willing to commit resources in the form of money and staff to this effort.

In St. Petersburg, the Deuces was a vibrant community, home to more than 100 black-owned or -operated businesses and entertainment venues during the 1960s.

Ultimately, much of the community was leveled for the construction of I-275. Despite this setback, the Deuces is in the midst of a rebirth. Along with new infill, businesses and restaurants now occupy remaining buildings that date back to the neighborhood's heyday.

Moreover, the Deuces anchors the city's African-American Heritage Trail. Funded in 2014 by a \$50,000 state grant from the Division of Historical Resources, the two-mile trail route honors and recounts the history and memories of the city's black residents through 20 historical markers.

Much of the recent success is due to St. Petersburg's working with the National Main Street Association to establish The Deuces Live Inc., a non-profit organization that promotes positive growth and financial revitalization while preserving the area's rich history.

2. Part of acknowledging the area's historic significance is also to acknowledge the destruction of that significance.

Utilize this chance to recognize past mistakes and highlight the history and culture of the neighborhood through community outreach and events. Ask people who grew up in LaVilla or who have family who grew up there, or past and current business owners and customers to participate in this discussion. People who were displaced or remain have an opportunity to share a vision for their community.

In Washington, D.C., the historic Bloomingdale neighborhood relied on volunteers to conduct oral histories, created a documentary video, produced an illustrated timeline and gave input on parks, community art projects and other amenities as part of a collaborative project on research and land use planning for their community.

A Bloomingdale resident and psychologist helped lead the effort, calling it a project combining psychology and design. The study efforts are being shared with the D.C. Office of Planning to incorporate into a cultural plan for the neighborhood.

3. Create a LaVilla-specific preservation plan incorporating the history of LaVilla and feedback from community members. Not only could this help LaVilla, but such a plan could also be used as a model for other underrepresented historic neighborhoods in the city.

The first step is to identify, survey and document remaining historic properties.

The second step is to get them protected through City historic landmark designation, most likely as individual listings. Landmarking is important because it provides a level of protection and an opportunity for additional sites to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Historic buildings that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places are eligible to use federal historic-preservation tax credits and historic-preservation ad valorem tax exemptions authorized by the Florida legislature. Preservation tax credits have been successfully utilized in Jacksonville already for more than 40 projects.

While a historic district might not be an option for the neighborhood, a conservation overlay district as part of a preservation plan for the area could be established.

Conservation overlay districts provide a method for protecting an area's scale, form and character, but at a less strict level than a historic district. Nashville is nationally known for this method of overlay zoning and now has 21 neighborhood conservation zoning overlays within its boundaries.

As part of a conservation overlay, design guidelines for infill construction, streetscape elements and signage could be included to make the neighborhood distinctive from the rest of Downtown, capitalizing on its real history as being

diverse and culturally significant in its own right.

4. Focus on restoration of the core of LaVilla in the vicinity of Ashley and Broad streets. There's enough infrastructure here to add a unique setting to the Downtown that adaptively re-uses LaVilla's most storied remaining buildings with thoughtful, scale-appropriate infill with complementary uses utilizing established conservation district guidelines.

Beale Street in Memphis, Ashley's historic counterpart, was home to many blues and jazz legends, including B.B. King, Muddy Waters and Louis Armstrong during the early 20th century.

Despite being declared a National Historic Landmark, by the 1970s Beale had become a ghost town following a failed urban renewal project that displaced most of the community surrounding it. What was left of Beale Street was saved when the Beale Street Development Corporation (BSDC) was created and selected by the City of Memphis to redevelop two blocks of remaining buildings with a redevelopment strategy dedicating its efforts for the preservation of the street's rich history, culture and physical development.

Today, Beale Street is Memphis' most popular tourist attraction, drawing five million visitors annually.

The significant history and concentration of what remains in the vicinity of the intersection of Ashley and Broad Streets provides Jacksonville with a similar opportunity.

5. Last, for city-owned properties like the long-abandoned Genovar's Hall, learn from other successful Request for Proposal (RFP) projects, such as the Le Meridien Hotel in Tampa.

The City of Tampa awarded an RFP to Memphis-based Development Services Group to convert the building, originally a historic federal courthouse, into a 130-room hotel with event space and a restaurant. Noted as an iconic structure, the redevelopment on the north end of Florida Avenue was intended to spur revitalization.

The City of Tampa acknowledged the process wasn't easy, but leadership through Mayor Bob Buckhorn committed to the project and saw it through to completion. Said Buckhorn, "I never stopped believing [the courthouse] could be returned to its glory...[t]he job for us was to go find somebody who believed in the capacity of greatness that resides in this structure."

Jacksonville's leadership and Downtown advocates need to have that same sense of faith and support for the greatness of LaVilla and its history.

Adrienne Burke is the Policy Planner for Nassau County and a trustee for the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and has experience in historic preservation and developing natural resource policies.

A glimpse into LaVilla's rich history

LaVilla's past is filled with many culturally important memories. Here are four nationally significant historical figures and associated facts about this district of Downtown Jacksonville that have been woefully overlooked.

Patrick Henry Chappelle

Born in 1869 to former slaves who migrated to Jacksonville from South Carolina, Chappelle became known for his musical showmanship at an early age. In 1898, Chappelle opened Excelsior Hall, the first black-owned theater in LaVilla (and the first in the South, too).

A year later, he established the Rabbit's Foot Minstrel Company, a traveling vaudeville show headquartered at the family's property on West Church Street.

By the time he died in 1911, Chappelle had become known as one of the country's largest employers of African-Americans in the entertainment industry — a status that led him to be billed "the black P.T. Barnum."

One of Chappelle's performers, Ma Rainey, went on to become known as "the Mother of the Blues."

The debut of the blues on stage

On May 4, 1909, the Colored Airdome Theater was opened at 601 W. Ashley St.

The Colored Airdome would routinely draw standing-room-only crowds, and it put Jacksonville on the map when it was identified as the site of the first published account of blues singing on a public stage. The John W.F. Woods performance took place on April 16, 1910.

This was a full two years before William Christopher Handy published his “Memphis Blues.”

Today, it is Handy who is largely known as the “father of the blues.”

But the music Handy found in the Mississippi Delta had also been performed for years all across venues in LaVilla’s streets.

John Rosamond Johnson

When it comes to Jacksonville’s black history, poet and activist James Weldon Johnson automatically comes to mind.

But Johnson’s younger brother, John Rosamond Johnson, also played a significant role in the development of African-American entertainment.

One of the most popular composers of the early 20th century, Johnson is most notable as the composer of the hymn “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing.”

Known as the Negro National Anthem, the song’s lyrics were written by James Weldon Johnson and first performed in 1900 at LaVilla’s Stanton School.

John Rosamond Johnson also was featured in the first performance by an all-black cast on Broadway, and he was a founding cast member of John Isham’s Oriental America.

This show would eventually showcase a lyric soprano from LaVilla named Eartha Mary Magdalene White.

She would later go on to establish the Clara White Mission in Ashley Street’s former Globe Theatre.

Jelly Roll Morton

During the late 19th century, it was Jacksonville that emerged as a significant African-American entertainment center in the South.

Connected by rail with New Orleans, the African-American communities of Storyville and LaVilla grew to become cultural exchange partners.

In 1910, the veteran Louisiana minstrel entertainer Billy Kersands came to LaVilla. Around the same time, Ferdinand Morton, a 19-year-old pianist from New Orleans who had tired of life on the road, also came to the area.

After a few months here, Morton joined Kersands' show, and he soon became known as "Jelly Roll" Morton.

In 1915, Morton published the "Original Jelly Roll Blues," which is recognized as the first published jazz work — and led Morton to claim that he invented jazz.

Ennis Davis is a certified urban planner with Alfred Benesch and Company, a trustee for the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and Florida First Coast section chair of the American Planning Association.

APPENDIX B

TASK FORCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE Revised Recommendations

Based on recommendations from other subcommittees and general task force discussion, the Finance Subcommittee has considered possible funding sources for five goals.

1. Initial Placement of Timeline on City of Jacksonville Website (Limited Funding Required)
2. Utilization of the Ritz Theatre as a repository of physical artifacts (Repository Subcommittee's estimate: \$75,000)
3. Development of a digital repository including, but not limited to, website and application development, curation, and cultivation (Repository SC estimate: \$175,000)
4. Participation in the U.S. Civil Rights Trail (Cost TBD)
5. Establishment of a Jacksonville Civil Rights District/Trail (Cost TBD)
 - o Visible Markers at Trail Locations
 - o Possible Creation of La Villa "Campus" (e.g., Ritz, Lift Ev'ry Voice & Sing Park, Brewster, Houses, Sax Seafood)
 - o Other Marketing Strategies and Initiatives

The Finance Subcommittee is grateful to City of Jacksonville elected officials (such as former Council President Lori Boyer) and various employees – Bill Joyce from the Public Works Department, Damian Cook from the Office of Grants and Contract Compliance, Daryl Joseph from the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department, and Annette Hastings from the Tourist Development Council – for sharing their expertise on possible funding sources. As a result of those insights, the subcommittee makes the following specific recommendations:

I. UTILIZE DUVAL COUNTY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (TDC) FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Finance Subcommittee recommends that the City of Jacksonville invest in highlighting civil rights history through the Duval County Tourist Development Council (TDC). As explained at www.coj.net/city-council/tourist-development-council.aspx, "*The Duval County Tourist Development Council (TDC) is the governing body that oversees the collection and distribution of the local-option tourist development tax authorized to counties by Florida Statutes.*"

More specifically, "*Jacksonville currently levies a six percent tourist development tax on transient accommodations in the city. In addition to its many other duties, the TDC utilizes a portion of this tax to fund tourism promotions and events that will generate a substantial number of visitors to Jacksonville, the Beaches, and Baldwin.*" For the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, the TDC has received approximately \$8.2 million in revenue. Nearly \$4.7 million was directed to Visit Jacksonville for the tourist bureau, marketing, and convention promotion components of the plan.

