

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Freedom Tour 2026

Michigan Coalition for Human Rights (MCHR)

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Proposal Submission Link: tinyurl.com/FreedomTour26-RFP

Proposal QR Code:



About the Freedom Tour

Founded in 1989 by Michigan Coalition for Human Rights (MCHR), the Freedom Tour has been a life-changing program for Michigan students interested in activism, racial justice, and nonviolence by bringing participants to important historical landmarks across Metro Detroit.

The program name is an homage to the Freedom Riders—civil rights activists who rode buses into the segregated Southern United States in 1961 onwards to challenge the Jim Crow travel laws. The Freedom Rides provoked violent conflicts that highlighted national attention to the deeply entrenched segregation in the South. While police played their part by cracking-down on activists, it was often white mobs who attacked the riders without intervention. Freedom Rides were sponsored by CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) and SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee)—showing the inspiring power of activism in youth and adults alike.

This year, Michigan Coalition for Human Rights (MCHR) brings the Freedom Tour to Detroit for Summer 2026. Geared towards 9th to 12th grade students from the Detroit metro area, the tour will have two components— an interactive in-person conference, and a field trip to important historical landmarks. This RFP (request for proposals) is seeking passionate activists, advocates, and SME's (subject matter experts) to make this program a success. Open roles are:

- Workshop organizers/ interactive seminar speakers (paid)
- Tour Guides (paid)
- Mentors (volunteer)

Important note — all roles require a background check if accepted. Please keep this in mind when applying.

This tour is a two-part series:

Part 1 — Two-Day In-Person Seminar

Thursday, July 30 – Friday, July 31,
2026

Guest speakers, workshops & activities

**Part 2 — Two-Day Field Trip via
Charter Bus**

Saturday, August 1 – Sunday, August 2,
2026

*Civil rights & community landmarks
across Metro Detroit*

*All four days run 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM and include a light breakfast, lunch, and snacks.

Roles We Are Seeking

The MCHR organizing committee is raising funds to offer an honorarium. We are seeking qualified individuals and organizations to fill the following roles:

Conference/ Workshop Speaker (Paid), Thursday July 30 to Friday July 31

Lead a conversation in your field. Suggested topics are listed within the form, but applications for other topics are encouraged. To submit your proposal, fill in information covering:

- Brief overview of the interactive lecture or workshop session
- Session time which can be 45, 60, or 90 minutes
- Your connection to the topic

Note: We are fundraising and intend to reserve an honorarium.

Tour Guide (Paid), Saturday August 1 to Sunday August 2

Lead students through historical and community landmarks across both field trip days. Though the preference is to secure one tour guide for both days, submissions are also accepted for only one day. When applying, please note the locations covered, and ensure you are either comfortable discussing the historical significance of that location, or able to organize an on-site person who can. In your application, share:

- Which days are you available to lead the tour? Options are
 - Saturday, August 1
 - Sunday, August 2
 - Both Saturday, August 1 and Sunday, August 2
- Budget/ Price Quote
- Qualifications, expertise, or a resume
- What support would you need from MCHR

Mentor (Volunteer)

Support and engage with youth participants throughout the program. In a long-term mentorship, guide youth on how to make an impact within their community. For this role, share your expertise, and how you have connected it to activism, advocacy, or community impact.

Program Topics & Schedule Overview

A lecture series is suggested as seen below. Reminder, in the application, you must share how long the session will take. We are open to proposals on new topics not listed below, provided

they align with the Freedom Tour's goals of promoting activism, racial justice, and nonviolence. You may also connect two different topics but please share the thought process of connecting the two.

Interactive Seminar Options (July 30–31)

#	Topic	Duration (example)
1	Foundation of Detroit / The Great Migration (1910–1970)	90 min
2	Housing, Redlining & Gentrification	60 min
3	Labor Movement and Union History in Detroit	45 min
4	Youth-led Movements in Detroit	45 min
5	Food Security & Food Apartheid	60 min
6	History of Policing and the Carceral State	60 min
7	Voting Rights and Political Power	60 min
8	Global Solidarity	60 min

Interactive Workshop Options (July 30–31)

#	Topic	Duration (example)
1	Community Organizing 101	60 min
2	Know Your Rights	60 min
3	Digital Rights and Surveillance	60 min
4	Restorative vs. Punitive Justice	60 min

**Lectures may include handouts, activities, discussion, and more. Workshops may be interactive, focused more on concept application instead of knowledge base.*

Tour Itinerary (August 1–2)

The field-trip itinerary is confirmed. However, we are open to site suggestions not listed below. If sharing a site, suggest the day and itinerary spot.

Day 1 — Northwest Detroit → Midtown Corridor

Time	Stop	Notes
9:00 AM	Viola Liuzzo Park	Civil rights memorial, statue & historical marker
9:55 AM	Urban Country Tea House	Community gathering space, west side Detroit
11:00 AM	Birwood Wall	1941 segregation wall
11:55 AM	New Bethel Baptist Church	Aretha Franklin's church, civil rights hub
12:35 PM	Shrine of the Black Madonna	Pan-African church & cultural center
1:05–2:05 PM	 Lunch break nearby	
2:15 PM	Virginia Park Shopping Center	Community retail landmark
2:55 PM	Gordon Park	Brief stop at this revitalized green space
3:35 PM	Algiers Motel Location Park	1967 Detroit Uprising site
4:15 PM	Peaches & Greens	Food justice & fresh produce hub

4:55 PM	CDC Aquaponics & Fishery	Urban sustainability showcase
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Day 2 — East Detroit → Downtown Loop

Time	Stop	Notes
9:00 AM	Grosse Pointe Wall Area	Redlining boundary discussion
9:40 AM	Dr. Ossian Sweet House	National Historic Landmark, 1925 civil rights case
10:20 AM	Wayne County 4-H Center	Historic community programming hub
11:00 AM	Boggs Center	James & Grace Lee Boggs legacy, community organizing
11:40 AM	Black Bottom Park	Honors the neighborhood erased by urban renewal
12:30-1:30 PM	 <i>Lunch break nearby</i>	
1:30 PM	Muhammad Temple of Islam	Nation of Islam history in Detroit
2:15 PM	Brewster Projects	Detroit's first public housing, birthplace of Motown legends
2:55	Keep Growing Detroit	Urban agriculture & food justice near Eastern Market
3:35 PM	Boston-Linwood Mural	Outdoor civil rights mural

Requirements

Successful applicants will be invited for a further discussion with the Freedom Tour committee. The committee seeks a general understanding of how your background overlaps with the tour's goals. Feel free to be as brief as you would like in your application.

 Important: All applicants who advance to the final round must submit to a background check before being confirmed.

For questions, please contact:

- Salma Hamamy — salmahamamy@gmail.com
- Khurram Imam — hello@khurramimam.com