



Multicultural Center Grand Opening Freedom Festival

The Ohio State University
04.06.10

It's about Freedom!

If you were able to join us at our Freedom Festival as we celebrated our grand opening in the new Ohio Union, thank you for helping make the event an amazing experience!

At this special event, the Multicultural Center of The Ohio State University celebrated and commemorated ***Journeys of Freedom -- Historical and Contemporary.***

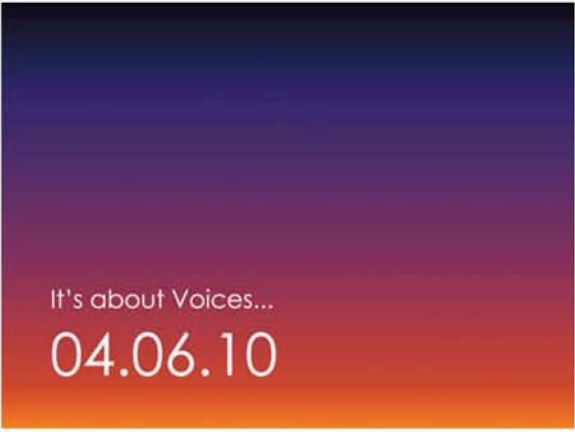
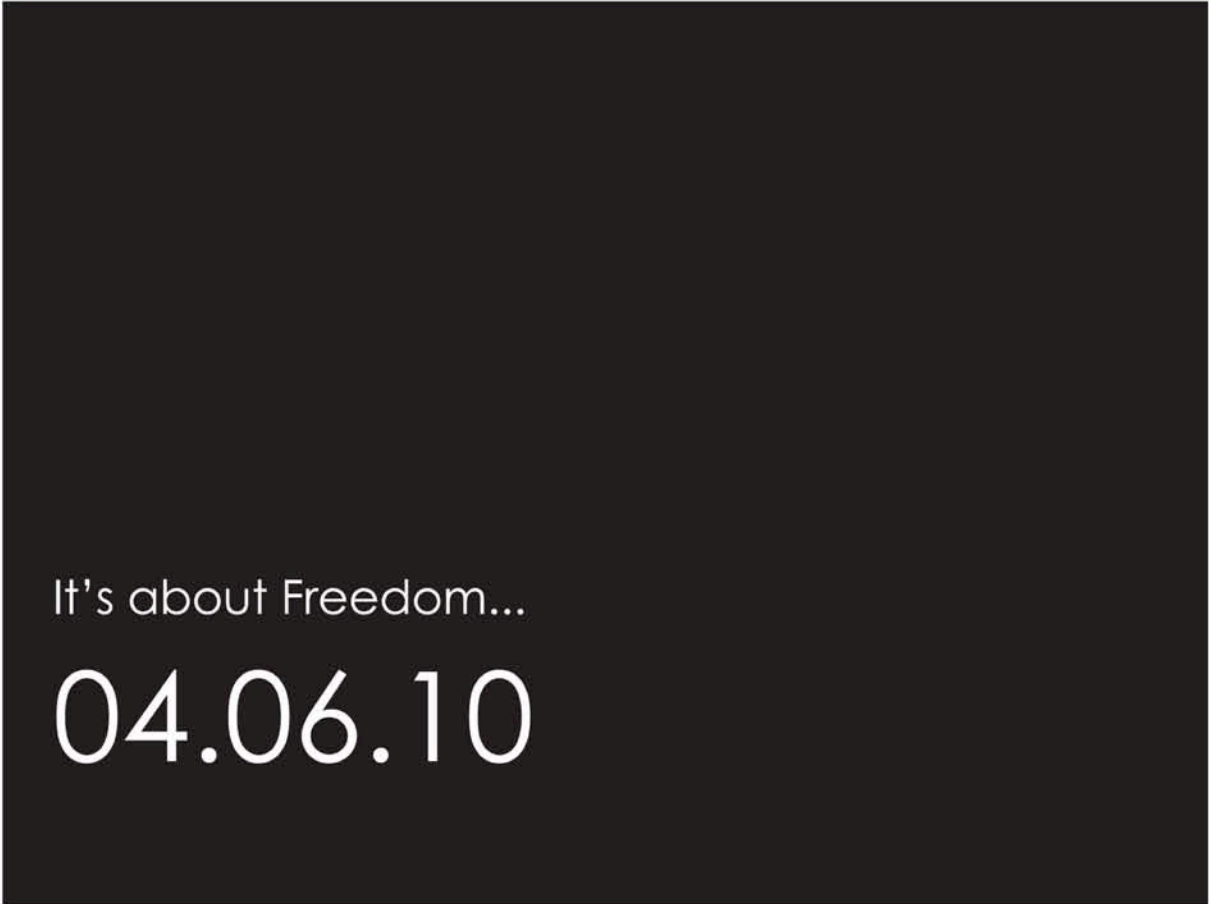
The goals were to raise awareness and build community around social justice, past, present and future.

