

LAW & JUSTICE



Sanitation Workers assemble for a solidarity march on March 28, 1968 in Memphis, Tenn. (Photo from the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution)

Civil Rights Exhibit Opening

History Museum presents 'For All the World to See'

In September 1955, shortly after 14-year old Emmett Till was murdered by white supremacists in Mississippi, his grieving mother, Mamie Till Bradley, distributed to newspapers and magazines a gruesome black-and-white photograph of his mutilated corpse.

The mainstream media rejected the photograph as inappropriate for publication, but Bradley was able to turn to African-American periodicals for support. Asked why she would do this, Bradley explained that by witnessing, with

their own eyes, the brutality of segregation, Americans would be more likely to support the cause of civil rights.

"Let the world see what I have seen," was her reply. The publication of the photograph transformed the modern Civil Rights movement, impelling a new generation of activists to join the cause.

Despite this extraordinary episode, the role of visual media in combating racism is rarely included in the history of the movement. The Oregon History Museum is proud

to showcase this history in the National Endowment for the Humanities on the Road touring exhibit "For All the World to See: Visual Culture and the Struggle for Civil Rights," on exhibit Sunday, June 16 through Aug. 11.

Through a compelling assortment of photographs, television clips, art posters, and other historic artifacts, the exhibit traces how images and media transformed the modern civil rights movement and jolted Americans, both black and white, out of a state of denial or complacency.

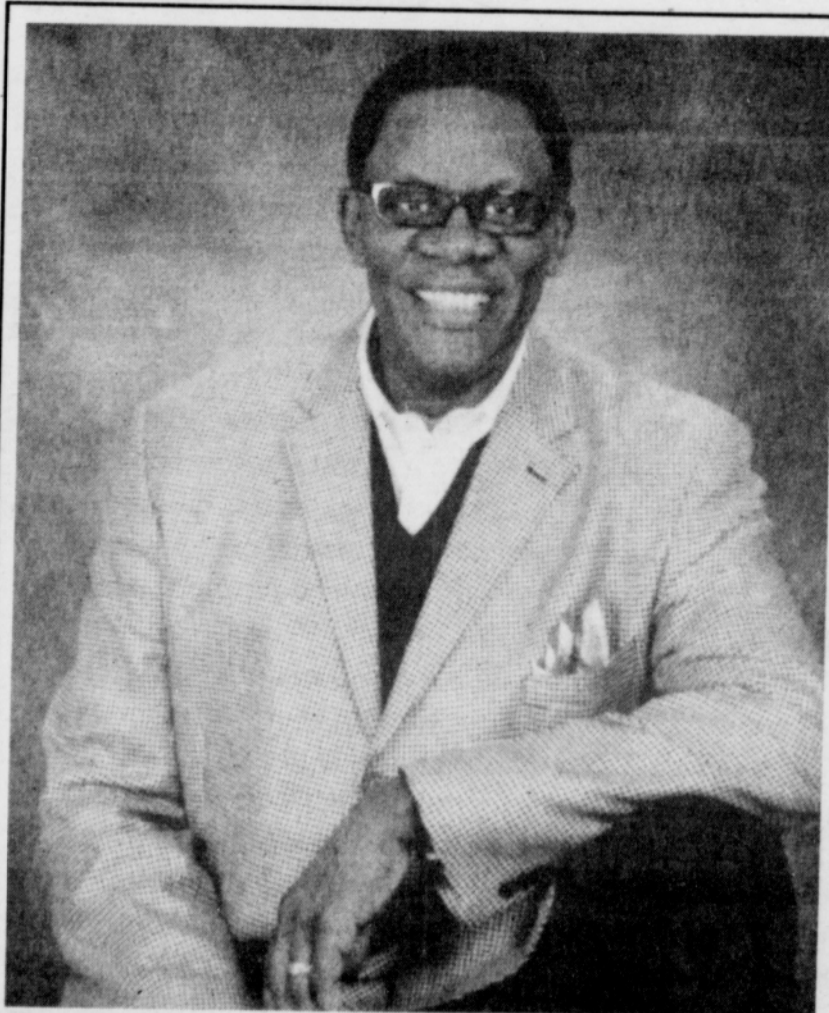
Visitors to this immersive exhibition will explore more than 35 compelling and persuasive visual images, including photographs from influential magazines, such as LIFE, JET, and EBONY; CBS news footage; and TV clips from The Ed Sullivan Show.

Also included are civil rights-era objects that exemplify the range of negative and positive imagery--from Aunt Jemima syrup dispensers and 1930s produce advertisements to Jackie Robinson baseball ephemera and 1960s children's toys with African American portraiture.

"For All the World to See" is the second exhibit in the Oregon His-

tory Museum's 2013 Oregon Black History Series. Beginning with the Oregon Black Pioneer's "All Aboard" exhibit on railroading culture in Portland, which featured a variety of events and lectures highlighting the rich history of Oregon's black community.

The Oregon History Museum is located at 1200 S.W. Park Ave. in downtown Portland. Museum hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from Noon to 5 p.m. Museum admission is free for OHS members and Multnomah County residents. Visitor information and a list of current exhibits can be found at ohs.org.



Dr. Billy R. Flowers

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