In Ordinance Code Section 666.108, the City of Jacksonville adopted a tourist development plan which guides the TDC. The plan has seven components, several of which are compatible with task force goals:

- *Marketing of existing tourist-oriented facilities, attractions, activities, and events (Visit Jacksonville)*
- *Development and planning of additional tourist facilities and attractions in the City of Jacksonville*
- *Acquisition of and improvements to certain publicly owned facilities or certain facilities publicly owned and operated or owned and operated by a not for profit and open to the public*

Each of the plan components is funded through an annual allocation established in the Ordinance Code. Several components may have TDC funding available to assist with task force goals.

- The TDC has a “Development and Planning Account” which may be used for *“identification of potential or undeveloped tourist attractions, (other than a convention center), in the City which will include a study to determine the existence, location, and potential tourist benefit to the City of such attractions, and the beginning of a short range plan to develop such of these attractions as may indicate an economically feasible benefit....”* As of January 31, 2018, this account had a budgetary balance of \$150,000.00.
- The TDC “Development Account” may be *“used to acquire, construct, extend, enlarge, remodel or improve publicly owned convention centers, coliseums (e.g., arena) or auditoriums (e.g., performing arts center), or aquariums or museums that are publicly owned and operated or owned and operated by a not for profit organization.”* As of January 31, 2018, the balance in this account was \$2,750,000.
- The TDC maintains a Contingency account *“to fund unforeseen opportunities of major significance to tourism in the City. Activities and projects funded from this account shall be approved by the City Council.”* As of January 31, 2018, the balance in this account was \$1,563,000.00.

II. PURSUE PUBLIC GRANT FUNDING

The subcommittee recommends that the City of Jacksonville pursue a variety of grant funding sources to support the above referenced goals. These sources should include, but are not limited to, the following opportunities:

- ***National Parks Service***

African American Civil Rights Grants: “The African American Civil Rights Grant Program (Civil Rights Grants) documents, interprets, and preserves sites and stories related to the African American

struggle to gain equal rights as citizens in the 20th Century... This competitive grant program provides grants to states, tribes, local governments (including Certified Local Governments), and nonprofits. Non-federal matching share is not required, but preference will be given to applications that show community commitment through the non-federal match and partnership collaboration.”

Save America’s Treasures Grants: *“The Federal Save America's Treasures grants program began in 1999 and helps preserve nationally significant historic properties and collections that convey our nation's rich heritage to future generations.”*

Underrepresented Community Grants: *“This grant program supports the survey, inventory, and designation of historic properties that are associated with communities currently underrepresented in the National Register of Historic Places and among National Historic Landmarks. All funded projects must result in the submission of a new nomination to the National Register of Historic Places or National Historic Landmark program, or an amendment to an existing National Register or National Historic Landmark nomination to include underrepresented communities.”*

- **Institute of Museum and Library Services**

Museum Grants for African American History and Culture: *These grants “support projects that improve the operations, care of collections, and development of professional management at African American museums. Eligible applicants include museums with a primary purpose and focus on African American life, art, history, and/or culture.”*

- **National Trust for Historic Preservation**

African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund: *“The National Trust and its partners are raising \$25 million to create and invest in...the largest preservation campaign was ever undertaken on behalf of African American history....We will use the Action Fund to provide grants to African American historic sites and empower youth through Hands-On Preservation Experience (HOPE Crew)....At our National Trust Historic Sites, we will model innovative approaches to interpreting and preserving African American cultural heritage. And...we will continue to work on the ground with communities and cities to protect significant historic places and elevate their stories through our National Treasures program.”*

- **Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources** (partnering with Florida Association of Museums et al)

Small Matching Grants: *“The purpose of this program is to provide funding, in the form of grants, to assist local, regional and state-wide efforts to preserve significant historic and archaeological resources, and to promote knowledge and appreciation of the history of Florida. Types of historic preservation projects that can be funded include:*

- *Survey projects that identify, document, and evaluate historic or archaeological resources within historic or archaeological districts or areas being investigated for the*

potential of becoming historic districts or zones, or updating previous surveys (awards up to \$50,000);

- *Planning projects to prepare historic structures report, condition assessment, architectural drawings, predictive modeling, preparation of preservation or management plans, design or preservation guidelines and such, necessary to guide the long-term preservation of a historic resource or historic district (awards up to \$50,000);*
- *National Register Nomination projects that prepare a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for an individual Historic Property or a nomination for a historic or archaeological district, or a thematic or multiple resource group nominations (awards up to \$50,000);*
- *Education and Publication projects aimed at increasing public understanding and awareness of the importance of historical and archaeological resources and their preservation, either in general or for specific sites, properties, or collections. This may include proposals such as walking tours brochures, education material for school children, interpretive signage, videos illustrating historic preservation principles, and educational apps related to the history of Florida's historical and archaeological resources (awards up to \$50,000);*

Special Category Grants: *Types of historic preservation projects that can be funded include:*

- *Development projects with the mission of Preservation, Restoration, Rehabilitation, or Reconstruction of historic properties regularly open to the public, and site-specific planning required for these activities such as structural or condition assessment reports.*
- *Acquisition projects geared at acquiring a single Historic Property or archaeological site, or group of Historic Properties or archaeological sites, in which all the resources have the same owner. For archaeological sites, an exception to the single owner provision may be made if the archaeological site extends on land that is contiguous, but owned by different property owners.*

III. ESTABLISH A ROBUST PRIVATE GIVING PROGRAM

The overall goals of this task force cannot be achieved through the investment of public dollars alone.

As with most endeavors, long-term success depends on strong public-private partnerships. To that end, the Finance Subcommittee recommends the City of Jacksonville and other community stakeholders work closely with local, state, and national philanthropic and non-profit communities to provide opportunities for organizational and individual investment in preserving/promoting Jacksonville's civil rights history. This work could include:

- Fostering partnerships with existing museums to help tell the Jacksonville civil rights story;
- Seeking non-governmental support from foundations and other private sources;

- Engaging community funders (e.g., Community Foundation of Northeast Florida);
- Encouraging individual giving, including through the pursuit of innovative civic crowdfunding initiatives;
- Exploring appropriate sponsorship opportunities for civil rights trail locations, markers, and signage.

APPENDIX C

TASK FORCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY

MARKETING SUBCOMMITTEE

Final Recommendations

I. DEVELOP AN INDEPENDENT CIVIL RIGHTS HERITAGE TRAIL

a. Budget Resources to Promote Trail to Residents and Tourists

(brochures, website, press releases, direct mail and social media)

- i. Brochure of African-American history at existing museums and public spaces
- ii. Promote and incorporate heritage tours during local festivals and events

b. Begin Planning for Tour Development and Implementation (school and group tours)

- i. Audio tours
- ii. Self-guided tour brochures
- iii. Ghost tours
- iv. Guided bus tours
- v. Incorporate info from the Heritage Map and timeline with accessible sites
- vi. Compile information from the committee

II. DEVELOP ACTIVE MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES TO EDUCATE AND PROMOTE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY

- a. Acquisition of proper destination domain name (e.g., JaxCivilRightsTrail.com, CivilRightsJax.com, etc.) (low cost)
- b. Acquisition of same or similar social media handles for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. (e.g., @CivilRightsTrailJax, etc.) (no cost)
- c. Immediate grassroots and personal marketing and promotion of the timeline, the cornerstone of the history and content through the above channels (low/no cost)

- d. Once marketing funding is attained, the promotion of the "trail," or a series of activities, places, and events that focus on the history, leaving specifics for future decisions and in coordination with funding source (likely Visit Jacksonville/TDC etc.)
- e. A Civil Rights Summit
 - i. Perhaps held annually but at least once with the goal of quilting together all of the efforts with the lens on African American history and Civil Rights history in Jacksonville.
 - ii. The Summit could have keynote speakers that draw regionally and beyond but would also be an unprecedented exchange of information. There are myriad organizations and efforts in this work that haven't networked together and/or even know of all the assets and efforts.
 - iii. Summit could also feature presentations from organizations and individuals working in this history.
 - iv. Summit could also feature a trade-show type event where a walk through the convention center could be like a walk through all/ most of the assets, places, and events in this history.
- f. Create a series of special events, educational program and curriculum materials on Civil Rights in Jacksonville for Duval County schools and /or after-school programs as well as residents especially persons relocating to the area.
- g. Restore "LaVilla" to the Ritz Theatre original name of the Ritz Theatre and LaVilla Museum.

JACKSONVILLE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TIMELINE

The Jacksonville Civil Rights Movement Timeline (JCRMT) is a narrative chronology of organized civil rights efforts led by Blacks and Whites in Jacksonville to significantly end racism, racial discrimination based on skin color, and gain equal rights under the law for Jacksonville's Black citizens. Although the reactions to these efforts were both tumultuous and violent, the JCRMT was nonviolent and resulted in noteworthy accomplishments. The JCRMT also includes significant racial milestones. The narrative begins in the 1830s and continues to this day.

