

WITNESS: WEBINAR
01\15\2026

PRESENTED BY: JOHN SPANN & MIMI BISHOP



WITNESS

THE FREEDOM MEMORY PROJECT

WEBINAR AGENDA

- Project Overview & Origins
- Project Mission & Purpose
- Meet our Advisory Committee
- Meet Our Partners
- Examples of Sites of Memory
- Intended Communities & Partners
- Next Steps
- How to apply
- Important Dates
- Questions & Open Discussion
- Closing Remarks

ORIGINS and OVERVIEW

- LED BY THE MISSISSIPPI HUMANITIES COUNCIL, THE STATE PARTNER OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES
- BUILDS ON THE EXPANSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM TRAIL BEYOND TRADITIONAL HISTORICAL MARKERS
- CENTERS LOCAL PEOPLE, PLACES, AND STORIES OFTEN MISSING FROM NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS NARRATIVES
- PARTNERS WORK DIRECTLY WITH COMMUNITIES TO IDENTIFY AND INTERPRET SITES OF MEMORY
- SUPPORTS THE CREATION OF PUBLIC COMMEMORATIVE SITES (PHYSICAL AND/OR VIRTUAL)
- WORKS WITH FOUR COMMUNITIES PER YEAR OVER THE COURSE OF THREE YEARS TO ENCOURAGE A MORE HONEST, INCLUSIVE SHARED HISTORY

MISSION *and* PURPOSE

Mississippi Humanities council's Mission:

The Mississippi Humanities Council creates opportunities for Mississippians to learn about themselves and the larger world and enriches communities through civil conversations about our history and culture.

The Witness: Freedom Memory Project extends the Mississippi Humanities Council's long-standing commitment to public humanities by creating opportunities for communities to learn about themselves through the history of the Mississippi freedom struggle. By centering local stories and engaging communities in open and ethical dialogue about the past, The Freedom Memory project enriches Mississippi's cultural landscape and supports a more honest, inclusive understanding of our shared history.

MEET OUR Committee



REV. REGINALD
BUCKLEY



DR. DAPHNE
CHAMBERLAIN



DR. ROY DEBERRY



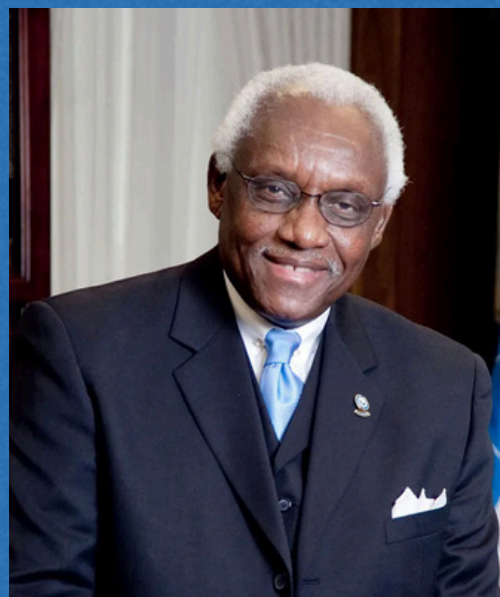
W. RALPH
EUBANKS



DR. ROBERT
LUCKETT JR.



DR. EBONY
LUMUMBA



DR. LESLIE B.
MCLEMORE



MICHAEL MORRIS



DR. CASTEL
SWEET



CARLTON TURNER



DR. REBECCA
TUURI

PROJECT PARTNERS



RODERICK RED



VON GORDON



CARLTON TURNER

SITES OF MEMORY EXAMPLES



- Monuments or markers
- Public art installations



- Digital storytelling/oral history projects
- Exhibits, archives, or interpretive spaces



