

RISING

The Hall of Negro Life

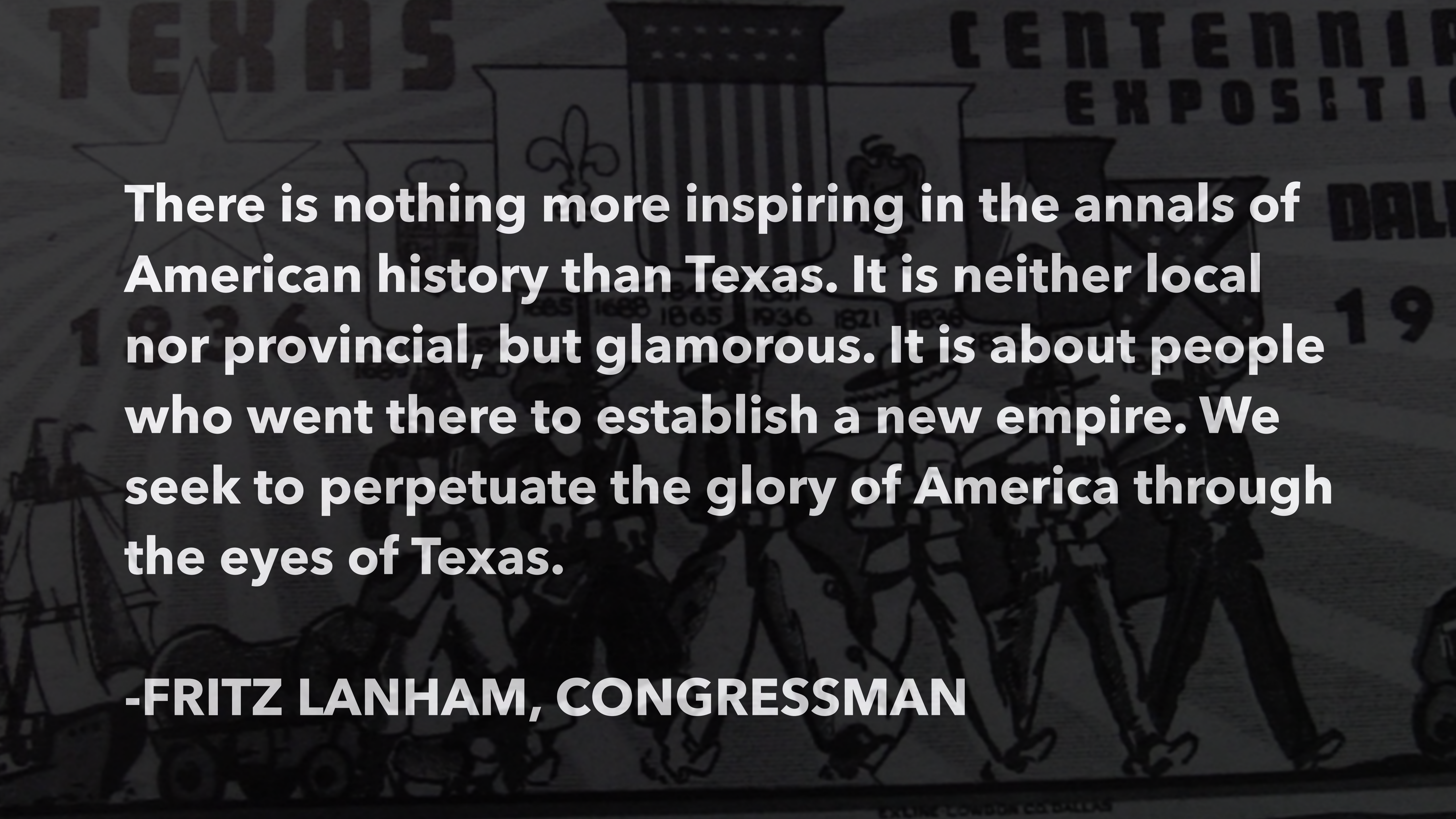


A Documentary Event



In 1935, a delegation from Texas travelled to Washington, D.C., for a Congressional hearing. Their goal: to bring back \$3M to celebrate the Texas Centennial and to create the most expansive world's fair...ever.





