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**Contacts:**

Xina Eiland  
(703) 785-4358  
xinaeiland@me.com

Cherrie Woods  
443-263-1812  
cherriew@maamc.org

Christin Chism  
(202) 633-3159  
chismc@si.edu

**“FREEDOM'S SISTERS”**

**Extraordinary African American Women Celebrated In New Interactive Exhibit  
Opening at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum**

**BALTIMORE, MD. October 14, 2010** — It would be difficult to imagine the course of American history without them: Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad; Rosa Parks and her brave refusal in 1955 to relinquish her seat on a Montgomery city bus; Fannie Lou Hamer and her courageous stand at a 1968 political convention. These stories of courage and commitment are among the many featured in *Freedom's Sisters*, a collaboration between Ford Motor Company Fund, the Cincinnati Museum Center, and the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). The interactive exhibit showcases twenty extraordinary African American women, inviting visitors to bear witness to some of the most important moments in our nation's history. The exhibition will open to the public at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture on Saturday, October 23, 2010.

"The women honored in *Freedom's Sisters* are an inspiration to people of all ages and backgrounds," said Jim Vella, president, Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services. "Ford is proud to fund this national exhibition celebrating women who have truly changed our country and our world."

Activities in support of the exhibition will begin **Friday, October 22, 2010**. A press conference featuring *Freedom's Sisters* honorees will be held in the afternoon prior to a private reception for the *Freedom's Sisters* local Committee of Honor and other dignitaries that evening. Honored guests will include *Freedom's Sisters* Sonia Sanchez and *Entertainment Tonight's* Kevin Frazier who will emcee the evening event.

A variety of engaging educational and community outreach programs are planned during the exhibition's run. In conjunction with the 20 national *Freedom's Sisters*, the museum honors 20 local *Freedom's Sisters* in the exhibition. These women exemplified locally the same courage and commitment in the Baltimore community. In addition, an essay contest is open to students in 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade who visit the exhibit and answer the question: "Who is your favorite Freedom Sister and why? What are you doing to continue her legacy?" Ford Motor Company will award \$10,000 in U.S. savings bonds to winning entries. The contest deadline is November 22, 2010.

A prestigious National Committee of Honor has embraced the exhibition. Members of the *Freedom's Sisters* Committee of Honor include Quincy Jones, Dr. Johnetta Cole, General Colin Powell, Patti LaBelle, Marc Morial and a wide range of national dignitaries, reflecting the exhibition's broad appeal.

"These 20 women left not a footnote but a footprint on American history," said SITES Director Anna R. Cohn. "Many of their stories may not be well known, but their roles and contributions were monumental in shaping our country and its conscience."

Organized around four themes – "Dare to Dream," "Inspire Lives" "Serve the Public" and "Look to the Future," *Freedom's Sisters* is designed especially as an educational tool targeting students. Historical simulations and interactive displays are being set up to drive home messages and meanings central to each woman's life.

"Freedom's Sisters tells the extremely important story of key women in the Civil Rights Movement who have not had their achievements brought to light," says Dr. David Taft Terry, executive director of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum. "We are extremely honored to host this powerful and educational exhibition."

*Freedom's Sisters* was created by Cincinnati Museum Center and organized for travel by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. The national tour is made possible by Ford Motor Company Fund. The exhibition will remain at The Reginald F. Lewis Museum through January 17, 2011.

For more information on the *Freedom's Sisters* exhibition, visit <http://www.africanamericanculture.org/>, or call 443-263-1800.

***Freedom's Sisters***

Ella J. Baker	Barbara Jordan
Constance Baker Motley	Mary McLeod Bethune
Shirley Chisholm	Rosa Parks
Mary Church Terrell	Sonia Sanchez
Septima Poinsette Clark	Coretta Scott King
Kathleen Cleaver	Betty Shabazz
Myrlie Evers-Williams	Harriet Tubman
Fannie Lou Hamer	C. Delores Tucker
Dorothy Height	Frances Ellen Watkins Harper
Charlayne Hunter-Gault	Ida B. Wells

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***ABOUT FORD***

*Ford Motor Company, a global automotive industry leader based in Dearborn, Mich., manufactures or distributes automobiles across six continents. With about 159,000 employees and about 70 plants worldwide, the company's automotive brands include Ford, Lincoln and Mercury, production of which has been announced by the company to be ending in the fourth quarter of 2010. The company provides financial services through Ford Motor Credit Company. For more information regarding Ford's products, please visit [www.ford.com](http://www.ford.com).*

***ABOUT FORD MOTOR COMPANY FUND AND COMMUNITY SERVICES***

*Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services works to build communities through partnerships that support education, driving safety, and community life including cultural diversity and American heritage. Celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2009, Ford Motor Company Fund is made possible by funding from Ford Motor Company. National programs include Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies, which provides high school students with academically rigorous 21st century learning experiences, and Driving Skills for Life, a teen-focused auto safety initiative. The Ford Volunteer Corps, established in 2005, continues Ford's legacy of caring worldwide. Through the Volunteer Corps, Ford employees and retirees participate in a wide range of volunteer projects in their communities. For more information on programs made possible by Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services, visit [www.community.ford.com](http://www.community.ford.com).*

***ABOUT CINCINNATI MUSEUM CENTER***

*Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal is home to the Cincinnati History Museum, Duke Energy Children's Museum, the Museum of Natural History & Science, the Robert D. Lindner Family OMNIMAX® Theater, and the Cincinnati Historical Society Library. It is a nationally recognized educational and research resource and one of the top cultural attractions in the Midwest. Cincinnati Museum Center serves more than one million visitors annually, reaching out to almost 200,000 young people through hands-on exhibits and programs. As a center for the community, more than 700 events are held in the building each year. Originally built in 1933 as the Union Terminal train station, the building is a national historic landmark and was renovated and reopened as Cincinnati Museum Center in 1990. For*

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more information, call (513) 287-7000 or 1-800-733-2077 or visit [www.cincymuseum.org](http://www.cincymuseum.org).

**ABOUT SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION TRAVELING EXHIBITION SERVICE (SITES)**

*SITES has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, D.C., for more than 50 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science and history, which are shown wherever people live, work and play. For more information, including exhibition descriptions and tour schedules, visit [www.sites.si.edu](http://www.sites.si.edu).*

**ABOUT REGINALD F. LEWIS MUSEUM**

*Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture is Baltimore's premier facility highlighting the history and accomplishments of African Americans with a special focus on Maryland's African American community. A Smithsonian affiliate, the museum is the East Coast's largest African American museum occupying an 82,000 square-foot facility with ample permanent and special exhibition space, interactive learning environments, auditorium, resource center, oral history recording studio, museum shop, café, classrooms, meeting rooms, outside terrace and reception areas. The museum is located near Baltimore's Inner Harbor at the corner of Pratt and President Streets. The museum is also accessible on Baltimore's Charm City Circulator Orange and Green Routes. For more information, please call 443-263-1800 or visit the museum's website at [www.AfricanAmericanCulture.org](http://www.AfricanAmericanCulture.org).*