The struggle for civil rights include 1) a reckoning of endurance under and resistance against those crimes against and infringements upon Black people's civil rights; 2) efforts to fight racism; 3) efforts to end racial discrimination; 4) the fight for equal rights; 5) beyond the legal struggle, a battle for cultural fairness; and 6) the struggle against white supremacy and racism expressed culturally, either implicit or explicit.

It was the decision of the Civil Rights History Inventory Subcommittee not to include every instance of racial violence and overt racism that did not include a particular response in the progress of Black people's civil rights. Such instances as lynchings and Klan rallies, in and of themselves, without corresponding civil rights advances, were deemed "injustices too many to name."

Throughout the timeline, asterisks have been provided for locations where a physical marker might be placed.

JACKSONVILLE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TIMELINE

1838 Bethel Baptist Institutional Church founded.

1865 Mother Midway Church in East Jacksonville is established as the first African Methodist Episcopal Church in Florida.

<http://apps.flheritage.com/markers/markers.cfm?county=duval>

1865 Abraham Lincoln Lewis is born. (Note additional references in 1900, 1901, 1926, 1935)

https://web.archive.org/web/20051225000251/http://www.myflorida.com/myflorida/governoroffice/black_history/bios/abraham_lewis.html

1866 * Bethel Baptist Institutional Church splinters into a black church and a white church. Whites leave Bethel with intent to take the name. Courts rule in favor of Bethel's Black members, determining the rightful owners of the church name and property. White members leave Bethel and form Tabernacle Baptist Church which later becomes First Baptist Church.

Bartley, Abel A. *Keeping the Faith: Race, Politics, and Social Development in Jacksonville, Florida, 1940-1970*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2000.

Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission, McEachin, Joel and Wayne Wood. *Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1989.

1866 The African Methodist Episcopal Church founds Edward Waters College, the oldest historically Black college in Florida. The college is named Edward Waters after the Third Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

<https://www.ewc.edu/about/our-history/>

1869 * Stanton Normal School, named for Edward McMasters Stanton, second Secretary of War under Lincoln, opens its doors. It's the first public school for Black children in Florida.

Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission, McEachin, Joel and Wayne Wood. *Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1989.

1869 William T. Garvin and Cataline B. Simmons become the first Black city council members for Jacksonville. Between 1869 and 1907, 110 African

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American men served in public office, 54 of them in the Town of LaVilla, 23 in the City of Jacksonville, and 33 for Duval County. Positions include registrar, clerk of the circuit court, tax assessor, tax collector, county commissioner, justice of the peace, constable, municipal judge, clerk, marshal, council member, mayor, and treasurer.

Brown, Canter, Jr. *Florida's Black Public Officials, 1867-1924*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1998.

1870 * Reverend James W.C. Pennington organizes and becomes the first minister of Laura Street Presbyterian Church, the first Black Presbyterian church in Jacksonville. Pennington, born in 1807, had escaped slavery at age 19 to become a leading abolitionist in the North, even using his home and churches as stops on the Underground Railroad. Pennington dies the same year he organizes the church.

Pennington, Thomas H. Sands, "Events in the Life of J.W.C. Pennington, D.D.," letter to Marianna Gibbons, Lancaster (Pennsylvania) Historical Society

1871 * Noted educator, lawyer, journalist, writer, and civil rights leader, James Weldon Johnson, is born in LaVilla. His brother John Rosamond Johnson, songwriter and composer, is born in 1873. (Note additional references in 1886, 1897, 1900, 1920).

Gates Jr., Henry Louis; McKay, Nellie Y., eds. (2004). *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature* (2nd ed.). New York: Norton. pp. 791–792.

Johnson, James Weldon. *Along this Way*. New York: Viking Press, 1968.

1872 Reverend S.B Darnell founds the Cookman Institute and names it after Reverend Alfred Cookman, who helps fund the school's initial construction. The Cookman Institute is the first school higher education devoted to the religious and academic preparation of Black teachers in Florida. (Note additional references in 1923).

http://www.cookman.edu/about_bcu/history/

1873 Finishing his law degree at Howard University, Philadelphia-native Joseph E. Lee moves to Jacksonville, where he's admitted to the Florida Bar to become the first Black attorney in Jacksonville. Lee serves in the Florida House of Representatives from 1875 to 1879 and the Florida Senate from 1881 to 1882. (Note additional reference in 1888).

JACKSONVILLE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TIMELINE

<http://www.floridamemory.com/blog/2014/06/20/jacksonvilles-first-african-american-lawyer-joseph-e-lee/>

Smith, Jr., J. Clay. *Emancipation: The Making of the Black Lawyer, 1844-1944*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1993.

Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter National Bar Association, *Florida's First Black Lawyers, 1869-1879*. 2009.

1886 * Sponsored by the Women's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, Harriet Emerson founds Boylan Industrial Training School for Girls in LaVilla. After relocating in 1910 to a new facility in the Oakland section of East Jacksonville, the Boylan Industrial Home and School merges with the Haven Home School in Savannah, Georgia to become Boylan-Haven School in 1932. In 1959, the school moves to Camden, South Carolina after merging with the Mather.

Peacock, Frances. *Browning Home and Mather Academy: A Fifty-Year History*. Camden, SC: Camden Archives, 1937.

1886 * James Weldon Johnson hears Frederick Douglass speak at Jacksonville's Sub-Tropical Exposition. He had read *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* after winning it as an academic award at Stanton. (Note additional references in 1871, 1897, 1900, 1920).

Gates Jr., Henry Louis; McKay, Nellie Y., eds. (2004). *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature* (2nd ed.). New York: Norton. pp. 791–792.

Johnson, James Weldon. *Along this Way*. New York: Viking Press, 1968.

1888 Joseph E. Lee is elected the first Black municipal judge in Jacksonville.

<http://www.floridamemory.com/blog/2014/06/20/jacksonvilles-first-african-american-lawyer-joseph-e-lee/>

Smith, Jr., J. Clay. *Emancipation: The Making of the Black Lawyer, 1844-1944*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1993.

Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter National Bar Association, *Florida's First Black Lawyers, 1869-1879*. 2009.

1888 * Dr. Alexander H. Darnes, the first Black physician in Jacksonville, helps treat patients in Jacksonville's largest Yellow Fever epidemic. Since many white doctors refuse to work with Darnes, he's titled "general convenience

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physician” and assigned work in locations where he’d have less interaction with white doctors. Darnes, a former slave who served as valet to Confederate General Kirby Smith, practices medicine from his home on Ocean Street.

Call, James. “What if Gen. Kirby Smith’s Statue Was Replaced by One of His Former Slave, Alex. Darnes, M.D.?” *Tallahassee Democrat*, 05 June 2016.

1891 Asa Philip Randolph, age two, moves with his family to Jacksonville from Crescent City, Florida. Randolph grows up to earn the moniker “Father of the Modern Civil Rights Movement.” (Note additional references in 1925, 1937, 1941, 1947, 1963)

Davis, Daniel S. *Mr. Black Labor: The Story of A. Philip Randolph, Father of the Civil Rights Movement*. New York: Dutton, 1972.

1892 * Rev. Matthew William Gilbert leaves as pastor of Bethel Baptist Institutional Church and become president of Florida Baptist Academy, which eventually evolves into Florida Memorial University.

“Florida Memorial University,” *Encyclopedia of the African Diaspora: Origins, Experiences, and Culture*. Edited by Carole Elizabeth Boyce Davies, ABC-CLO, 2008.

“History of Matthew Gilbert School, No. 146”
<http://cdm16025.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p16025coll1/id/90>

1895 Bethel Baptist Institutional Church, under the leadership of Rev. John Milton Waldron, constructs the first church building to be erected South by a “colored” congregation in the South.

Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission, McEachin, Joel and Wayne Wood. *Jacksonville’s Architectural Heritage*. University Press of Florida, 1989.

1897 James Weldon Johnson becomes the first Black person admitted to the Florida Bar since Reconstruction. (Note additional references in 1871, 1886, 1900, 1920).

Gates Jr., Henry Louis; McKay, Nellie Y., eds. (2004). *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature* (2nd ed.). New York: Norton. pp. 791–792.

Johnson, James Weldon. *Along this Way*. New York: Viking Press, 1968.

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1899-1901 Black businessmen Charles Manigault, John Wetmore, and George Ross are elected as the last Black Jacksonville City Council members until the 1960s.

Bartley, Abel. *Keeping the Faith: Race, Politics and Social Development in Jacksonville, Florida, 1940-1970*.

1900 James Weldon Johnson writes “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing,” which his brother John Rosamond Johnson sets to music. The song later becomes known, informally, as the “Negro National Anthem.” (Note references in 1871, 1886, 1897, 1920).

Gates Jr., Henry Louis; McKay, Nellie Y., eds. (2004). *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature* (2nd ed.). New York: Norton. pp. 791–792.

Johnson, James Weldon. *Along this Way*. New York: Viking Press, 1968.

