



Jan. 6, 2022

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM RESCHEDULES ANNUAL FUND-RAISING GALA TO JULY 25, 2022**

**Greensboro, N.C.** — The International Civil Rights Center & Museum annually celebrates the courage and contributions of the “A&T Four,” who first sat in at the F.W. Woolworth’s “whites-only” lunch counter on Feb. 1, 1960. The Museum also recognizes not only the subsequent activists who sustained the Greensboro Sit-Ins for six months until the lunch counter was formally desegregated on July 25, 1960, but local and national activists who have made significant contributions to advancing civil and human rights — while helping communities bridge the generations of social justice movements.

This year, however, in view of the fast-changing health concerns developing from the Omicron variant of COVID-19, the ICRCM has decided to move the annual fund-raising gala until later in the year. To protect its honorees, participants, and attendees, the International Civil Rights Center & Museum’s 2022 Gala is being rescheduled to July 25 which, appropriately, will commemorate the 62nd Anniversary of the day when the lunch counter was racially integrated.

We invite the public to join us in embracing this significant moment of victory during the era of Jim Crow segregation. The Museum holds this date as a national civil rights milestone comparable to Feb. 1, 1960, when four college freshmen — the N.C. A&T Four — sparked America’s most recognized lunch counter sit-in protest. Honoring the struggle, tenacity, and courage of the Sit-In Movement may capture the most arduous parts of the story. As a nation, we need to be regularly reminded of ongoing struggle for human dignity and equal civic belonging, but we should also remember the day when a significant goal was won.

At the Gala on July 25, then, the Museum will share its delight in honoring the celebrated civil rights activist, the **Rev. James Lawson** with the Alston-Jones International Civil and Human Rights Award. **Vice President Kamala Harris** will be presented with the Trailblazer Award. Civil Rights attorney **Benjamin Crump** will be given the Unsung Hero Award. Our Community Service Award will go to **Rabbi Fred Guttman**. Retired judicial commissioner **Marilyn Mackel** will receive the Sit-In Participant Award. And political commentator and attorney **Bakari Sellers** will be presented the Keeper of the Flame Award.

The International Civil Rights Center & Museum’s 2022 Gala will thus be held on the new date, July 25, 2022, at 6 p.m. at the Koury Convention Center. All those who had chosen to



# INTERNATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CENTER & MUSEUM

sponsor, advertise, or attend the Gala on the previously scheduled February 5 date will receive the same accommodations and admissions on July 25. Additional interested corporate sponsors may visit our website at [www.sitinmovement.org/2022-civil-rights-gala](http://www.sitinmovement.org/2022-civil-rights-gala) to learn more about sponsorship opportunities. Individual tickets for in-person participation are available for \$150, and tickets for the virtual experience can be purchased for \$50. Accommodating the unprecedented pandemic challenges, we will take all appropriate public health precautions, as befits the fulfillment of our mission, while persisting in our goal of honoring some of our country's most worthy social justice activists.

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*Animating an iconic landmark recognized across the globe, the International Civil Rights Center & Museum opened in 2010 as a comprehensive museum of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States and an innovative educational organization devoted to understanding and advancing civil and human rights in this country and the world. It commemorates the Feb. 1, 1960, beginning of sit-ins at a whites-only lunch counter in Greensboro, by the N.C. A&T Four college students, reflecting careful planning carried out with colleagues at Bennett College. Their non-violent direct action challenged the American People to make good on promises of personal equality and civic inclusion enunciated in the Constitution. The fast-spreading Sit-In Movement ignited by the Greensboro protests served as a historical inflection point, renewing the Civil Rights Movement as a whole. Sit-In Movement, Inc. was founded in 1993 to acquire and restore the F.W. Woolworth's site of these transformative events and to establish the Center and Museum as a monument to the bravery and initiative of visionary young advocates of full citizenship and social justice.*