INTENDED COMMUNITIES & PARTNERS

01\15\2026

Cultural institutions

Community-based organizations

Schools, churches, grassroots groups

Local governments and nonprofits

NOT-FOR-PROFIT entities

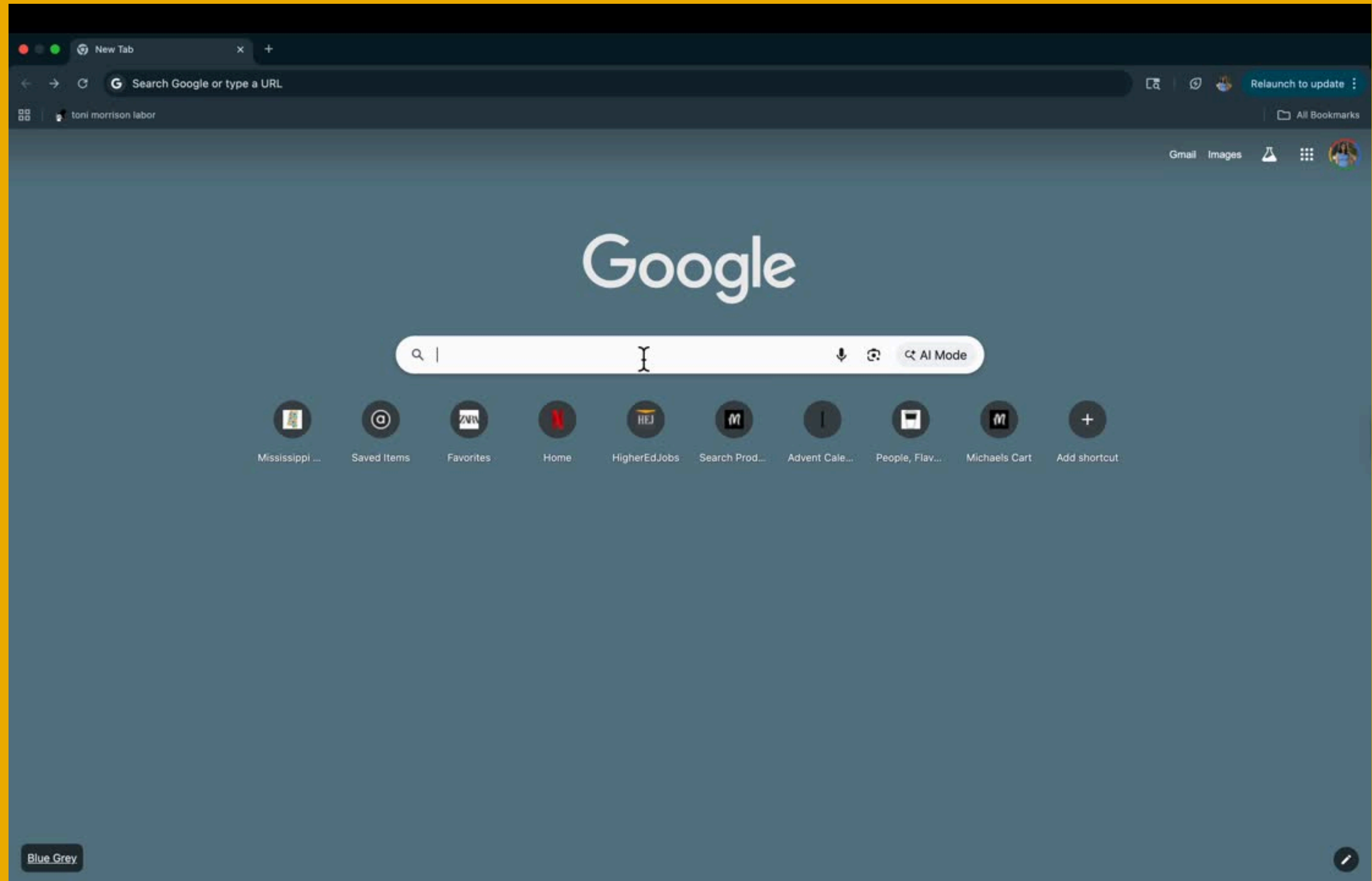
MUST HAVES:

- **CLEAR HISTORY CONNECTED TO THE MS FREEDOM STRUGGLE**
- **HISTORY KNOWLEDGE**
- **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**
- **PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION**

NEXT STEPS AFTER WEBINAR

- 1 **Contact John Spann to discuss your community's idea**
- 2 **Fill out the application by March 1, 2026**
- 3 **Applications review by the Advisory Board**
- 4 **Selected communities are notified by April 1, 2026**
- 5 **The Community/Council Collaboration Begins**

HOW TO APPLY:



IMPORTANT DATES

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026

REVIEW PERIOD:

MARCH 2, 2026 – MARCH 30, 2026

COMMUNITIES ANNOUNCED:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

QUESTIONS AND OPEN DISCUSSION

STAY IN TOUCH



JOHN SPANN,

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES DIR.

JSPANN@MHC.STATE.MS.US

601-559-9581



AMIRHEA "MIMI" BISHOP,

PROGRAM OFFICER

MBISHOP@MHC.STATE.MS.US

601-432-6529

THANK YOU

Application Deadline:
Sunday, March 1, 2026