1900 Jacksonville businessman Abraham Lincoln Lewis and humanitarian Eartha White are present at Booker T. Washington’s founding of the National Negro Business League in Boston. By 1902, Jacksonville league members include A.L. Lewis, Joseph Blodgett, and George Whetmore. (Note additional references for A.L. Lewis in 1865, 1901, 1926, 1935).

https://web.archive.org/web/20051225000251/http://www.myflorida.com/myflorida/governorsoffice/black_history/bios/abraham_lewis.html

<https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/bbm%3A978-0-230-61550-2%2F1.pdf>

1900 * Lawton Pratt forms what’s now the oldest funeral home in Florida, initially the Lawton Pratt, then Hillman-Pratt, and now Hillman-Pratt and Walton Funeral Home on West Beaver Street in LaVilla. (Note additional references in 1924).

<http://www.floridamorticians.org/our-history.html>

1900 Manhattan Beach opens to Black beachgoers.

Phelts, Marsha Dean. *An American Beach for African Americans*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1997.

1901 * Brewster Hospital opens its doors to Black patients and incorporates Black nursing training for the nearby Boylan Industrial Training School for Girls. . (Note additional references in 1966).

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Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission, McEachin, Joel and Wayne Wood.
Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage. Gainesville: University Press of Florida,
1989.

Peacock, Frances. *Browning Home and Mather Academy: A Fifty Year History*.
Camden, SC: Camden Archives, 1937.

1901 Abraham Lincoln Lewis, Reverend John Milton Waldron and others found the Afro-American Life Insurance Company ("the Afro"), one of the most important Black owned businesses in the Southeast in the first half of the 20th century, to provide burial benefits for the "colored" community. The Afro also opens a savings department through which individuals can deposit 10, 15, or 25 cents per week. . (Note additional references for A.L. Lewis in 1865, 1900, 1926, 1935).

https://web.archive.org/web/20051225000251/http://www.myflorida.com/myflorida/governoroffice/black_history/bios/abraham_lewis.html

1901 * After the Great Fire of 1901, the Duval County School Board hires Richard Lewis Brown, the city's first Black architect, as its chief builder and repairman, and in the next decade, he constructs several new schools for which no architect is recorded. One such school was Public School No. 8, later named J. Allen Axson, near East 17th and Franklin Streets. Brown is likely the school's architect. He later works with white architects on Centennial Hall at Edward Waters College and designs Mt. Olive African Methodist Episcopal Church on Franklin Street.

Gilmore, Tim. "Fairfield: Mount Olive A.M.E. Church" *JaxPsychoGeo.com*, 27 February 2016, <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/the-center-of-the-city/fairfield-mount-olive-a-m-e-church/>.

1902 * Eartha White builds what she first calls the "Colored Old Folks' Home" at 1627 Milnor Street in the Oakland neighborhood of East Jacksonville. . (Note additional references in 1904).

Gilmore, Tim. *In Search of Eartha White: Storehouse for the People*. Jacksonville: JaxPsychoGeo, 2013.

https://www.unf.edu/library/specialcollections/manuscripts/earthawhite/Eartha_White_Biography.aspx

1902 A group of prominent Black businessmen who charter the North Jacksonville Street Railway, Town and Improvement Company receive a

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franchise from Jacksonville City Council to construct, operate, and maintain a streetcar line starting at Clay Street and West Bay Street, northwest to Moncrief Springs. Founding members include D.W. Eschidge, R.R. Robinson, J.C. Myatt, William Young, George H. Ross, S.P. Pratt, D.G. Adgers, and F.D. Robbs. Walter P. Mucklow, H. Mason, F.C. Eleve, and Frank H. McDermott.

Mann, Robert. *Streetcars of Florida's First Coast*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2014.

Poor's Manual of the Railroads of the United States. New York, N. Y.: Poor's Railroad Manual Co. 1907.

1903 The Jacksonville Electric Company opens Lincoln Park, the first Black amusement park at the end of the Highway Avenue.

Crooks, Jim. *Jacksonville after the Fire: 1901-1919*. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1991.

1903 * Bethel Baptist Institutional Church builds a new sanctuary, now historic, designed by architect M.H. Hubbard of Utica, New York. Bethel's members take pride in the fact that "the church was erected by Colored workers, under the direction of Colored contractors."

Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission, McEachin, Joel and Wayne Wood. *Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage*. University Press of Florida, 1989.

1904 Eartha White officially founds the Clara White Mission, which offers services to Black residents the city itself would not offer. The Mission's work will soon include an orphanage, child placement services, a tuberculosis hospital, a boys' recreational organization, prison ministries, feeding and clothing services, and so on.

Gilmore, Tim. *In Search of Eartha White: Storehouse for the People*. Jacksonville: JaxPsychoGeo, 2013.

https://www.unf.edu/library/specialcollections/manuscripts/eartha-white/Eartha_White_Biography.aspx

1905 Black Jacksonville attorney J. Douglas Wetmore challenges the city's ordinance mandating racial separation on streetcars. The Florida Supreme Court upholds Wetmore's legal victory, but the city soon modifies the ordinance to overcome the legal basis for Wetmore's suit and re-implements streetcar segregation.

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Smith, Jr., J. Clay. *Emancipation: The Making of the Black Lawyer, 1844-1944*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1993.

1905 Rev. John Milton Waldron, pastor of Bethel Baptist Institutional Church (1892) becomes the Treasurer of the Niagara Movement and later becomes one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Hurst, Rodney. *Unless WE Tell It...It Never Gets Told!* Jacksonville: KiJas Press, 2015.

1908 Samuel Decatur McGill, later famous for defending the Scottsboro Boys in Alabama in 1931, establishes his law practice in Jacksonville.

Smith, Jr., J. Clay. *Emancipation: The Making of the Black Lawyer, 1844-1944*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1993.

1912 Durkee Field, named for Union soldier Joseph H. Durkee, opens as Jacksonville's baseball stadium. The park becomes home to the Jacksonville Red Caps of the Negro Leagues and the Minor League Jacksonville Braves, racially integrated by Hank Aaron, Horace Garner and Felix Mantilla in 1953.

Gilmore, Tim. "Durkee Field / J.P. Bubbling Small Stadium," JaxPsychoGeo, 27 April, 2018. <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/north/durkee-field-j-p-bubbling-small-stadium/>

Mason, Herman. *African American Life in Jacksonville*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 1997.

1912 David Dwight became one of the founders of the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees. He was also a founder of the Duval County Democratic Alliance which was designed to increase voting among Black people in this city.

1914 Charles H. Anderson founds Anderson and Company banking institution for Black people.

<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/874>

The Crisis, February 1914

1914 Zora Neale Hurston, acclaimed, novelist, folklorist and anthropologist, lived in Jacksonville for a short time with her brother and family. She is recorded in the 1914 Directory of Bethel Baptist Institutional Church at

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1663 Evergreen Avenue. Her essay, "How It Feels to Be Colored Me," provides a personal view of survival in a segregated society.

Bethel Baptist Institutional Church Archives

1915 * In response to Duval County School Board's plan to eliminate Stanton School and replace it with smaller schools in different locations, the Stanton Board of Trustees files an injunction and the parties settle out-of-court. In September, the school board agrees to construct a new Stanton High School on the site of the earlier three school buildings. The second Stanton School was destroyed in the Great Fire and the inferior construction of its replacement reflected the low priority for Black education during Jim Crow. The Board's injunction is considered an early civil rights case victory. The new building opens its doors in 1917.

Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission, McEachin, Joel and Wayne Wood.
Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage. University Press of Florida, 1989.

1915 May Lofton Kennedy becomes the first Black public librarian in Jacksonville. She works in the "Colored section" of the Jacksonville Free Public Library. In 1918, Kennedy becomes the first Black librarian in the Library of Congress.

1916 * The Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge completes the five-story brick Masonic Temple building, which headquarters many Black business owners and professionals, including Anderson, Tucker & Co. Bank, Pedro Mendez Tailoring Shop and the law offices of Daniel W. Perkins.

Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission, McEachin, Joel and Wayne Wood.
Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage. University Press of Florida, 1989.

1917 * Under the leadership of Eartha M.M. White, Oakland Playground, the first city park opened specifically for Black citizens, opens at the northeast corner of East Union Street and Ionia Street adjacent to the Old City Cemetery.

Gilmore, Tim. *In Search of Eartha White: Storehouse for the People*. Jacksonville: JaxPsychoGeo, 2013.

https://www.unf.edu/library/specialcollections/manuscripts/earthawhite/Eartha_White_Biography.aspx

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1918 Florida Dwight is appointed the city's Supervisor of Recreation for Negroes. Dwight organizes a parade from Stanton School at Broad and Ashley Streets to the new Oakland Playground on East Union Street. Dwight remains a champion of youth guidance with after-school sports, crafts, literature, physical and intellectual competitions and community service.

<http://www.coj.net/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-and-community-programming/parks/florida-c-dwight-memorial-playground>

1920 Eartha White leads voter registration drives to register Black women. She leads the resistance to the Ku Klux Klan, which stages an election day parade to intimidate black voters. Eartha White and other activists make election-day counts and estimate that between 3,000 and 4,000 Black voters have been turned away from their chance to vote.

Gilmore, Tim. *In Search of Eartha White: Storehouse for the People*. Jacksonville: JaxPsychoGeo, 2013.

1920 James Weldon Johnson becomes the National NAACP's first Black executive secretary. (Note additional references in 1871, 1886, 1897, 1900).