There is nothing more inspiring in the annals of American history than Texas. It is neither local nor provincial, but glamorous. It is about people who went there to establish a new empire. We seek to perpetuate the glory of America through the eyes of Texas.

-FRITZ LANHAM, CONGRESSMAN

Once the leading Negro men and women learned of the Texas Centennial plans, they presented at the State Legislature, advocating to be part of the celebration.

**Originally, \$500K was granted for an exhibit.
As 1936 drew closer, they were told they would receive no money.**

And 'Negro' participation was no longer welcome.

...THIS IS A REAL CRISIS





A. MACEO SMITH

Smith and religious leader Maynard Jackson had assured African-Americans of Texas they would have a substantial presence in the Centennial Exposition. But they now had a crisis...

...they ran afoul of the Dallas leadership group when they took an unpopular political stance.

With no money and less than four months before the Centennial, Smith along with Eugene Jones and Jesse O. Thomas, were able to have the crisis raised with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR).

Thomas and members of the Urban League were connected to Roosevelt as 'Negro' advisers, whom FDR called his 'Black Cabinet.'





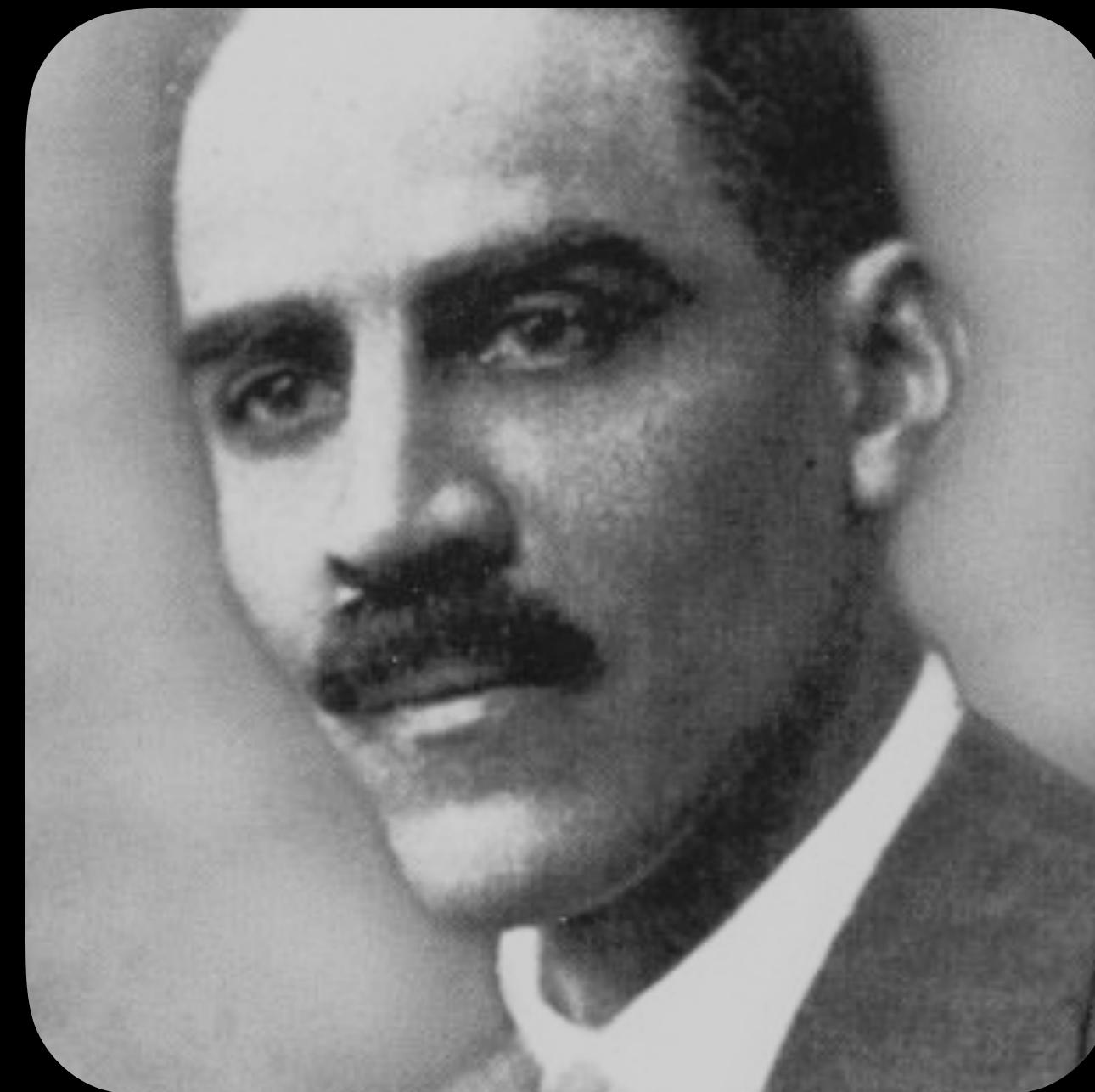
JESSE O. THOMAS

Jesse O. Thomas, a native of Mississippi, attended Tuskegee University and became a protege of Booker T. Washington.

Trained as an economist, Thomas went to work for the State of New York and became an early co-founder of the Urban League.

Thomas became the 'father' of black social work in the United States and focused his efforts on the conditions facing blacks.

He was chosen to lead the development of the Hall of Negro Life.



EUGENE K. JONES

Eugene K. Jones, a descendant of slaves, became a graduate of Cornell University and a professor at the University of Louisville.

Jones went on to found the Alpha Psi Alpha fraternity, multiple magazines, and developed the foundation for the Urban League.

Appointed to a position at the Department of Commerce, Jones developed a relationship with FDR and became a leading member of FDR's 'Black Cabinet.'

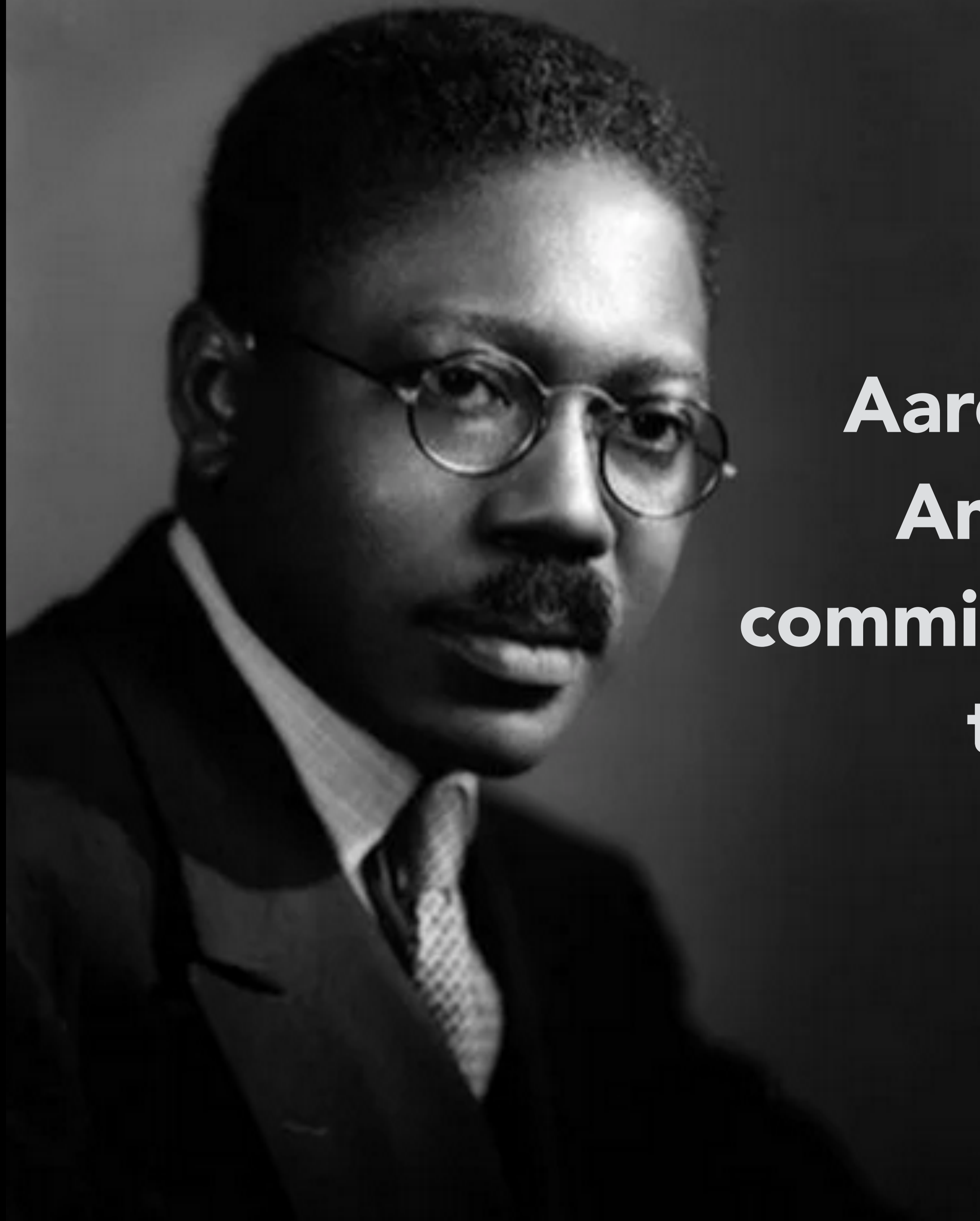
Federal dollars were allocated through the relationship between Eugene Jones, Jesse Thomas, A. Maceo Smith and FDR, but state and city leaders chose to appoint a committee to oversee them.

