



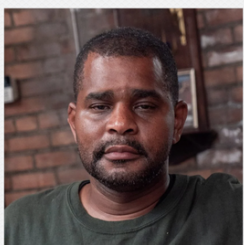
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FREEDOM TOUR

DETROIT
2026

ONE CITY'S STORY, TOLD AT THE PLACES IT HAPPENED.

MEET THE SPEAKERS



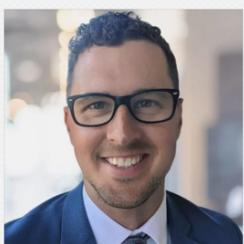
JAMON JORDAN



MARK FANCHER



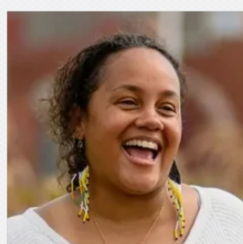
LUFUKI ISMAEEL



KYLE ZAWACKI



ALEX CASAREZ



TEPFIRAH RUSHDAN



ZAHRA SEBLINI



DR. TIM ROBINSON



**DR. RICHARD
BENSON II**



DR. A'LYNNE DUKES



TAWANA PETTY



CURTIS RENEE

Dear Freedom Tour Student,

Welcome — we are so glad you're here.

Over the next four days, you'll walk in the footsteps of the individuals who fought, marched, and organized for the rights we hold today. You'll sit in the same city where history was made, hear from people who have devoted their lives to justice, and stand at the very sites where courage changed the course of our country.

The Freedom Tour isn't just a program — it's an invitation. An invitation to ask hard questions, to listen closely, to connect with new people, and to imagine the role you'll play in building a more just future. Civil rights history isn't something that happened once and ended. It's a torch that gets passed — and this week, it's in your hands.

Come curious. Come ready to learn.
Come ready to be inspired.

In solidarity and hope,
The Michigan Coalition for Human Rights



RISE HIGHER
CIVIL RIGHTS, INCLUSION & OPPORTUNITY

ACLU
Michigan



8:30-9:00AM

REGISTRATION & OPEN BREAKFAST TABLE

9:15 AM

WELCOMING REMARKS FROM ORGANIZERS**9:30AM - SESSION #1****DEMYSTIFYING DETROIT: THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE CITY**

This session explores the rise of Detroit through the lens of industry, immigration, and migration, tracing how the city grew into a powerhouse. Attendees will get a glimpse into how waves of immigration and the Great Migration of Black Americans from the South shaped Detroit's population, culture, and workforce.

SPEAKER: JAMON JORDAN

Jamon Jordan is the City of Detroit's first official historian. He is the founder of the Black Scroll Network History and Tours, which he established in 2013 to spotlight Detroit's African American history, and he teaches a course at the University of Michigan as part of its Semester in Detroit program. His work centers racial inequality, civil rights, the Underground Railroad, and slavery in the story of Detroit's past. Through his tours, teaching, and public speaking, he helps Detroiters and visitors alike understand the full story of their city.

10:30AM - BREAK**10:40AM - GROUP ACTIVITY****DASH & DECLARE!**

Dash and Declare is a fast-paced, whole-group activity where you'll move around the room, pick the corner that best represents you, and get the chance to introduce yourself to everyone. By the end, you'll know a lot more about the people you're spending the week with – where they're from, what they're into, and what they care about.

11:40AM - BREAK**11:50AM - SESSION #2****RACE AND POLICING IN AMERICA**

This session will dive into the origins of law enforcement culture in the slave era and its evolution into a strategy for the containment and control of oppressed communities today.

SPEAKER: MARK FANCHER

Mark P. Fancher is a human rights attorney, writer, and activist. Over the course of his 41-year career he has fought: police misconduct, over-incarceration, employment discrimination, racially discriminatory school discipline, unannounced plant closings, racist violence, and political repression. Driven and sustained by his Christian faith, he has been an advocate for African liberation and the right to self-determination for underdeveloped countries and Indigenous communities. Now retired, he worked as staff attorney for the Racial Justice Project of the ACLU of Michigan; senior staff attorney for the Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice; and as the State Bar of Michigan Access to Justice program's special projects director after a two-year stint as a visiting clinical law professor at the University of Michigan. He is a longtime member of the National Conference of Black Lawyers.

