



11-year-old Twin Film Directors to Screen Short Documentary on History of Civil Rights Movement

The film, “Architects of Change,” documents the history of Black people from ancient Africa, through slavery, to the Civil Rights Movement, and includes modern-day civil rights advocates. The film includes an interview the twins conducted with Barbara Cross, a survivor of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in 1963 that killed four little girls.

The twins were inspired to direct the film after participating in the Rosa Parks Museum’s Architects of Change summer day camp, including a tour of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham; the Equal Justice Initiative’s Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery; a walking tour of civil rights sites in Montgomery; and other historical locations.

As part of their independent research, the twins also toured the National Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington, D.C.; Tuskegee University; the Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta; Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta -- where King co-pastored with his father, Martin Luther King Sr.; the home where Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was raised in Atlanta; and the parsonage of Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church in Montgomery, where King lived while he pastored that church.

“Last summer, we learned about the four little girls who died in the church bombing, and we were shocked to learn that one of them was the same age we are now,” film co-director Breanna Bennett said. “We have to learn about our history, and teach others about it at the same time.”

Film co-director Brooke Bennett said: “The courageous people who stood up for themselves during the Civil Rights Movement, and all they had to go through, inspired us to do our documentary about the African-American people’s struggle for equal rights and social justice.”

Felicia A. Bell, PhD, director of the Rosa Parks Museum, said: “This film offers an opportunity to learn not only about the Civil Rights Movement -- including Rosa Parks and her lifelong legacy of activism -- but also about the struggles of African-American people throughout this nation’s history. We are proud that Breanna and Brooke Bennett, two of our participants in the Architects of Change summer day camp, were inspired by our program to direct this important film.”