With fewer than 100 days before the exhibition was scheduled to open, the money was allocated...

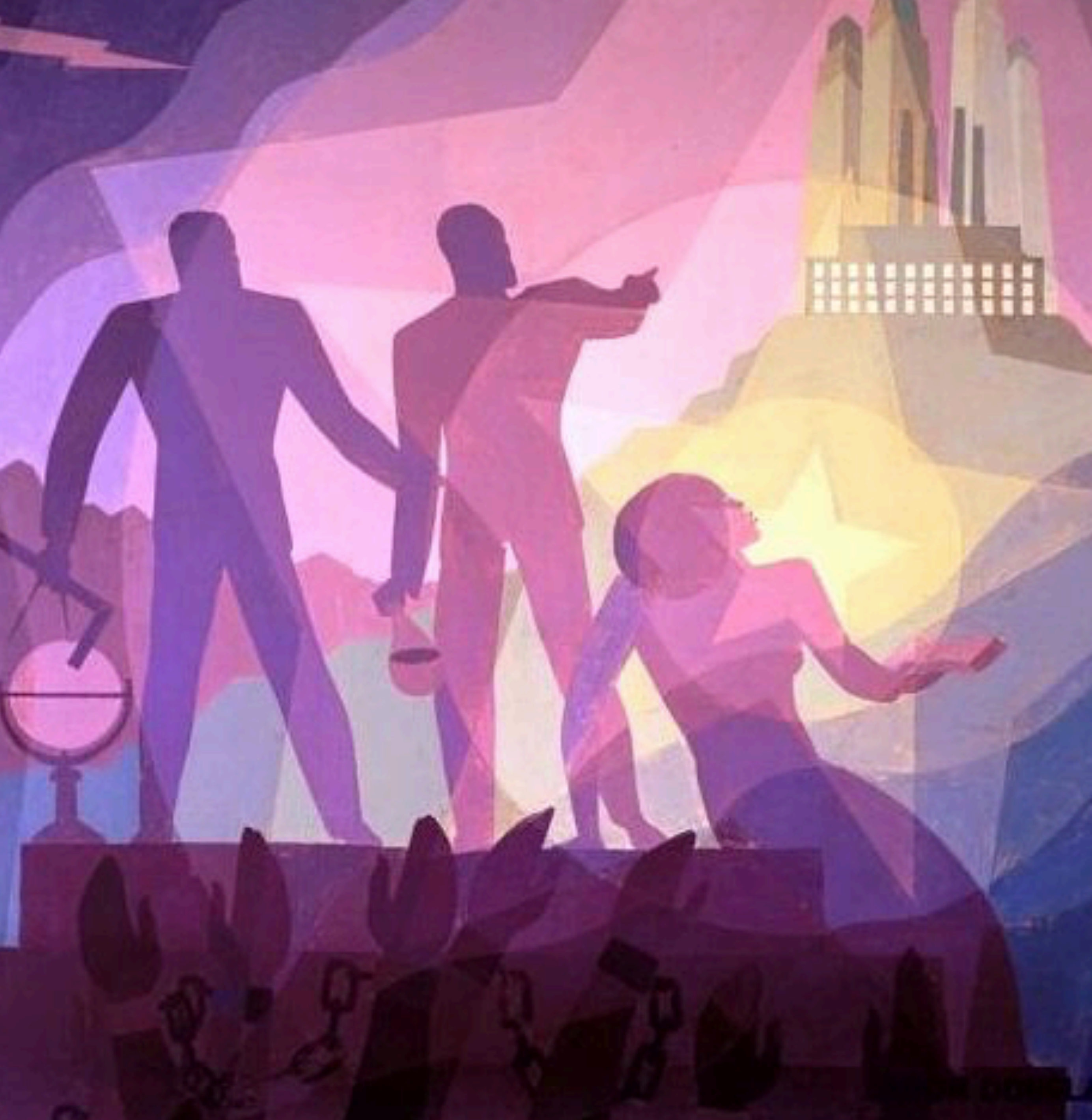
And so our story begins....