The festival principles of **visibility, authenticity** and **justice** were created by a student steering committee who considered questions around: ***What does freedom mean to me?*** and ***How can we create an event to bring people together around these principles?***


With a highly diverse crowd of over 3000 people attending the first year of this event, clearly *Journeys of Freedom* is a theme that unites people across differences.

Beyond this festival, the Ohio Union lantern tower and the location of the Multicultural Center on the first floor of the tower are a call to all Ohio State students of all identities and cultures to reflect on and share their stories of freedom and to take an active role in journeys of freedom and social justice, for themselves, for their friends and for others in the world who do not enjoy full freedoms.

As this book takes you through the journey of our inaugural Freedom Festival, we hope it inspires you to come visit us often in our center and take part in Multicultural Center activities. ~ The MCC



Multicultural Center Grand Opening



Multicultural CENTER

**AUTHENTICITY
VISIBILITY
JUSTICE**

AUTHENTICITY
VISIBILITY
JUSTICE

AUTHENTICITY
VISIBILITY
JUSTICE

Journeys of Freedom

Multicultural Center
MCC.OSU.EDU

THE MULTICULTURAL CENTER PROUDLY PRESENTS...

Freedom Festival

Multicultural CENTER



MAP LEGEND

- LANTERN TOWER LIGHTING & DEDICATION CEREMONY
- BALLOON ARTISTS
- BALLOON LANTERN CENTER PRIZE & FOOD COURT AREA
- PHOTO BOOTH
- HENNA ARTISTS
- LANTERN ART EXHIBIT & COMMUNITY LANTERN MAKING PROJECT
- STATER TOURS OF UNDERGROUND RAILROAD MARKERS

WEST COURTYARD

OSU STEEL PAN ENSEMBLE

PERFORMANCE HALL
Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon
CELEBRATED BY OSU

"SAINTS DRUMLINE"
SOUTH COURTYARD

GREAT HALL

STAGE
STUDENT PERFORMANCES

GREAT HALL MEETING ROOM
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

MULTICULTURAL CENTER

"INVISIBLE: SLAVERY TODAY"
FREEDOM CENTER EXHIBIT

LANERN ART EXHIBIT & COMMUNITY LANTERN MAKING PROJECT

HIGH STREET

THE SPEAKERS

OHIO STATE Multicultural Center OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE MCC.OSU.EDU

OHIO STATE JSG

EVENT SCHEDULE

**4:30-6:30PM
FREEDOM FESTIVAL**
(WEST COURTYARD, GREAT HALL, GREAT HALL MEETING ROOM, MCC)

- STUDENT PERFORMANCES
- ROVING BALLOON AND HENNA ARTISTS
- "INVISIBLE: SLAVERY TODAY" FREEDOM CENTER EXHIBIT
- LANERN ART EXHIBIT & COMMUNITY LANTERN MAKING PROJECT
- COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TABLES
- TOURS OF THE MULTICULTURAL CENTER
- STATER TOURS OF UNDERGROUND RAILROAD MARKERS
- FOOD TABLES, PHOTO BOOTH AND GIVEAWAYS

**6:30-7PM
DOORS OPEN TO PERFORMANCE HALL**
DRUMMING PROCESSIONAL TO PERFORMANCE HALL

**7-8PM
DR. BERNICE JOHNSON REAGON**
SONGTALKER & FREEDOM ACTIVIST (PERFORMANCE HALL)

**8-8:30PM
DRUMMING PROCESSIONAL TO LANTERN STAGE**
(SOUTH COURTYARD)

**8:30-9PM
LANTERN TOWER LIGHTING & DEDICATION CEREMONY**
(SOUTH COURTYARD) RAIN LOCATION: GREAT HALL

MC: 10TV ANCHOR JERRY REVISH

SPECIAL GUESTS:
PRESIDENT E. GORDON GEE
DR. JAVAUINE ADAMS-GASTON

It's about Freedom... 04.06.10





Over fifty volunteers included InterGroup Council, Undergraduate Student Government and Greek organization students.