1910 NAACP adopts Lift Every Oic as National Negro Hymn

Gates Jr., Henry Louis; McKay, Nellie Y., eds. (2004). *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature* (2nd ed.). New York: Norton. pp. 791–792.

Johnson, James Weldon. *Along this Way*. New York: Viking Press, 1968.

1922 * Norman Studios begins operation, making feature-length films and shorts in which black actors star in non-minstrel roles, roles comparable to those played by white actors in other movies.

Bean, Shawn C. *The First Hollywood: Florida and the Golden Age of Silent Filmmaking*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2008.

1922 Eartha White becomes the Florida director of the National Anti-Lynching Committee and pushes for anti-lynching legislation.

Gilmore, Tim. *In Search of Eartha White: Storehouse for the People*. Jacksonville: JaxPsychoGeo, 2013.

Jones, Maxine D. "Without Compromise or Fear': Florida's African American Female Activists," *Florida Historical Quarterly*, Spring 1999.

JACKSONVILLE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TIMELINE

1922 * Douglas Anderson leads the effort to convince the Duval County School Board to build a public school for Black children on the Southside of Jacksonville. It opens as South Jacksonville Grammar School, and Anderson leads the school's free bus transportation service. In 1945, the school board renames it the Douglas Anderson School.

Gilmore, Tim. "Pine Forest" *JaxPsychoGeo.com*, 6 April, 2018,
<https://jaxpsychogeo.com/south/pine-forest/>

https://web.archive.org/web/20131213103401/http://www.dafierydragon.net/Douglas_Anderson_Alumni_History_Jacksonville_FL.html

1923 Cookman Institute merges with the Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute, which had been founded in 1904 by Dr. Mary Bethune. Losing its Jacksonville presence, the school becomes the Daytona-Cookman Collegiate Institute. In 1931, the school becomes Bethune-Cookman College. (Note additional references in 1872).

http://www.cookman.edu/about_bcu/history/

1924 James E. Whittington of Jacksonville, Lawton Pratt of Jacksonville, Charles Chestnut of Gainesville, and other Black funeral directors from across the state form the Florida Negro Embalmers' and Morticians' Association, today's Florida Mortician's Association. (Note additional references in 1900).

<http://www.floridamorticians.org/our-history.html>

1924 Joe Higdon opens the Hollywood Music Store, which functions as a popular hub of activity for both professional and amateur Black musicians.

Smith, Peter Dunbaugh. *Ashley Street Blues: Racial Uplift and the Commodification of Black Performance in LaVilla, Florida, 1896-1916*. Florida State University dissertation, 2006.

<https://diginole.lib.fsu.edu/islandora/object/fsu:168486/datastream/PDF/view>

1925 A. Phillip Randolph organizes the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first Black labor union, and seeks a labor contract with the Pullman Company. (Note additional references in 1891, 1937, 1941, 1947, 1963).

Davis, Daniel S. *Mr. Black Labor: The Story of A. Philip Randolph, Father of the Civil Rights Movement*. New York: Dutton, 1972.

JACKSONVILLE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TIMELINE

1926 During a practice run at Jacksonville's Paxon Field for a May Day "barn storming" performance, Bessie Coleman's plane crashes, killing Coleman, the first Black woman to hold a pilot's license.

<https://www.nationalaviation.org/our-enshrinees/coleman-bessie/>

1926 * Princess Laura Adorkor Kofi establishes her headquarters in Jacksonville and, after breaking with Marcus Garvey's United Negro Improvement Association, founds her organization, the African Universal Church and Commercial League.

Newman, Richard. "Warrior Mother of Africa's Warriors of the Most High God': Laura Adorkor Kofey [sic] and the African Universal Church" in Judith Weisenfeld and Richard Newman, eds, *This Far by Faith: Readings in African-American Women's Religious Biography*. Abingdon-on-Thames: Routledge, 2014.

1926 A. L. Lewis builds Lincoln Golf and Country Club in Northwest Jacksonville for Blacks. (Note additional references in 1865, 1900, 1901, 1935).

https://web.archive.org/web/20051225000251/http://www.myflorida.com/myflorida/governoroffice/black_history/bios/abraham_lewis.html

1927 Wilder Park Branch Library, Jacksonville's first branch library for Black patrons, opens.

<https://www.jaxpubliclibrary.org/about/history>

1927 Mary White Blocker founds the Florida Conference of Colored Parents and Teachers.

Walch, Barbara Hunter, "Sallye B. Mathis and Mary L. Singleton: Black pioneers on the Jacksonville, Florida, City Council" (1988). UNF Theses and Dissertations. 704. <http://digitalcommons.unf.edu/etd/704>

1929 E. L. Weems, first licensed Black photographer in Jacksonville, opens his first studio, designing his own method of colorization before color film was invented. In business for nearly 50 years, Weems becomes the primary photographic chronicler of Black life in Jacksonville.

Mason, Herman. *African American Life in Jacksonville*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 1997.

<http://theclarawhitemission.org/explore/museum/>

JACKSONVILLE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TIMELINE

1930 Jacksonville's Rosenwald School #143 called West Jacksonville Elementary School opens. Jewish philanthropist Julius Rosenwald funded construction for 5,000 schools for Black children throughout the South between 1917 and mid 1940s.

<https://savingplaces.org/places/rosenwald-schools#.WxrQgopKhPY>

https://fusiontables.google.com/DataSource?docid=1-34RpbShRM9_NQZG23ePfkpkq9UgyCm58LyVrV3q#rows:id=1

1934 Porcher Talyor established Florida's 1st Black newspaper. 1935 * The Jacksonville Negro Welfare League, among whose leaders are Eartha White and Richard P. Daniel, first occupies space in the Richmond Hotel building at 420 Broad Street. Its goal is to "provide advice and help in meeting the needs of African-Americans educationally, economically, socially, and politically.

Bartley, Abel A. *Keeping the Faith: Race, Politics, and Social Development in Jacksonville, Florida, 1940-1970*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2000.

1935 * A. L. Lewis develops American Beach, in Nassau County, the only beach for Black people in the Jacksonville area. (Note additional references in 1865, 1900, 1901, 1926).

Phelts, Marsha Dean. *An American Beach for African Americans*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1997.

https://web.archive.org/web/20051225000251/http://www.myflorida.com/myflorida/governorsoffice/black_history/bios/abraham_lewis.html

1936 Boy Scout pioneer David H. Dwight, Sr. becomes the first Black Scout leader to receive the Silver Beaver, scouting's highest award. Dwight receives the honor after he successfully leads a campaign for Black boys to join the organization opens a Boy Scout camp at New Berlin.

<https://www.jaxpubliclibrary.org/david-dwight-scouting>

1937 The Durkeeville Housing Project opens. It's the first public housing project for Black residents in Jacksonville.

Mason, Herman. *African American Life in Jacksonville*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 1997.

JACKSONVILLE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TIMELINE

1937 A. Philip Randolph wins labor contract for the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters against the Pullman Company. (Note additional references in 1891, 1925, 1941, 1947, 1963).

1937 Augusta Savage was selected to make the sculpture for the Community Arts Building at the World's Fair. Although she was a Green Cove Springs native, her most famous piece, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," was inspired by the song written by the Johnson brothers. She used her art as a form of activism as evidenced in another piece entitled Gamin where she depicts a Black youth in a humane manner instead of a caricature. This piece is a part of the permanent collection at the Cummer Museum and Gardens.

Davis, Daniel S. *Mr. Black Labor: The Story of A. Philip Randolph, Father of the Civil Rights Movement*. New York: Dutton, 1972.

1937 James Edward Hutchins designs and builds a number of single family dwellings in the Durkeeville and College Gardens subdivisions. He coordinates with the Veterans Affairs department to train Black carpenters, brick masons and architects.

African American Architects, A Biographical Dictionary, 1865-1945.

1941 In his magazine *Black Worker*, A. Philip Randolph issues his "Call to Negro America to March on Washington" after meetings with several Civil Rights leaders, including Jacksonville's Eartha White, in Chicago in 1940. Randolph's call for a march results in his meeting with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the end of legal racial discrimination in defense industries and the federal government and establishes Fair Employment Practices Commission. (Note additional references in 1891, 1925, 1937, 1947, 1963).

Davis, Daniel S. *Mr. Black Labor: The Story of A. Philip Randolph, Father of the Civil Rights Movement*. New York: Dutton, 1972.

1941 Mary White Blocker files suit against the Duval County Board of Public Instruction for equal salaries for Black teachers. The court's 1942 ruling reads "The defendants, the Board of Public Instruction of Duval County Florida and W. Daniel Boyd as the superintendent shall apply a single salary schedule without discrimination because of race or color."

JACKSONVILLE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TIMELINE

Walch, Barbara Hunter. *New Black Voices: The Growth and Contributions of Sallye Mathis and Mary Singleton in Florida Government*. Jacksonville: B.H. Walch, 1990. <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/NF00000124/00001>

1942 Blodgett Homes, Jacksonville's third public housing project for Black residents, is built, named for the wealthy Black contractor, Joseph Haygood Blodgett.

Mason, Herman. *African American Life in Jacksonville*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 1997.

1944 Eli B'usabe Nyombolo founds Adorkaville, named for Princess Laura Adorkor Kofi, on the Northside. The 11+ acre property was to include homes for members of the community and a school with the intent to establish business connections between Africa and America.

