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PUBLIC INFORMATION

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LECTURE SERIES AT THE OLD SLAVE MART MUSEUM

Charleston, S.C. – The Old Slave Mart Museum is hosting a three-part lecture series in commemoration of the birthday of Fredrick Douglass and Black History Month. Local authors and educators will present at the museum at 6 Chalmers St. Admission is free.

Damon Fordham, a professor of history at Springfield College in Charleston will give the first lecture on Wednesday, January 21 at 6 p.m. Fordham will speak on lesser-known aspects of Black history covered in his books “True Stories of Black South Carolina” and “Voices of Black South Carolina: Legends & Legacy.”

Joe McGill, who currently works as a docent at the Old Slave Mart Museum, will present Wednesday, February 4 at 6 p.m. on the famed 54th Massachusetts, the focus of the 1989 Academy Award winning movie “Glory.” McGill’s program is sponsored by The Humanities Council^{SC}, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities; inspiring, engaging and enriching South Carolinians with programs on literature, history, culture and heritage.



Jeff Grigg will give the third lecture, which is based on his book “The Combahee River Raid: Harriet Tubman & Lowcountry Liberation” on Wednesday, February 18 at 6 p.m.

The Old Slave Mart Museum, located at 6 Chalmers St., recounts the story of Charleston's role in the inter-state slave trade by focusing on the history of the building that houses the museum and the slave sales that occurred there from 1856-1863. In 1938 Miriam B. Wilson purchased the building, which by then, had come to be known locally as the Old Slave Mart, and established a museum featuring African and African-American arts and crafts. Judith Wragg Chase and Louise Wragg Graves took over the Old Slave Mart in 1964, placed it on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 and operated it until its closure in 1987. Recognizing the significant importance the institution of slavery has had in Charleston's history, the City of Charleston acquired the property in 1988, reopening it as a museum in 2007. To learn more visit www.oldslavemart.org, or call 843-958-6467.

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