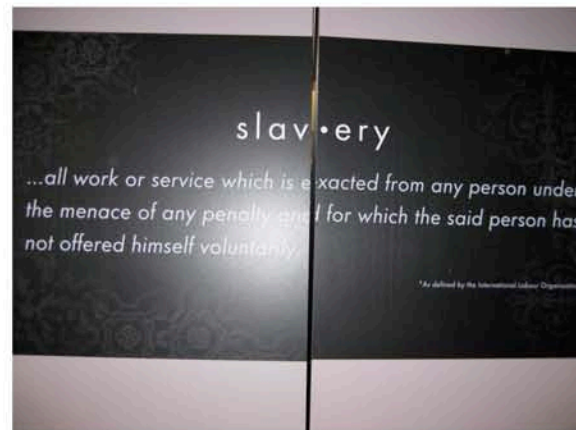


Ken Archer led the OSU Steel Pan Ensemble in creating a buzz outside of the union to help draw the crowd into the fun. 7





Students loved the photo booth and the Ohio Union-sponsored henna artist and balloon guy.



The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center donated their "Invisible: Slavery Today" exhibit which educates about modern day slavery and human trafficking.



Over 300 Freedom Lanterns were created. People wrote and drew their ideas about freedom onto paper and wrapped them around battery-operated tea lights. They stayed on display at the MCC during the grand opening month.

Freedom Means...

100+ Ohio State community members shared their thoughts. Below is a sampling. See the rest on the Freedom\Freedom Means... page on our website.

Sydney S., Freshman -- *Freedom from my perspective is self, the ability to be oneself, to carry your heritage, seek new grounds of knowledge, to be proud. Freedom for me is what allowed my Black mother to proudly marry my white Irish father. Freedom is me.*

Neal H., Staff - *Freedom means being who you are with integrity and without apology.*

Jamie G., 2nd year - *The ability to live my life without fear, persecution, and the chance to have equal opportunity to improve my life.*

Joe, 5th year student - *The ability/opportunity/capability to live your life the way you would like.*

Greg H., Graduate Student --*Ability to pursue meaningful work, develop relationships, and have a voice in my community.*

Faith, Mansfield Campus Student-*The ability to make my own choices without boundaries.*



Student Harmony Taylor created this pen & ink piece to show in the Lantern Art Exhibit in the MCC through the grand opening month. 13



**Multicultural
CENTER**

PERFORMANCES
GREAT HALL MEETING ROOM

4:30 - 6:30 PM

4:40PM: SAM SALDIVAR (POETRY)
 4:50PM: GENESIS DANCE TEAM (INDIAN DANCE)
 5:00PM: EPIKREW (GENERASIAN: SPOKEN WORD, RAP AND
 BEAT BOX)
 5:10PM: AFRICAN YOUTH LEAGUE (AFRICAN DANCE)
 5:20PM: AFRICAN AMERICAN VOICES GOSPEL CHOIR -
 DANCING TO ZION (LITURGICAL PRAISE DANCE)
 5:30PM: YOUNG MUSICIANS CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION
 (SONG)
 5:40PM: SPICMACAY, (SOUTH INDIAN DANCE)
 5:50PM: 5TH ELEMENT (SONG)
 6:00PM: PERFORMANCE PI DELTA PSI (TRADITIONAL
 CHINESE LION DANCE)
 6:10PM: AFRICAN AMERICAN VOICES GOSPEL CHOIR -
 EXPRESSIONS OF WORSHIP (MIME)

Journeys



The festival was highlighted by several student performances. We hope to continue this tradition as a cornerstone of future Freedom Festivals.
















Multicultural
CENTER

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
FREEDOM CENTER

OHIO STATERS, INC.

GRACEHAVEN HOUSE

THE SALVATION ARMY

KELTON HOUSE MUSEUM AND GARDEN

*Journeys
of Freedom*

Multicultural
OFFICE OF STUDENT
MCC.OSU



The Mission

Kelton House
Museum & Garden

The Collection

Children learn about
local history at
Kelton House

Explore
the
Past

EXTRA.