**ART SUSTAINS THE EMOTION OF
THE JOURNEY...**

**ACHIEVEMENTS TELL THE
STORY**



Aaron Douglas, the leading African-American artist of the period, was commissioned to paint the four murals that would illuminate the Hall of Negro Life.



"Aspirations"

By Aaron Douglas

A. M. Smith Paper

JUL 22 1966

The NEGRO OF TEXAS
and THE CENTENNIAL



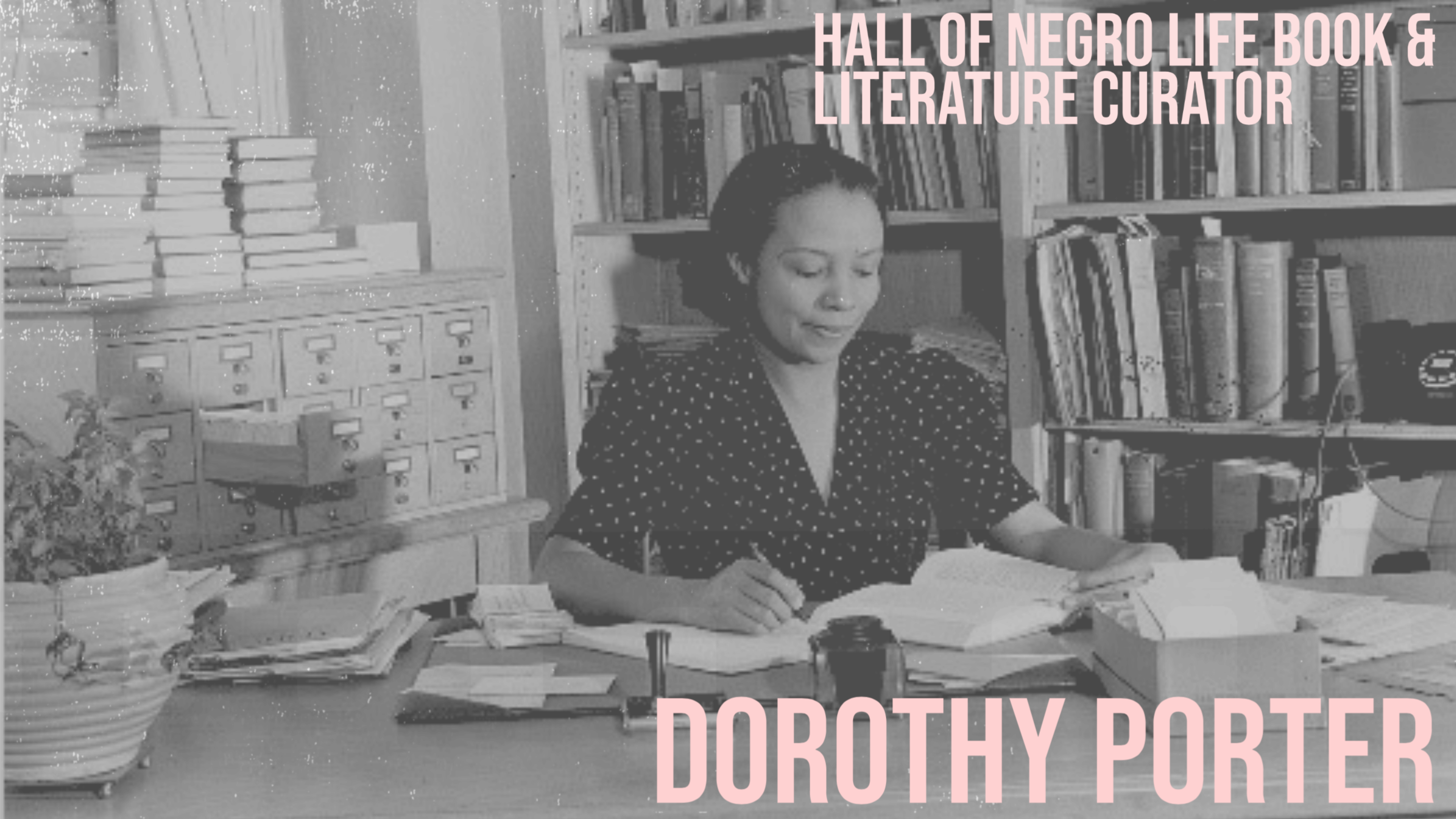
1836-1936



"The Eyes of Texas are Upon You"

