

I like what I've heard so far about the COFO Building vision.

I have the following interests, talents, materials, recollections, photos, etc., that I will make available to the COFO Building educational center:

___ I can give time to help plan what should be in the COFO educational center and how it should be run.

___ I will help raise funds

___ I will _____

___ I want to know _____

_____?

___ Contact me about a financial contribution

The COFO Building Educational Center studies, teaches about, and models the best of the Freedom Schools.

Resources on the civil rights movement in Mississippi include:

www.educationanddemocracy.org
esp. about Freedom Schools

www.crmvet.org
info, dialog, networking

"SNCC field secretary Charlie Cobb first came up with the idea for the freedom schools late in 1963....

"Since 'students are forced to live in an environment that is geared to squash intellectual curiosity,' Cobb concluded, it was the responsibility of the movement 'to fill an intellectual and creative vacuum in the lives of young Negro Mississippians, and to get them to articulate their own desires, demands, and questions.'...

"The key to the freedom schools was the awareness that the students brought with them valuable knowledge and experiences: the culture of black Mississippians was important and must be preserved....

"A creative, anti-authoritarian, student-centered approach to teaching and learning had and still has much to offer the tradition-bound educational establishment, both in Mississippi and throughout the nation."

– from *Local People* by John Dittmer – esp. pp. 258-259
re Freedom Schools

The COFO Building

at 1017 John Roy Lynch Street
Jackson, MS

will open in 2010
as a

Civil Rights Educational Center

Museum

Archive

Tourist Destination



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Wendell Paris, Chair



If you walk east of the Jackson State University campus on John Roy Lynch Street, you will see the Masonic Temple that still houses the Mississippi NAACP (and Medgar Evers' former office) and pass the sites of an early Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) office and many other activities of the 1960s civil rights movement.

Just east of Mt. Olive Cemetery are three buildings. From 1963-65, 1017 Lynch Street was the state headquarters of an umbrella group for national, state and local resistance to segregation – the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO). Best known for organizing the 1964 Freedom Summer that brought over 1,000 civil rights volunteers to Mississippi, COFO spawned the development of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

The primary activities of Freedom Summer were voter registration and education, community centers, and Freedom Schools in dozens of communities around the state. This work with local groups and churches laid the foundation for the hundreds of African American Mississippians serving in elective and appointive offices today, as well as the election of Barack Obama.

Many people (especially youth) know little or nothing of the nature and importance of those and other Mississippi civil rights activities – so they are not prepared to find solutions for the challenges of today.

Jackson State University is renovating the three buildings – all Mississippi Landmarks – under a federal grant and is developing a student business incubator for 1011 Lynch Street.

The former COFO headquarters at 1017 Lynch is being restored as a civil rights interpretive center. The middle building at 1013 will have welcome and orientation, discussion/educational, museum, archival, office, restroom, and storage spaces.

COFO Building, Inc. staff and volunteers – veterans of the Mississippi movement, educators, students and others – are working closely with any and all persons who will help develop and implement excellent programming on civil rights history (from slavery to the present) for short-term visitors and on-going participants of all ages.

IF YOU WILL HELP, please fill out the contact form and give it or mail it to us (or email your information and responses to: cofobuilding@hotmail.com) so we can stay in touch with you.

I'm interested in helping with the COFO Building educational center.

Name:

Mailing Address:

Home Telephone:

(_____)_____

Work Telephone:

(_____)_____

E-mail Address:

Fax Number:

(_____)_____

I'm a ___graduate ___undergrad.

student at _____

majoring in _____

_____ I want to participate through community service/service learning

fill out the other side too
then tear off this panel