“I will always remember the sound of footsteps as Jackson police and Mississippi Highway Patrol officers marched toward Alexander Hall dressed in their riot gear.”
– Gailya Porter, one of the students who witnessed the shooting in 1970 on the Jackson State College campus.

ALEXANDER HALL (GIBBS-GREEN PLAZA)

Gibbs-Green Plaza was once Lynch Street that ran directly past Jackson State College to downtown Jackson. On May 14, 1970, during student unrest regarding the Vietnam War and the earlier murder of four Kent State University students by the Ohio National Guard, two students were killed in the crossfire by city and state police officers on the Jackson State College campus; Phillip Lafayette Gibbs, a JSU student; and James Earl Green, a student at Jim Hill High School. Twelve other students were injured. Lynch Street was blocked off after the shooting and a plaza was built and named in honor of the slain students. During the tour, visitors will be shown the Mississippi Freedom Mile Marker at Alexander Hall West as part of the Mississippi Freedom Trail.
Jackson State University Heritage Tours

Jackson State University offers tours of its facilities that provide educational programs on the history of civil rights, social justice, democracy and citizenship in the West Jackson community. The tours are led by staff, students or volunteers and coordinated by the JSU Welcome Center. A specialist will be on location to provide an in-depth overview of each site.

Schedule:
Monday-Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Tour Sites:
• Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) Civil Rights Education Center
• Fannie Lou Hamer National Institute on Citizenship and Democracy
• Margaret Walker Center for the Study of the African American Experience
• Gibbs-Green Plaza
• Rose E. McCoy Auditorium

“If we can awaken the minds of the masses in Mississippi, we can have the greatest movement ever.”
– Dave Dennis, COFO Assistant Program Director (1962-1964)

Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) Civil Rights Education Center
The Council of Federated Organizations was founded in May 1961 by local and state civil rights leaders to create solidarity among all civil rights organizations in Mississippi during the 1960s. In 1963, COFO made 1017 John R. Lynch Street its home where the office served as the state headquarters for the Mississippi movement. The COFO building was considered the “nerve center” of the Mississippi freedom struggle and continues to stand as a testament to the state’s civil rights history. COFO Center tours engage visitors through interactive learning and meaningful dialogue with civil rights veterans. To contact the Council of Federated Organizations directly, call (601) 979-4348, or e-mail: COFO.Center@jsums.edu. (Admission - Adults: $3.00; 17 and under: FREE; seniors (60+): $1.00; JSU students, faculty and staff: FREE.

“Righteousness exalts a nation; hate just makes people miserable.”
– Fannie Lou Hamer

Fannie Lou Hamer National Institute on Citizenship and Democracy
Founded in 1997, the Fannie Lou Hamer National Institute on Citizenship and Democracy advocates civic engagement and popular sovereignty through the study of the struggle for civil rights in the United States. The institute works with local school boards and colleges, national funding organizations, state agencies, and local civil rights organizations to encourage local communities to embrace political engagement and agency. One goal of the Hamer Institute is to introduce diverse populations to the profound impact of movements for civil rights, social justice and citizenship. The Fannie Lou Hamer Institute also provides tours of historic landmarks in other areas, including Jackson, the Mississippi Delta and historic regions of the state. These tours also extend into Memphis, TN.

Some of the stops in the City of Jackson include:
• Home of Medgar Evers and the Evers Statue
• Council of Federated Organizations (COFO Building)
• The Masonic Temple
• The Farish Street District
• The Greyhound Bus Station

Are you interested in the riding tour? Contact the Fannie Lou Hamer Institute directly at (601) 979-1562, or e-mail your request to hamer.Institute@jsums.edu.

“The poetry of a people comes from the deep recesses of the unconscious; the irrational and the collective body of our ancestral memories.”
– Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander

Margaret Walker Center: Archive and Museum of the African-American Experience
Located in historic Ayer Hall—the oldest building on the Jackson State campus—the Margaret Walker Center is both an archive and museum dedicated to the preservation, interpretation, and dissemination of African-American history and culture. Founded by Margaret Walker in 1968, the Center seeks to honor her artistic and academic legacy by expanding and promoting its manuscript holdings and oral history collections, interpreting African-American history and culture through its museum and exhibits, coordinating public programs on campus and throughout the community, preserving historic structures central to the African-American