

The Problem of the Color Line: Atlanta Landmarks and Civil Rights History
National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks of American History and Culture
Workshops for School Teachers

July 14-19, 2019 or July 20-25, 2019
Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia

Application Deadline: March 1, 2019



Section One: Workshop Overview

We are excited to announce two one-week workshops for school teachers, who are selected as NEH Summer Scholars. While participating in our workshop in Atlanta, the Summer Scholars will visit the sites where civil rights history was made. We have assembled a group of nationally known scholars who will share stories of the Civil Rights Movement that reshaped the city, the region, and the nation. Summer Scholars will learn how to use Atlanta's historic sites to bring the Civil Rights Movement alive to their students.

It was here in Atlanta in 1895 that Booker T. Washington delivered his "Atlanta Compromise" address at the Cotton States and International Exposition. Eight years later in *The Souls of Black Folk*, Atlanta University professor W. E. B. Du Bois predicted that the "problem of the Twentieth Century [would be] the problem of the color line." When Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on Auburn Avenue, a racial divide relegated African Americans to a second class status. Dr. King grew up to challenge the color line and make Atlanta the capital of a Civil Rights Movement that ended legalized segregation in America.



Booker T. Washington



W. E. B. Du Bois



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Summer Scholar Workshops:

Field trips will take you to Piedmont Park where Booker T. Washington delivered his “Atlanta Compromise” address and to Atlanta University where W. E. B. Du Bois penned *The Souls of Black Folk*. Workshop scholars will lead you in the footsteps of Dr. King as he played in his childhood home, attended Morehouse College, pastored Ebenezer Baptist Church, and now is buried on Auburn Avenue with his wife Coretta.



Graves Hall, Morehouse College



Ebenezer Baptist Church



M. L. and Coretta King Tomb

The historic landmarks that you will visit reveal the history of a segregated society and the struggle to dismantle it. The gold-domed Capitol building is where Jim Crow laws were passed and where African Americans protested their passage. The Fox Theater bears the imprint of the color line, with separate entrances, seating, and rest rooms for black and white theater goers. The downtown Rich’s Department Store and City Hall are facilities, once segregated, which still carry the imprints of their civil rights battles. The roots of resistance to the color line began on Auburn Avenue, the historic heart of the African American business, civic, and religious communities, and on the Atlanta University Center campuses where students organized sit-ins and demonstrations in the 1960s. Atlanta has memorialized these events at the sites where civil rights history was made. Summer Scholars can bring these on site experiences to their classrooms.



A Summer Scholar Project: Summer scholar Malcolm Davidson (peering from the right eye of the mask) had his students create a diversity mask modeled after the John Wesley Dobbs Memorial Mask on Auburn Avenue in the heart of the Martin Luther King National Historic Site.

Summer Scholar Comments:

- “The landmarks put a real face on the Civil Rights Movement, especially since many excursions were led by people who were directly involved.”
- “I learned many teaching strategies from colleagues, which is an important supplement to the experience.”
- “I have several really interesting primary resources to share with my students as a result of the workshop. Likewise, I have excellent experiential knowledge about the Civil Rights Movement to share with my students as well.”