Duffield, Ian. "Pan-Africanism, Rational and Irrational," *Journal of African History* 18, no. 4, 1977

Gilmore, Tim. "Adorkaville." JaxPsychoGeo, 27 December, 2015. <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/north/adorkaville/>

1944 Jacksonville's William Surcey, a "Tuskegee Airman," along with his crew, repair P-40 Warhawks during World War II.

Scanlan, Dan. "William Surcey, 1919-2011: Tuskegee Airman Hailed from Jacksonville," *Florida Times-Union*, 13 May, 2011.

1945 Reverend Dallas Graham attempts to register as a Democrat, though the Democratic Party in Jacksonville accepts only white voters. Black attorney D.W. Perkins challenges the party, and U.S. Circuit Judge Bayard B. Shields rules that in Graham's favor. The Democratic Party files an appeal, but the decision is upheld by Judge Mites W. Lewis.

Walch, Barbara Hunter. *New Black Voices: The Growth and Contributions of Sallye Mathis and Mary Singleton in Florida Government*. Jacksonville: B.H. Walch, 1990. <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/NF00000124/00001>

1946 Jacksonville's Stetson Kennedy visits the House Un-American Activities Committee asking them to investigate the Ku Klux Klan. The HUAAC refuses.

Kennedy, Stetson. *The Klan Unmasked*. Tuscaloosa: University of Birmingham Press, 2011.

JACKSONVILLE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TIMELINE

1946 The Council of Social Agencies, including Eartha White and Richard P. Daniel, publishes *Jacksonville Looks at its Negro Community: A Survey of Conditions Affecting the Negro Population in Jacksonville in Duval County, Florida*, which leads to the founding, in 1947, of the Jacksonville Urban League.

<https://palmm.digital.flvc.org/islandora/object/unf%3A19389#page/Front+page+iv/mode/2up>

1946 City officials refuse to allow the Montreal Royals, a farm team of the Brooklyn Dodgers, to play at Durkee Field (James P. Small Stadium) due to the presence of Jackie Robinson on the roster, who integrates the Major Leagues the following year.

Click, Shav. "Spring Game of Significance: Jackie Robinson Integrated Baseball on This Date 48 Years Ago," *The Los Angeles Times*, March 17, 1994.

1947 The Jacksonville Urban League forms from a merger between the Jacksonville Negro Welfare League and a new Jacksonville branch of the National Urban League.

Gilmore, Tim. *In Search of Eartha White: Storehouse for the People*. Jacksonville: JaxPsychoGeo, 2013.

1947 A. Philip Randolph petitions President Truman to integrate the U.S. Military

1948 Wilson Armstrong, a black mortar mixer, loses a City Council race to Claude Smith, 353-278. Smith thanks black voters and organizes the building of the so-called Jefferson Street Pool at Jefferson and Fourth. Armstrong would have been the first black City Council member since Reconstruction.

Bartley, Abel A. *Keeping the Faith: Race, Politics, and Social Development in Jacksonville, Florida, 1940-1970*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2000.

1951 Eric O. Simpson founds *The Florida Star* by Eric O. Simpson, now Northeast Florida's oldest Black newspaper, since mainstream news of the period was hardly reliable for minority populations.

Andino, Alliniece. "Black-Interest Newspaper Marks 50th." *The Florida Times-Union*, 20 April, 2001.

JACKSONVILLE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TIMELINE

1951 Jacksonville Civil Rights activist and writer Stetson Kennedy, amongst several other writers, releases *We Charge Genocide: The Crime of Government against the Negro People* at U.N. meetings in Paris on behalf of an American organization calling itself the Civil Rights Congress.

https://archive.org/stream/We-Charge-Genocide-1970/We-Charge-Genocide-1970_djvu.txt

1951 Two Black candidates, Porcher Taylor and Elcee Lucas, enter the City Council race for Ward Five against three white candidates. Since ward elections are done at-large, Taylor and Lucas have to garner a certain number of white votes to win. Though losing the election, Taylor and Lucas help establish a solid foundation for future candidates.

Bartley, Abel A. *Keeping the Faith: Race, Politics, and Social Development in Jacksonville, Florida, 1940-1970*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2000.

1952 The TV variety program *The Billy Daniels Show* first airs. Daniels was born in Jacksonville. His show is the first TV program with a Black host.

<http://www.billydanielsfoundation.org/>

1952 Porcher Taylor, editor of *The Florida Tattler*, seeks office as justice of the peace. His attempt is part of a political strategy to seek more minor offices that would receive less attention from whites and thus hopefully prevail in Black majority wards.

Bartley, Abel A. *Keeping the Faith: Race, Politics, and Social Development in Jacksonville, Florida, 1940-1970*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2000.

1952 * Marian Anderson sings to an racially integrated audience at the Old Duval County Armory after refusing to sing if black and white audience members could not be together. Anderson's Jacksonville and Miami shows are the first integrated concerts in Florida since Reconstruction.

Jet Magazine. 7 Feb, 1952

1953 * Henry "Hank" Aaron, Horace Gamer, and Felix Mantilla integrate baseball's Minor Leagues when signed to the Jacksonville Braves, who play at Durkee Field. Withstanding verbal abuse and racism, forced to seek accommodations in private homes, including that of Lucille and Manuel Rivera, nineteen-year old Aaron hits 22 home runs, achieves a batting average of .362, and is named the leagues' Most Valuable Player.

JACKSONVILLE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TIMELINE

Gilmore, Tim. "Durkee Field / J.P. Bubbling Small Stadium," JaxPsychoGeo, 27 April, 2018. <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/north/durkee-field-j-p-bubbling-small-stadium/>

Mason, Herman. *African American Life in Jacksonville*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 1997.

1954 Jacksonville activist and writer Stetson Kennedy publishes the later-named *I Rode with the Ku Klux Klan*, later named *The Klan Unmasked*. The book refers to Kennedy's informing the FBI of his infiltration of the Klan, though it fictionalizes himself as its protagonist. In later years, the Klan periodically sends Kennedy death threats at his St. Johns County home, Beluthahatchee, once setting the woods on fire around it.

Kennedy, Stetson. *The Klan Unmasked*. Tuscaloosa: University of Birmingham Press, 2011.

1955 Norma Ruth Solomon becomes the first Black female director in Jacksonville, and corresponding the first female public school band director, Jacksonville

Hurst, Rodney. *Unless WE Tell It...It Never Gets Told!* Jacksonville: KiJas Press, 2015.

<http://jacksonvillefreepress.com/dr-norma-white-honored-with-own-parkway/>

1955 Porcher Taylor runs again for a seat on the City Council representing Ward Five. Taylor and his two black opponents, Isadore Singleton and Ernest Jackson, lost due to not obtaining enough white votes required by the at-large voting system.

Bartley, Abel A. *Keeping the Faith: Race, Politics, and Social Development in Jacksonville, Florida, 1940-1970*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2000.

1956 Postal clerk Rudolph Daniels initiates a United States Postal Service inspection of Jacksonville's segregated facilities and orders all US Postal facilities desegregated.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/rudolph-daniels-obituary?pid=116474426&view=guestbook>

1957 Rudolph Daniels challenges his personnel assignment to the segregated Black "Army Reserve Unit," which leads to Jacksonville's receiving its first racially integrated Army Reserve Unit.

JACKSONVILLE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TIMELINE

[https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/rudolph-daniels-
obituary?pid=116474426&view=guestbook](https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/rudolph-daniels-
obituary?pid=116474426&view=guestbook)

1960 Members of the Jacksonville Youth Council NAACP “sit-in” at segregated White lunch counters in downtown. Jacksonville Youth Council NAACP members led by Rodney L. Hurst, Alton Yates, and Marjorie Meeks and more than 80 mostly high school students, conducted non-violent sit-in demonstrations protesting segregated Downtown Jacksonville White lunch counters. After “sitting-in” for two weeks, on August 27, 1960 more than 200 White males attacked the demonstrators with ax handles and baseball bats.

At a Mass Meeting, the next day at St. Paul’s A.M.E. Church, The NAACP and those in attendance approved a Youth Council resolution calling for the boycott of downtown Jacksonville stores. The adviser of the Youth Council is Rutledge Pearson, an 8th-grade American history school teacher who would later become president of the Jacksonville Branch NAACP, the President of the Florida State Conference of Branches of the NAACP, and a member of the NAACP’S National Board of Directors.

Hurst, Rodney. *It Was Never about a Hotdog and a Coke!* Wingspan Press: Livermore, 2008.

1960 Jacksonville NAACP Legal Counsel Earl Johnson, file suits on behalf of seven Black parents and fourteen children, charging the Duval County School Board with operating a system of racially segregated schools. The case is known as Braxton Case.

Bartley, Abel A. *Keeping the Faith: Race, Politics, and Social Development in Jacksonville, Florida, 1940-1970.* Westport: Greenwood Press, 2000.

1960 Black business owner Frank Hampton files suit with a group of Black citizens demanding the City of Jacksonville desegregates municipal golf courses. The suit is amended to include the Gator Bowl, Civic Auditorium, Wolfson Park, the Jacksonville Zoo and swimming pools along with other parks and playgrounds. The initial response by the City is to close down or sell these facilities to private parties. Another suit is filed requiring desegregation of the Duval County Courthouse, Duval Hospital, beaches and county jail and prison farm. To avoid the lawsuit, the County Commissioners agree to the desegregation of those facilities.

