



LOUISVILLE DOWNTOWN

Civil Rights Trail



Designed by Ed Hamilton, nationally recognized sculptor and artist

II. INTRODUCTION

The 50th anniversaries of the **March on Washington** in 1963 and **Freedom Summer** in June 1964 have energized some to address the undisputed civil-rights illiteracy of the American people. Ignorance remains the operative word when it comes to the Civil Rights Movement and the contributions of African Americans in American history.

In a report titled *Teaching the Movement 2014: The State of Civil Rights Education in the United States*, prepared by the Southern Poverty Law Center under the guidance of Teaching Tolerance, documents show how most states demanded little instruction about the Civil Rights Movement. The report states:

In casting the movement as a regional matter, or a topic significant to African-American students only, the states failed to recognize the profound national significance of the movement. Their standards and frameworks sent the message that the movement could safely be ignored.

The Civil Rights Movement is one of the defining events in American history, during which American citizens fought to make ideals of justice and equality a reality. This guide has been developed and designed for teachers and students to understand the history and the events leading to the passage of Louisville's public accommodations ordinance in 1963.

In the spring of 1960, **sit-in** demonstrations spread throughout the South as young African Americans demanded an end to second-class treatment in restaurants, department stores, and movie theaters.

In Louisville, Kentucky, the sit-in campaign for an ordinance against discrimination in public accommodations centered on the shopping and dining corridor along Fourth Street in the heart of the downtown business district. This is a companion guide to 11 designated marker sites where sit-in demonstrations took place. The following is a list of the marker sites (**see photographs of markers**).

- Introduction to the Marker Sites (Louisville Visitors Center, 4th & Jefferson Streets)
- Walgreen's Drugstore (526 S. 4th Street)
- Stewart Dry Goods (510 S. 4th Street)
- Kaufman-Straus (533-49 S. 4th Street)
- Blue Boar Cafeterias (410 W. Walnut Street)
- Sit-in Demonstration Sites Introductory Marker (4th and Guthrie Street)
- Kentucky Theater & Ohio Theater (651 S. 4th Street)
- Mary Anderson Theater & Rialto Theater (610 S. 4th Street)
- Penthouse/United Artists Theater (625 S. 4th Street)
- The Brown Hotel (335 W. Broadway)
- The Brown Theater (315 W. Broadway)





LOUISVILLE DOWNTOWN

Civil Rights Trail

The major aim of the guide is to provide a tool to enhance the quality of instruction about the Civil Rights Movement for the teachers and students in our schools. The guide provides a framework designed to allow instructional strategies from multiple perspectives asking three (3) questions:

1. What roles do individuals, groups, and institutions play in strengthening democratic ideals and practices?
2. How did cultural patterns and economics decisions during the 1960s influence the environment and daily lives of African Americans living in Louisville during that time?
3. How did grassroots activists work together to end Jim Crow practices in public businesses?

Lastly, the guide is organized for teachers and students to learn about the Civil Rights Movement in Louisville, using Kentucky's Social Studies Standards for the Next Generation to prepare students for a path toward college, career, and civic readiness. The guide provides lessons using four (4) disciplinary core concepts to help teachers and students to experience the history of the Civil Rights Movement in Louisville through the framework of Civic Mindedness, Geographic Reasoning, Economic Decision Making, and Historical Thinking. We hope this guide will help teachers to develop instructional strategies and initiate engaging classroom activities that explore key concepts found in the above four disciplinary core concepts.

The impact of a century of segregation can still be felt today. Although the specific segregation policies of the 19th and 20th centuries have been discredited, voices calling for equal rights for all can still be heard today. We hope this guide opens doors to further learning about the thousands of ordinary individual citizens who built a Civil Rights Movement to take a collective stand against oppression.