

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Scottsboro Boys and CEOTA Collections to be Exhibited at Gala

Decatur, AL (November 1, 2019) – On November 14, 2019, the CEOTA (Celebrating Early Old Town with Art) Board will be announcing the Scottsboro Boys-CEOTA Museum at the group's 5th Anniversary Gala at the Ingalls Pavilion in Decatur, AL. Also, the board has arranged for the Scottsboro Boys and CEOTA Collections to be exhibited.

The Scottsboro Boys Collection is a selection of photographs from the Scottsboro Boys Photograph Collection at the Morgan County Archives. These images were taken by photographer Fred Hiroshige at the 1933 trial of Haywood Patterson in Decatur, Alabama. Hiroshige was one of six photographers allowed in the courtroom and his work illustrates the tense atmosphere surrounding the trial. This collection of 127 negatives was acquired by the Morgan County Commission in 1998 from the estate of Mr. Hiroshige. They have been used in numerous films and publications and since 2013 they have been part of a traveling exhibit created by the Archives entitled *Scottsboro Boys: Outside the Protective Circle of Humanity*.

The CEOTA Collection is a splendid Heritage Collection features exceptional renderings of yesterday's historic places and spotlights Decatur, Alabama's Old Town and other landmarks in the community. Each colorful water painting is representative of the artist's unique signature, utilizing the area's most valuable resource, the Tennessee River to create her "Tennessee River Water Collection," symbolic of the flow and unity of the community. Warm earth tones, opulent blues, bright colors and vivid textures add rich elements to each painting.

The guest speaker for the gala will be Thom Gossom, Jr., an internationally known actor, speaker, author, and communication consultant.

You've seen him in top grossing television series such as In **The Heat of the Night**, **NYPD Blue**, and **CSI**. Recent appearances include the **Oprah Winfrey Network's**, **Love Is...**, and **BET's**, **The Quad**. He has written **Walk-On My Reluctant Journey to Integration at Auburn University**, and **The Slice of Life** short story collection. The documentary, **Quiet Courage: The James Curtis Owens Story**, is also written, directed and produced by him. He has shattered barriers during his lifetime and guest will be encouraged and enriched by his exciting speech. (Speaker's bio and photo attached)

The invitation only event starts with a reception from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm followed by dinner and the presentation.

CEOTA Advisory Board

Frances D. Tate- Artist and Founder

John Allison – County Archivist, Morgan County, Alabama, since 2006.

Peggy Allen Towns –Local historian, lecturer and published author.

Dorothy B. Gordon – Well-known community activist.

David Breland - Director of Historic Resources and Events for the City of Decatur and Director of the Old State Bank since January 2013.

Danielle Gibson - President/CEO of the Decatur Morgan County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Wylheme H. Ragland - retired United Methodist Clergy, benefactor, free-lance writer, and historian.

Gerald G. Ginwright- Founder and Managing Member of Mainstream Financial Group.