1960 A biracial committee to address civil rights issues is appointed by the NAACP, the White Jacksonville Ministerial Alliance, the Black Jacksonville

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Ministerial Alliance and the white business community after Mayor Haydon Burns refuse to officially appoint the committee. The committee meets at the Snyder Memorial Methodist Church.

Hurst, Rodney. *It Was Never about a Hotdog and a Coke!* Wingspan Press: Livermore, 2008.

1961 Adrian Kenneth “Ken” Knight hosts the Ken Knight Show, the Black-hosted television show in Jacksonville, to broadcast, in Knight’s words, “the talents of our people in music and other forms of entertainment, but, also, present to the viewing public other fields of achievement by Negroes.”

http://cflradio.net/Ken_Knight_bio.htm

1961 As a result of the biracial committee meetings, an agreement is made to integrate downtown lunch counters. Youth Council NAACP President Rodney Hurst and Youth Council Secretary Marjorie Meeks ate at Woolworth White lunch counters for one week. After that week, all White Lunch counters in downtown Jacksonville downtown department stores are integrated. White lunch counters in Jacksonville downtown department stores.

Hurst, Rodney. *It Was Never about a Hotdog and a Coke!* Wingspan Press: Livermore, 2008.

1962 Federal Judge Bryan Simpson rules that the Duval County School Board must develop a plan for ending public school segregation. The School Board plan approved by Judge Simpson allows for the integration of first and second grades in 1963 with a different grade level added each year until in full compliance with the court order.

Bartley, Abel. *In No Ways Tired: The NAACP's Struggle to Integrate the Duval County Public School System.* Cocoa Beach: Florida Historical Society Press, 2015.

1963 Because of residential segregation, only thirteen black students enroll in five white schools in September of 1963. The schools included Fishweir, Hyde Grove, Oak Hill, Lackawanna and Venetia Elementary Schools.

Bartley, Abel. *In No Ways Tired: The NAACP's Struggle to Integrate the Duval County Public School System.* Cocoa Beach: Florida Historical Society Press, 2015.

JACKSONVILLE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TIMELINE

1963 For two hours after his victory, NASCAR, the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing, refuses to recognize Wendell Scott as the winner of the Jacksonville 200, a "Grand National Series" race, at Jacksonville's Speedway Park. Scott's victory is the first NASCAR "top level" win for a Black driver, but NASCAR initially flags white driver Buck Baker as the winner. NASCAR delays the correct announcement to avoid having 5,000 white fans see a black driver hold the trophy and perform the victory ritual of kissing the beauty queen, who is white.

Coble, Dan. "Wendell Scott's Family Gets Long-Lost Trophy, and Closure." *Florida Times Union*, 18 October 2010.

1963 A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin organize the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, where Martin Luther King delivers his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. (Note additional references in 1891, 1925, 1937, 1941, 1947).

Davis, Daniel S. *Mr. Black Labor: The Story of A. Philip Randolph, Father of the Civil Rights Movement*. New York: Dutton, 1972.

1963 Sollie Mitchell, works as an attendant with Atlantic Coastline Railroads on the "Freedom Train," the long ride to Washington D.C. of Black attendees to the historic March on Washington.

Rash-Sawyer, Donna. "Inside the 1963 Freedom Train with Sollie Mitchell" *Paper presented at the annual meeting of the 98th Annual Convention, Hyatt, Jacksonville, FL, Oct 02, 2013.*

1964 The Ku Klux Klan bombs the home of Inoa Godfrey, mother of Donal Godfrey, a Black first grader, for attending previously all-white Lackawanna Elementary School. Godfrey has been escorted to school by police detectives, due to white demonstrators heckling and threatening Godfrey and his mother Ionia. The bomb causes no injuries because it was placed on the opposite side of the house from the bedrooms. One Klansman is sentenced to seven years, one acquitted, and four other Klansmen released due to a mistrial.

Gilmore, Tim. "Lackawanna Elementary School." JaxPsychoGeo, 27 May 2017. <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/west/lackawanna-elementary-school/>

Gilmore, Tim. "J.B. Stoner and the KKK." JaxPsychoGeo, 27 May 2017. <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/all-over-town/j-b-stoner-and-the-kkk/>

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Gilmore, Tim. "KKK Bombing Site: Donal Godfrey's House." JaxPsychoGeo, 27 May 2017. <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/west/murray-hill-heights-kkk-bombing-site-donal-godfreys-house/>.

1964 Frustrated with the School Board's slow pace in following the desegregation order, the NAACP requests Black students to strike for three days, beginning on December 7, 1964. On the first day, 17,000 black students stayed home from school. Within three days, 31,000 students participated in the strike.

Bartley, Abel A. *Keeping the Faith: Race, Politics, and Social Development in Jacksonville, Florida, 1940-1970*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2000.

Poppell, Judith Bockel, "The Desegregation of a Historically Black High School in Jacksonville, Florida" (1998). UNF Theses and Dissertations. 74. <http://digitalcommons.unf.edu/etd/74>

"State Can't Waive Duval School Loss." *The Florida Times-Union*, 10 Dec, 1964.

1964 Four white men driving the Northside, looking for a Black person to shoot, murder Johnnie Mae Chappel, a mother of 10, as she walks along New Kings Road. Of the four men in the car, only J.W. Rich is charged. He serves three years. (Note additional references in 2000).

Murphy, Dennis. "Seeking Justice for a Racial Killing, 40 Years Later," *NBC News*, 7 Sept, 2005.

1964 Five days before the Beatles are to play Jacksonville, they release a statement, protesting segregation in the city's municipal facilities and refusing to play unless Black people can attend without being segregated. John Lennon says, "I'd sooner lose our appearance money" than play to a segregated audience. The City relents and opens the concert to all.

"The Beatles Banned Segregated Audiences, Contract Shows," *BBC News*, 18 Sept, 2011.

1964 Dr. Robert Hayling, St. Augustine dentist and Civil Rights activist, is taken by Leo Chase, a Black funeral director in St. Augustine, to Brewster Hospital in Jacksonville, after he is beaten by the Ku Klux Klan. The family of the Civil Rights Leader did not trust the doctors in St. Augustine to administer emergency medical treatment. They look after Hayling until he is healthy enough to return home, while Dr. Arnett Girardeau provides extensive oral surgery, all at no cost.

JACKSONVILLE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TIMELINE

Hurst, Rodney. *Unless WE Tell It...It Never Gets Told!* Jacksonville: KiJas Press, 2015.

1964 Jacksonville native Robert Lee “Bullet Bob” Hayes wins two gold medals, one in the 100 meters and another as the anchor in the US 400 meter relay team at the Tokyo Olympics. Bob Hayes is called the “World’s Fastest Human.” In 1972, playing for the Dallas Cowboys of the NFL, he receives the Super Bowl ring and becomes the first person to win both a Super Bowl ring and Olympic gold medals.

Hurst, Rodney. *Unless WE Tell It...It Never Gets Told!* Jacksonville: KiJas Press, 2015.

1964 Dr. Andrew A. Robinson becomes founding principal of William Marion Raines High School. Though Duval County School System has been discredited, Raines, under Robinson’s leadership, becomes the first school in Duval County to be accredited in 1968.

Poppell, Judith Bockel, "The Desegregation of a Historically Black High School in Jacksonville, Florida" (1998). UNF Theses and Dissertations.

74. <http://digitalcommons.unf.edu/etd/74>

1964 Rutledge Pearson elected president of Florida State Conference of Branches of NAACP. Pearson was also the advisor of Jax Youth Council during 1960 sit-ins and Ax Handle Saturday. He tragically died in an auto accident on May 1, 1967. (Note additional references in 1960).

Hurst, Rodney. *Unless WE Tell It...It Never Gets Told!* Jacksonville: KiJas Press, 2015.

1965 Prominent Black physician W.W. Schell, Jr. is accepted on the staff of St. Luke’s hospital. The fact that Black physicians received less respect than their white counterparts inspired Schell to become involved in community affairs with the NAACP, the Jacksonville Urban League, etc.

Bartley, Abel A. *Keeping the Faith: Race, Politics, and Social Development in Jacksonville, Florida, 1940-1970*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2000.

1966 After the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Brewster Hospital closes in 1966 and is incorporated into the new Methodist Hospital, now part of UF Health Jacksonville. A large number of Black doctors lose their positions with the merger.

Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission, McEachin, Joel and Wayne Wood. *Jacksonville’s Architectural Heritage*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1989.

JACKSONVILLE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TIMELINE

1967 Attorney Earl Johnson, Sallye Mathis, Mary Singleton and Oscar Taylor are the first Black City Council members since 1907. Sallye Mathis and Mary Singleton are also the first women ever elected to City Council. Charles E. Simmons, Jr. is elected to the City Civil Service Board after having been appointed to the position in 1966.

Bartley, Abel A. *Keeping the Faith: Race, Politics, and Social Development in Jacksonville, Florida, 1940-1970*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2000.

1969 A white cigarette salesman shoots at a group of young Black men in proximity to his truck on Florida Avenue, hitting Buck Riley in the leg. The incident leads to riots along eight blocks of Florida Avenue. In response to what's called the Halloween Riot of 1969, Dr. Arnett E. Girardeau, Chairman of the Community Urban Development Council requests Mayor Hans Tanzler have the Jacksonville Community Relations Commission investigate the cause of the riot and actions by local police officers. A special committee, the "Task Force on Civil Disorder," is formed with five subcommittees. Suggestions from the special committee's report are never implemented.