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
COLUMBUS

The Underground Railroad

Community organizations supporting freedom came out to host activity tables.



Here are some shots of students and staff enjoying themselves at the festival.







Saints Drum Line drew the crowd into the Performance Hall.

Multicultural CENTER

DR. BERNICE JOHNSON REAGON

4:30-6:30pm - Tix at Will Call or Info Center

6:30pm - Performance Hall doors open
- Saints Drumline drum call

7pm - Dr. BJR Performance

8-8:30pm - Saints Drumline drumming processional to Lantern ceremony

Journeys of Freedom

Co-sponsored by Ohio State
USG
Undergraduate Student Government

OHIO STATE Multicultural Center
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Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, songtalker and civil rights activist. 27





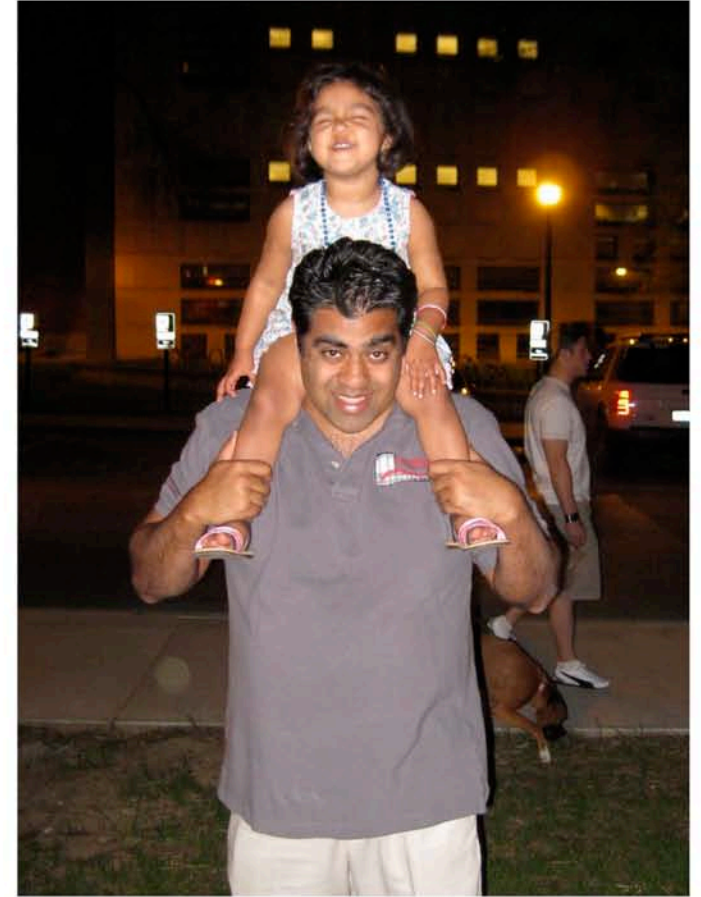
and Dr. Valerie Lee, Interim Vice Provost, Office of Minority Affairs, all took part in the hour with Dr. Johnson Reagon.



Freedom Lanterns led the drumming procession to the Lantern Lighting Dedication Ceremony.



Everyone got a candle to take part in the lighting ceremony. Afterwards, Buckeye Inc. gave away Unity and Friendship tees.



Community members gathered outside the Ohio Union lantern tower for the ceremony.