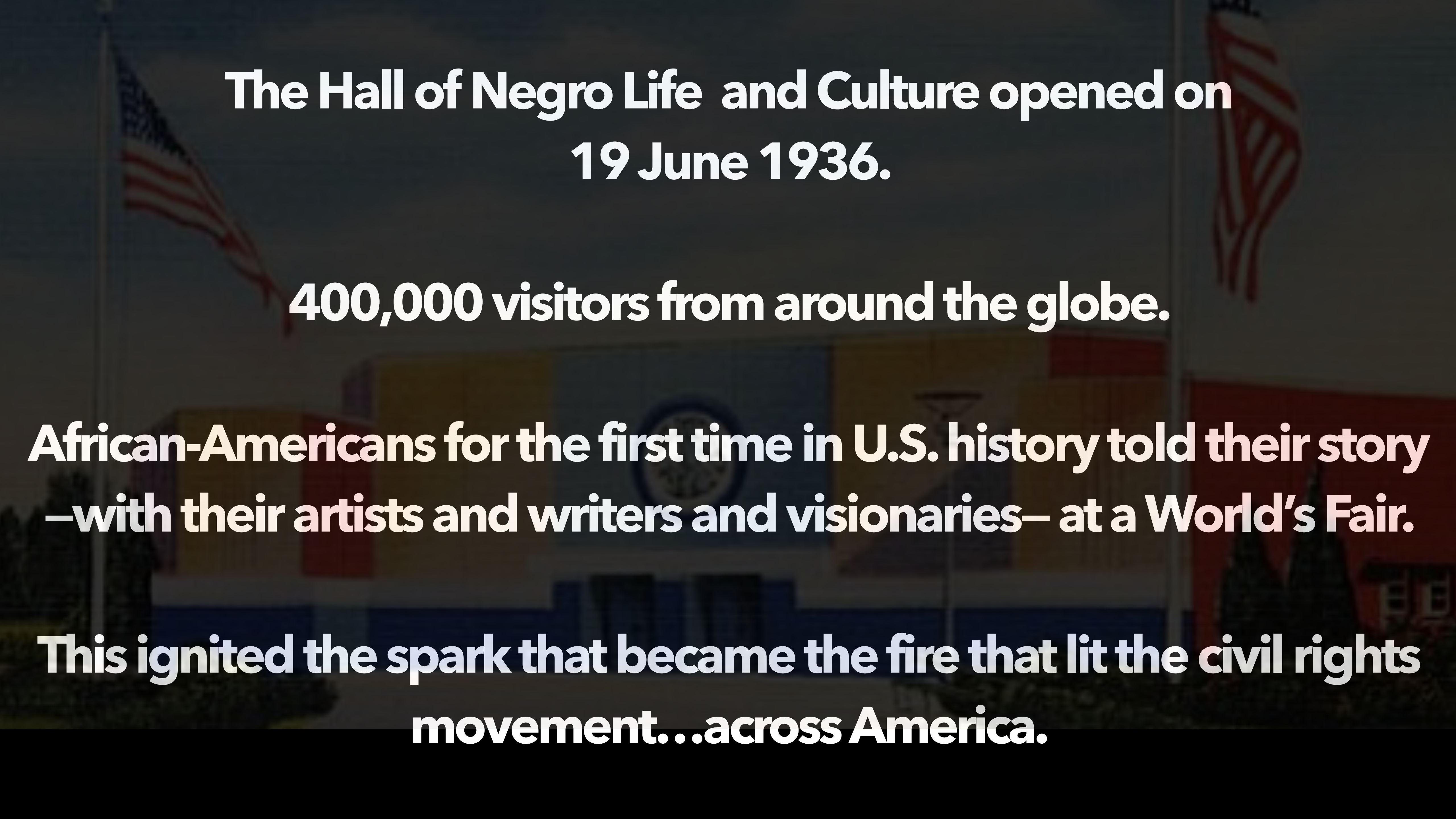
MECHANIC ARTS
TUSKEGEE INSTITUT

HALL OF MUSIC, ARTS AND LITERATURE
HALL OF BUSINESS
HALL OF RELIGION
HALL OF MEDICINE/PUBLIC HEALTH
HALL OF MECHANICAL ARTS/ARGRICULTURE



**HALL OF NEGRO LIFE BOOK &
LITERATURE CURATOR**

DOROTHY PORTER



**The Hall of Negro Life and Culture opened on
19 June 1936.**

400,000 visitors from around the globe.

**African-Americans for the first time in U.S. history told their story
—with their artists and writers and visionaries— at a World's Fair.**

**This ignited the spark that became the fire that lit the civil rights
movement...across America.**

THE TEXAS CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION

THE HALL OF
NEGRO LIFE AND
CULTURE IS CLOSED.

D A L L A S

1 9 3 6

The Dallas Express

CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION: NEGRO HALL WILL NOT RE-OPEN

COMMENT
ON EXHIBITS

Proves Very

Popular Its



ON THE CENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION



**BUT THE SPARK
BECOMES A... FLAME**



RISING

— The Hall of Negro Life —



Coming This Spring

RIISING

— The Hall of Negro Life —

Major Funding Provided By:



	Title	Rising: The Hall of Negro Life
	Summary	In the middle of the great depression, African-Americans received the opportunity to tell their story at a world's fair– in Texas. This has never occurred before. The story of those five months altered the tenor and trajectory of U.S. race relations. But after five months the Hall of Negro Life and Culture was mysteriously destroyed. No records or reason to explain what truly happened. Yet, the smoldering embers of the story would not die and a civil rights movement emerged from the destruction of the the Hall of Negro Life and Culture. It happened here. . .in Dallas, Texas.
	Talent	Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson, W. Marvin Dulaney, Harry Robinson, Willis Winters
	Director	King Hollis & Lindell Singleton
	EP/Producer	Kay Kallos King Hollis & Lindell Singleton
	Co-Executive Producer	Gail Sachson Rick Kniepper Lynn Rushton
	Length	25:50
	Trailer	https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/572382322
	Prod. Co	Southroad Pictures, Limeville Entertainment