<http://www.coj.net/departments/planning-and-development/docs/community-planning-division/plans-and-studies/east-jax-nap.aspx>

Walch, Barbara Hunter (1993) "Highlights of Race Relations in Jacksonville Since Consolidation". For a Symposium sponsored by the University of North Florida Humanities Council and the Florida Council for the Humanities. Jacksonville Public Library (FL).

1969 Wendell P. Holmes, Jr. is elected to the Duval County School Board, becoming the first Black school board member in Florida.

"City Mourns Loss of Longtime Community Trustee Wendell P. Holmes." *Jacksonville Free-Press*, 31 May 2016.

1971 Desegregation implementation of Duval County public schools transfer to U.S. District Judge Gerald Bard Tjoflat, who orders mass busing to integrate Duval County schools, which proves to be a greater burden on Black students bussed out of their neighborhoods.

Jung, William F. "The Last Unlikely Hero: Gerald Bard Tjoflat and the Jacksonville Desegregation Crisis—35 Years Later." *The Florida Bar Journal*, vol. 80, no. 3, March 2006.

JACKSONVILLE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TIMELINE

1971 In June of 1971, a police officer shot and killed a Black teenager, Donnie Ray Hall, on suspicion of being part of a group that had stolen an automobile. 300 black demonstrators under the local NAACP chapter picketed the Duval County Court House. After the demonstrators dispersed, small groups started looting and burning buildings along Florida Avenue that continued for several days and escalated to other parts of the city. The Community Urban Development Council under Dr. Girardeau began documenting cases of police brutality and harassment and provided this information to Governor Reuben Askew. After a police officer was shot and killed with another one wounded, a grand jury investigated the recent incidents concluding that the actions by the Sheriff's Office demonstrated proper restraint, but recommended better communication between the police and the black communities.

1971 Jacksonville Urban League Director Clanzel Brown and Jacksonville Black Community Coalition Coordinator Dr. Arnett E. Girardeau brought together more than 50 Black and White Community leaders to form the biracial Council of Leadership for Community Advancement (COLCA). COLCA forms five task forces addressing education, employment, housing, media and law enforcement. The recommendations of COLCA task forces are never significantly implemented. (Note additional references in 1977)

Walch, Barbara Hunter, "Sallye B. Mathis and Mary L. Singleton: Black pioneers on the Jacksonville, Florida, City Council" (1988). UNF Theses and Dissertations. 704. <http://digitalcommons.unf.edu/etd/704>

1971 Eddie Mae Steward, on behalf of her daughter, Alta Oveta Mims, successfully sues the Duval County School Board over continued segregation. Mims v. Duval County School Board alleges the county maintains 113 totally segregated schools—89 white and 24 Black—and that the white schools are staffed by white personnel and Black schools are staffed by Black personnel. Steward becomes president of the Jacksonville NAACP in 1972.

<https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/FSupp/329/123/2596160/>

1972 Mary L. Singleton, one of the first Black City Council members since Reconstruction is elected to the Florida House of Representatives, becoming the first Black legislator from North Florida since Reconstruction.

Walch, Barbara Hunter, "Sallye B. Mathis and Mary L. Singleton: Black pioneers on the Jacksonville, Florida, City Council" (1988). UNF Theses and Dissertations. 704. <http://digitalcommons.unf.edu/etd/704>

JACKSONVILLE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TIMELINE

- 1972 * Florida's first racially integrated private law firm -- Sheppard, Fletcher, Hand & Adams -- was founded at 215 N. Washington Street in Downtown Jacksonville. The firm consisted of attorneys Bill Sheppard, Lyman Fletcher, Jack G. Hand, Jr., Henry Adams, and later Hugh Carithers. Adams went on to become the first African-American judge in Florida's Fourth Judicial Circuit and the first African-American federal judge in the Middle District of Florida. In 2012, the Jacksonville City Council and Jacksonville Bar Association honored Sheppard, Fletcher, Hand, Adams & Carithers on the 40th anniversary of the firm's founding.
- 1973 Reverend C.B. Dailey established the First Baptist Church of Oakland Outreach Center which provided all manner of resources for the needy. Rev, Dailey himself was a past vice president of the NAACP where he organized, led and was ultimately arrested for participating in demonstrations for public accommodations, equal opportunity for jobs and education, and equal representation in government. (1992 JBHC)
- 1974 Dr. Ezekiel W. Bryant becomes the first Black president/provost in the Florida community college system at Florida Junior College's North Campus in Jacksonville.

<http://www.jbhe.com/latest/index082709.html>

- 1976 Mary L. Singleton is appointed Florida's first Black Supervisor of Elections.

Jones, Maxine D. *African Americans in Florida*. Sarasota: Pineapple Press, 1993.

- 1976 Dr. Arnett Girardeau, a local dentist, is elected to the Florida House of Representatives where he advocates for prison reform and social service issues and leads the State of Florida to withdraw investments from South Africa as a protest against Apartheid.

Mitchell, Tia. "Jacksonville Civil Rights Leader, Legislator Arnett Girardeau, Dies at 88." *Florida Times-Union*, 27 Oct, 2017.

- 1976 Lawyer and Civil Rights activist Earl Johnson becomes the first Black City Council President.

Jet Magazine, 17 June 1976.

- 1977 The Jacksonville Urban League, under President Clanzel Brown, publishes its *First Annual Status of Blacks in Jacksonville*, which shows the same racial issues confronting the city as in the 1950s and 1960s.

JACKSONVILLE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TIMELINE

Walch, Barbara Hunter, "Sallye B. Mathis and Mary L. Singleton: Black pioneers on the Jacksonville, Florida, City Council" (1988). UNF Theses and Dissertations. 704.
<http://digitalcommons.unf.edu/etd/704>

1978 Mary Singleton becomes the first Black candidate for lieutenant governor, with gubernatorial candidate Claude Kirk.

Jones, Maxine D. *African Americans in Florida*. Sarasota: Pineapple Press, 1993.

1982 Dr. Arnett Girardeau is the first Black to serve in the Florida Senate from Northeast Florida since Reconstruction.

Mitchell, Tia. "Jacksonville Civil Rights Leader, Legislator Arnett Girardeau, Dies at 88."
Florida Times-Union, 27 Oct, 2017.

1988 Dr. Arnett Girardeau becomes the first Black Florida Senate Pro Tempore.

Mitchell, Tia. "Jacksonville Civil Rights Leader, Legislator Arnett Girardeau, Dies at 88."
Florida Times-Union, 27 Oct, 2017.

1989 Jacksonville Black History Calendar is created under the leadership of Dr. Brenda Robinson Simmons and Ms. Clovia Russell. The calendar chronicles Black life, history, culture and contributions. The publication wins the Jacksonville Historic Commission's Historic Preservation Award and in 2016 and all of the editions are digitized in the Jacksonville Public Library.

<https://www.jaxpubliclibrary.org/main-library-unveil-2018-black-history-calendar>

1990 Black Jacksonville attorney Leander Shaw becomes the first Black chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court. Shaw had been appointed a judge of the Florida Industrial Relations Commission in 1972 and appointed to the First District Court of Appeal in 1979.

<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/43547>

1991 Warren Jones is the first Black candidate to qualify by petition and then win a seat on the City Council. He serves as president for two consecutive fiscal years.

<http://www.coj.net/city-council/city-council-members/former-council-members/d09warrenjones.aspx>

JACKSONVILLE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TIMELINE

2000 Johnnie Mae Chappel is recognized as a “Civil Rights Martyr” and added to the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama. (Note additional references in 1964).

Murphy, Dennis. “Seeking Justice for a Racial Killing, 40 Years Later,” *NBC News*, 7 Sept, 2005.

2012 Dr. Brenda R. Simmons-Hutchins is elected first African American Chair of the Board of Library Trustees. During her tenure, severe reductions in the library’s operating budget continue the threat of library closures, especially those serving predominately African-American citizens. Through strong collaboration and advocacy with legislative entities and the increased creation of library “Friends” groups, the closures are abated and the literacy lifeline for many vulnerable citizens is restored.

2013 The Duval County School Board votes to support the renaming of Nathan Bedford Forrest High School, named in 1959 for a Confederate general and first Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan. After Forrest students voted to change the name, the students selected to rename Forrest High School to Westside High School and select the Wolverine as the mascot. The school board ratified their choice.

Hurst, Rodney. *Unless WE Tell It...It Never Gets Told!* Jacksonville: KiJas Press, 2015.

Strauss, Valerie. “School Named after KKK Grand Wizard to be Renamed—Finally.” *The Washington Post*, 16 December 2013.

2014 James Weldon Johnson and A. Philip Randolph inducted into the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame

2015 Sallye B. Mathis inducted into the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame

2016 Rutledge Pearson and Earl M Johnson inducted into the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame

2017 Arnett Girardeau inducted into the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame

2018 Main postal facility renamed after Rutledge Pearson

2018 Development of the Hope and History Mural which memorializes Ax Handle Saturday. The mural is an attempt to inspire Jacksonville, FL schools and the community to properly reflect on the past in order to inform and encourage a more just future. The mural will be displayed at the Eastside Brotherhood Building on A. P Randolph Blvd.