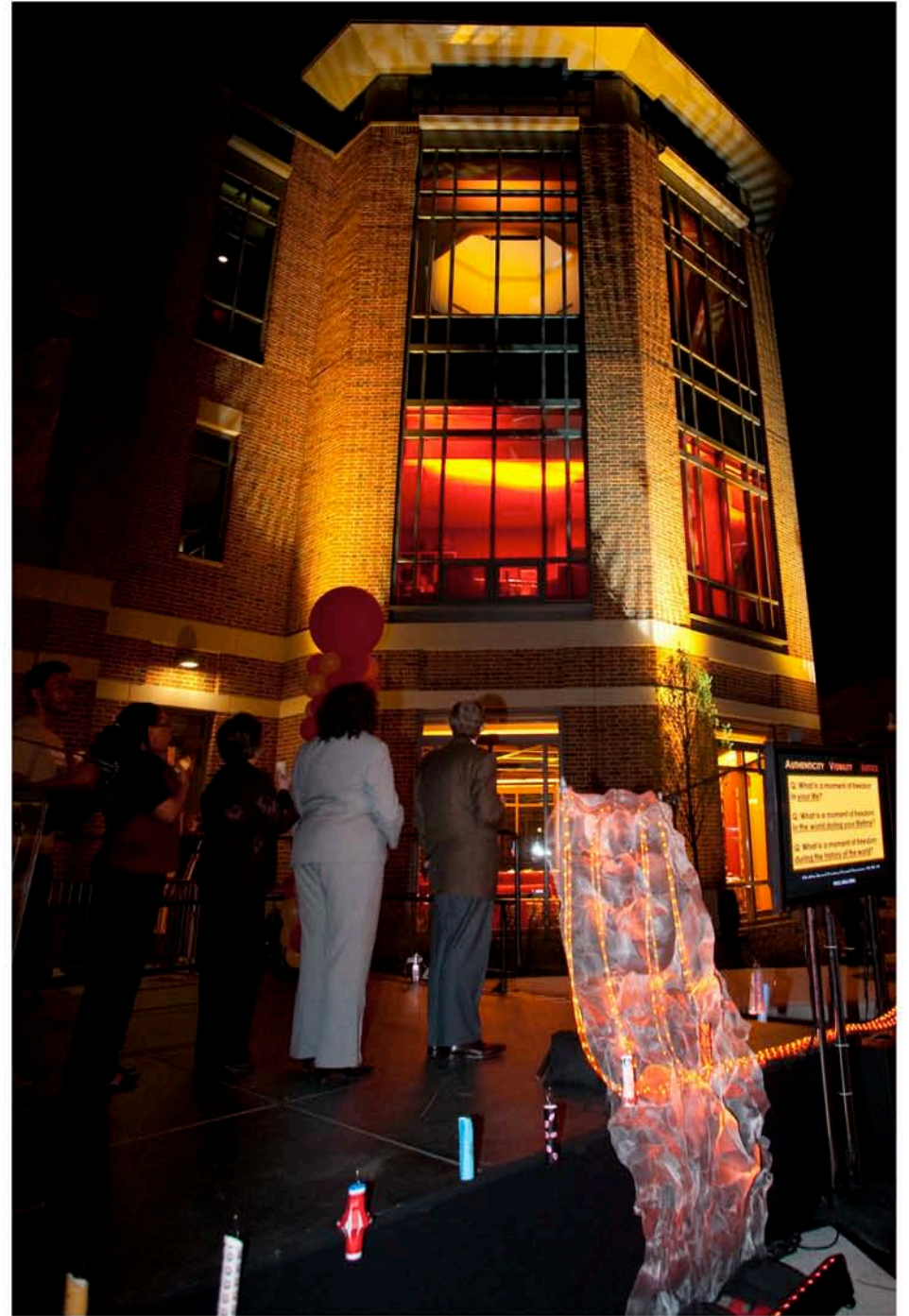
10TV Anchor Jerry Revish emceed the evening. Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston, Vice President for Student Life, shared her thoughts on freedom and the importance of the Multicultural Center to The Ohio State University's diversity mission.



The ROTC Color Guard, Liz Pages, graduate student, Adrienne McLean, Chair of the Student Festival Planning Council, Justin McGee, President of Buckeye Inc.,



Rebecca Nelson, Director of the Multicultural Center, Assistant Vice President for Student Life, and University President E. Gordon Gee all took part in the dedication ceremony.





ROTC retired the Colors, and the OSU Men's Glee Club led the crowd in the school song, *Carmen Ohio*. 37



The primary purpose of the Freedom Festival is to critically explore our individual and collective journeys, introduce ourselves to new ideas and concepts, connect communities of change together and welcome everyone to participate in finding their path.

- excerpt from the Principles of the Freedom Festival



The Ohio Union lantern tower stands as a call to all members of the Ohio State community to come together in support of social justice.



Multicultural Center

OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE



AUTHENTICITY VISIBILITY JUSTICE

Q: What is a moment of freedom
in your life?

Q: What is a moment of freedom
in the world during your lifetime?

Q: What is a moment of freedom
during the history of the world?

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What's Your Story?

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