1:50PM - WORKSHOP #2**THE SOUND ARTS IN UNSOUND TIMES**

It is impossible to explore the history of American “jazz” in totality without mentioning the deep-rooted impact of Black Muslims on the genre and its notable musicians, along with their influence on Black liberation movements in America. This session will explore the history of these musicians and how they used art and education in the fight for freedom and liberation for Black people in America.

SPEAKER & PERFORMER: LUFUKI ISMAEEL

LuFuki is a composer, organizer, guitarist, and cultural curator in Detroit who views music as a spiritual practice that brings about healing and unity, and whose art practice centers around Black ancestral legacy. He leads creative improvisation ensemble, LuFuki and Divine Providence, and has released four albums. LuFuki is currently working on several projects, including XRoads, a traveling exhibit on the history of Black Muslims in Jazz, and Autophysiopsyche Millennium, a creative research-music collective to explore and experiment with the philosophy and music methodology of the great Dr. Yusef Lateef. LuFuki holds a Master's degree from Wayne State University in Near Eastern Studies, specializing in the Arabic Language, with a concentration in the literary genre of Tasliyah, praise poetry of the Prophet Muhammad, a Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in Africana Studies and History, and is currently pursuing his PhD in Practical Theology at Claremont School of Theology.

2:50PM - BREAK**3:00PM - SESSION #3****VOTING RIGHTS AND POLITICAL POWER**

This session explores the fight for voting rights in America — from constitutional foundations to key Supreme Court decisions, voter suppression, and redistricting. Students will examine how these issues shape political power today and the organizing strategies communities use to protect and expand it.

SPEAKER: KYLE ZAWACKI

Kyle Zawacki is an American policy specialist and former educator who serves as the Legislative Director for the ACLU of Michigan. Appointed to the role in October 2024, he oversees the organization's legislative advocacy strategy in Lansing, focusing on the defense and expansion of civil rights and liberties across the state. He received his Masters of Social Work from the University of Michigan in 2025.

4:00PM - WORKSHOP #3**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!**

Learn the context of immigration enforcement in 2026, your rights in interactions with federal agents, and how to exercise your rights to document encounters.

SPEAKER: ALEX CASAREZ

Hi! I'm Alex Casarez, and I'm a legal intern with the ACLU of Michigan this summer. I'm currently a law student at Michigan Law School, starting my 2L year this fall. Before transitioning to law, I was a public high school history teacher for about 10 years. I'm originally from Houston, TX, where I went to Rice University, but I've moved around, living in Tennessee, New Mexico, and China. I'm passionate about civil rights and fighting for systemic change.

8:30–9:00AM

OPEN BREAKFAST TABLE**9:00AM - SESSION #1****BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE DETROIT: FOOD, ENERGY, AND FUTURE**

Presenters from the City of Detroit Office of Sustainability will explore how food and energy shape our city and why they matter for our health, environment, and future. We will learn about Detroit's movement for food sovereignty, our energy system, and the innovative solutions helping build a more sustainable Detroit.

SPEAKERS: TEPFIRAH RUSHDAN & ZAHRA SEBLINI

Tepfirah is Director of Sustainability for the City of Detroit, where she leads efforts to create a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable city. Before joining local government, Tepfirah spent 15+ years in Detroit's community-driven environmental and food sovereignty movement. Her work bridges grassroots action with citywide policy, centering resilient neighborhoods, collective care, and environmental justice.

Zahra graduated with her bachelor's in physics and Masters in Alternative Energy Technology and was a Wayne State T-RUST Sustainability Fellow. Beginning with the City of Detroit as a Mayor fellow in 2023, she is now the Senior Energy Analyst in the Office of Sustainability. She co-founded the organization Metro-swaps in 2021, hosting clothing swaps and workshops in Metro Detroit. Zahra administers the Detroit Benchmarking Ordinance, which requires big buildings to track energy and water use.

