Call for Papers

The Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University will present the 8th Annual Creative Arts Festival: The Legacy of Freedom Summer on April 11 and 12, 2014. This year’s festival will feature student performances, panel presentations, and art displays as well as a keynote address from 2013 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee Chuck D of Public Enemy.

The Margaret Walker Center invites proposals for papers, presentations, and panels for the Creative Arts Festival by Friday, March 14, 2014. While the theme of the conference is the “Legacy of Freedom Summer” and the events surrounding the 1964 Summer Project, the organizers welcome proposals from high school, undergraduate, and graduate students on any topic. Proposals should be 250-500 words for submissions in one of four fields:

1. Poetry/Spoken Word (5 to 7 minute presentations in original storytelling and poetry)
2. Visual Arts (up to 3 pieces of artwork in any media with 5 to 7 minute presentations)
3. Written (8 to 10 page essays with 15 to 20 minute presentations)
4. Performing Arts (5 to 7 minute dance, musical, and theatrical presentations)

In the case of panel proposals, please submit the participants, the moderator, a brief synopsis of the panel’s topic, and paper proposals.

To submit a proposal, please send a document in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF to mwa@jsums.edu.

For more information, contact the Margaret Walker Center (mwa@jsums.edu or 601-979-2055) or the Conference Coordinators, Dr. Robert Luckett (robert.luckett@jsums.edu) and Dr. Helen Crump (helen.j.crump@jsums.edu).

Note that submissions in the written and poetry categories will be considered for publication and the best essay by a JSU student on the “black experience in the American South” will receive the $1,000 Margaret Walker Alexander Annual Award. JSU students who would like to be considered for this Award must submit their 8- to 10-page essays by Friday, April 4, 2014.

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