

The **National Building Museum**, in partnership with the **P.A.I.N.T.S. Institute** and the **DowntownDC Business Improvement District**, presents

MURALS THAT MATTER

Activism Through Public Art

Coinciding with the 2020 March on Washington events, the National Building Museum will open ***Murals That Matter: Activism Through Public Art*** on Friday, August 28, 2020, at 9:00 am. The exhibition, installed outdoors on the Museum's west lawn (5th Street NW, between F and G streets), comprises both existing and newly created artwork that will be on display through late November.

Gallery Place Murals: In June 2020, amid an unprecedented global pandemic, protesters took to the streets of Washington, D.C., in response to the murder of George Floyd—and Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, and so many others. To capture the historic moment, the DowntownDC Business Improvement District worked with the P.A.I.N.T.S. Institute to commission dozens of murals for boarded-up storefronts. The public experience of these plywood barriers, now reframed through vibrant art, shifted from “stay away” to “come look.” The Gallery Place neighborhood was transformed with artworks that expressed love, unity, and hope; that spoke to racial injustice and societal inequities; and that proclaimed support for the Black Lives Matter movement. *Murals That Matter* displays 18 of those murals.

The Big Six: In a celebration of the life and legacy of the late Rep. John Lewis, a towering figure of the Civil Rights movement, six artists will create murals commemorating the members of the “Big Six” who organized the original March on Washington in 1963: John Lewis, Whitney Young Jr., A. Philip Randolph, Martin Luther King Jr., James Farmer Jr., and Roy Wilkins. These murals, painted live on August 28 and 29, will be added to the exhibition upon completion.

We invite you to join us on **Friday, August 28**, and **Saturday, August 29**, from **9:00 am to 6:00 pm**, for two days of reflection, activism, and enjoyment for everyone. See the murals and meet their creators; watch artists at work; register to vote or volunteer at a polling place; partake in family-friendly art activities; and enjoy “Good Trouble”—themed cuisine from local vendors.

IMPORTANT SAFETY MESSAGE

We ask that all attendees comply with both D.C. Government and CDC guidelines regarding masks and social distancing. Thank you for your cooperation.

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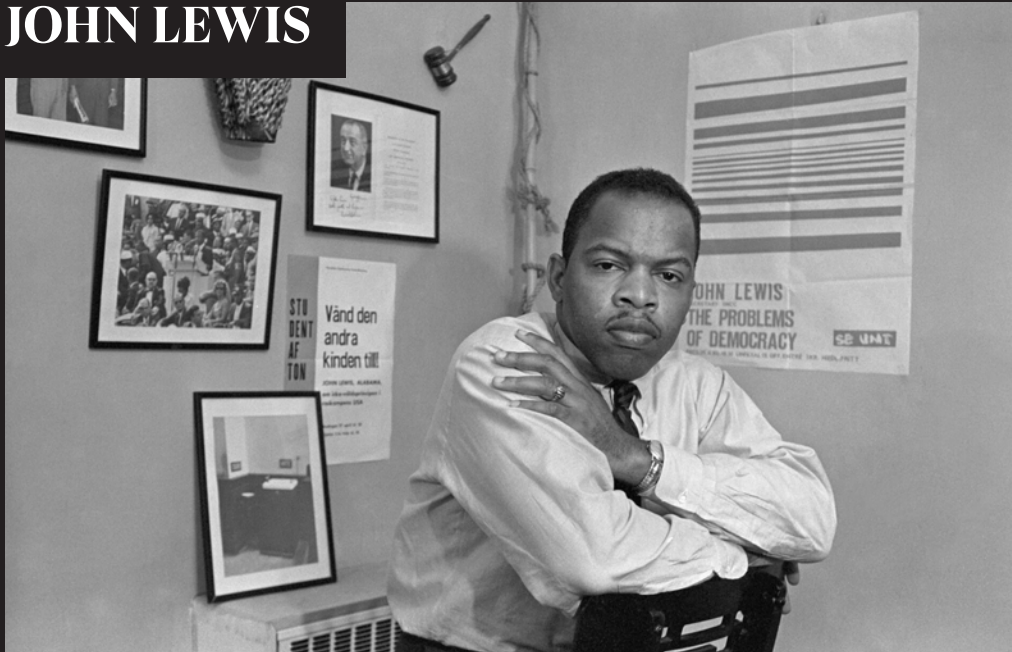

**NATIONAL
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THE BIG SIX

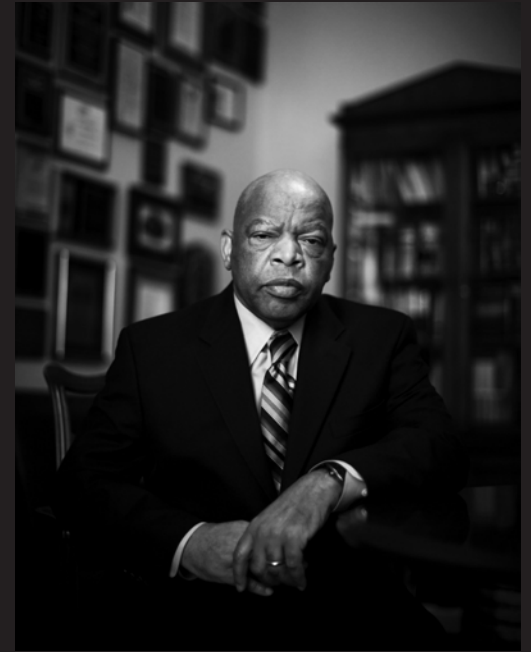


"The Big Six," who were instrumental in the organization of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963 (the year this photo was taken). Left to right: **John Lewis**, Chairman, Student Non-Violence Coordinating Committee; **Whitney Young**, National Director, Urban League; **A. Philip Randolph**, President, Negro American Labor Council; **Martin Luther King Jr.**, President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference; **James Farmer**, Director, Congress of Racial Equality; **Roy Wilkins**, Executive Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Credit: Harry Harris/AP.

JOHN LEWIS



Lewis in 1967. Credit: Sam Falk/The New York Times.



Lewis in 2009. Credit: Jeff Hutchens/Getty Images.

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