10:15AM - BREAK**10:25AM - SESSION #2****HOUSING, REDLINING & GENTRIFICATION**

This session interrogates the impact that negative narratives have on shaping "safety" policies that lead to mass surveillance, especially in predominantly Black cities. It invites participants to challenge the biases shaped by those narratives and to pursue visionary resistance through creativity.

SPEAKER: DR. TIM ROBINSON

Dr. Robinson is a retired U.S. Army Sergeant First Class, ordained Christian minister, educator, and veteran advocate with more than 37 years of military service. He holds master's degrees in Organizational Leadership and Business Administration, along with a Doctor of Ministry degree. Today, Dr. Robinson serves with the City of Detroit's Office of Veteran Affairs within the Civil Rights, Inclusion, and Opportunities (CRIO) Department, where he works to connect veterans, service members, and their families with employment, benefits, housing, healthcare, education, and other resources.

11:10AM - BREAK**11:20AM - SESSION #3****UPSOUTH IN THE MOTOR CITY: DETROIT & THE BLACK FREEDOM MOVEMENT**

"UpSouth in the Motor City" explores how Black communities in Detroit and other northern cities organized for freedom and equality. The lecture highlights Detroit's role as the "Arsenal of Democracy," the city's contributions to the historic Montgomery Bus Boycott, and the vital role of Black labor in shaping Detroit's industrial and political life. It also demonstrates how these struggles helped shape the broader Black Freedom Movement.

SPEAKER: DR. RICHARD BENSON II

Dr. Benson is the inaugural Director of the Wayne State University Detroit Center for Black Studies. He received his PhD in Educational Policy Studies, with a specialization in the History of Education. He specializes in the Black Freedom Movement, the Black Radical Tradition, and transnational social movements. His scholarship examines the political, intellectual, educational, and financial infrastructures that have shaped Black freedom struggles across the 20th century.

Catering from Detroit 75 Kitchen

1:20PM - WORKSHOP #1**GAINING AND MAINTAINING COMMUNITY ACCESS**

The interactive workshop will provide attendees with a toolkit on community organizing and coalition building. We will be enabling and equipping individuals to identify opportunities to collaborate, build sustainable partnerships and create coalitions that last.

SPEAKER: DR. A'LYNNE BOLES DUKES

Dr. A'Lynne Boles Dukes is a strategist, advocate, and community engagement leader with deep roots in Lansing, Michigan, and extensive impact across Detroit, Battle Creek, and the state. A University of Michigan graduate, she holds a doctorate in Public Administration and is a Certified Dementia Practitioner and Diversity Trainer. Her work centers on tobacco-free communities, maternal health equity, and dismantling systemic barriers facing underserved populations. A former Lansing City Council member and the first African American woman to serve as Council President, she currently chairs the Ingham County Board of Health. Dr. Boles Dukes is known for turning complex challenges into actionable strategies through advocacy, policy, and community engagement.

2:35PM - BREAK**2:45PM - SESSION #4****DATA JUSTICE IN THE AGE OF BIOMETRIC SURVEILLANCE**

This session interrogates the impact that negative narratives have on shaping "safety" policies that lead to mass surveillance, especially in predominantly Black cities. It invites participants to challenge the biases shaped by those narratives and to pursue visionary resistance through creativity.

SPEAKER: TAWANA PETTY

Tawana Petty, also known by her poetry stage name Honeycomb, is a mother, social justice organizer, poet, author, facilitator and keynote lecturer. Her work prioritizes racial justice, equity, privacy, and consent. She is the founding Executive Director of Petty Propolis, Inc., an artist incubator, which leverages poetry, policy literacy and advocacy, anti-racism facilitation, political education and community-centered initiatives in pursuit of data and digital justice and racial and environmental justice.

3:45PM - BREAK**4:00PM - WORKSHOP #2****RESTORATIVE JUSTICE VS PUNISHMENT**

This session examines the tension between systems of punishment and restorative approaches to addressing harm. It explores practical ways we can shift away from punitive systems toward restorative practices — repairing harm, rebuilding trust, and centering accountability over punishment.

SPEAKER: CURTIS RENEE

Curtis Renee is a lifelong social justice activist, community organizer, and the Co-Lead Organizer of Black Lives Matter (BLM) Detroit. Curtis Renee has traveled a long road in their 30 plus years of life. As a child they felt a deep calling to help, heal, love and protect those around them. This passion has taken many forms over the years. As an aspiring healer Curtis extends their food love language and reiki practice to community as an offering of gratitude, growth and healing. Curtis also has a passion for facilitating cherished and fun spaces that lean into use of creativity to connect to our worth as individuals and as a community to navigate relationship building, conflict and creation of safer community spaces.



BUS ROUTE --- DAY 1

EAST DETROIT → DOWNTOWN LOOP

Saturday, August 1 · Departs WSU at 9:00 AM

8:30 AM

Bus Pick-Up Point: WSU St. Andrews Hall

5105 Anthony Wayne Dr, Detroit, MI 48202

9:30 AM

Grosse Pointe wall area

A boundary that once enforced redlining — the physical line between two very different Detroits.

10:00 AM

Feedom Freedom Growers

Community led urban agriculture and food justice

10:30 AM

Dr. Ossian Sweet House

National Historic Landmark and site of the landmark 1925 self-defense trial that tested housing segregation.

11:10 AM

Boggs Center

Home base of James and Grace Lee Boggs — a living legacy of Detroit community organizing.

12:00 PM

Brodhead Naval Armory & Belle Isle

The armory and nearby Belle Isle, where the 1943 uprising and its aftermath unfolded.

12:40 PM

Lafayette Central Park

Honoring a Black neighborhood erased by urban renewal, with video shown on the bus.

1:10 – 2:40 PM

Lunch break at WSU

Soul Food Catering from Khalipha's Mobile Kitchen

3:00 PM

Brewster Rec Center & Muhammad Temple

Detroit's first public housing site and birthplace of Motown legends.

3:50 PM

Dunbar Hospital

Founded in 1918 as the city's first nonprofit Black hospital, built in response to healthcare discrimination.

4:25 PM

Detroit Association of Women's Clubs

The Detroit Association of Women's Clubs, Inc. (DAWC) is a historic civic non-profit organization founded in 1921, it serves as a critical pillar of community uplift, racial equality, and Black women's leadership in Detroit

4:55 PM

Bus Drop-Off Point: WSU St. Andrews Hall

5105 Anthony Wayne Dr, Detroit, MI 48202



BUS ROUTE --- DAY 2

NORTHWEST DETROIT → MIDTOWN CORRIDOR
Sunday, August 2 · Departs WSU at 9:00 AM

8:30 AM

Bus Pick-Up Point: WSU St. Andrews Hall

5105 Anthony Wayne Dr, Detroit, MI 48202

9:25 AM

Viola Liuzzo Park

A civil rights memorial with statue and historical marker honoring a movement martyr.

9:55 AM

Birwood Wall

Built in 1941 to segregate neighborhoods by race — still standing as a stark discussion stop.

10:40 AM

Virginia Park Shopping Center

Neighborhood site with a nearby rec center stop for a break

11:25 AM

Gordon Park

A revitalized green space reflecting the neighborhood's renewal.

12:00 – 1:30 PM

Lunch break at WSU

Taco Bar Catering from Mittens Kitchen

1:40 PM

New Bethel Baptist Church

Aretha Franklin's home church and a hub of civil rights organizing in Detroit.

2:25 PM

Shrine of the Black Madonna

A pan-African church and cultural center tied to the Black Power Movement

2:40 PM

Orsel and Minnie McGhee House

Site tied to a pivotal restrictive covenant housing case

3:20 PM

Algiers Motel Location Park

Site of a defining and tragic moment during the 1967 Detroit uprising.

3:50 PM

Detroit People's Food Co-op

A community owned grocery cooperative - this store aims to cultivate food sovereignty and equitable food access

4:55 PM

Bus Drop-Off Point: WSU St. Andrews Hall

5105 Anthony Wayne Dr, Detroit, MI 48202

DETROIT 2026

