



## PRESS RELEASE

*For Release Monday, April 27, 2009*

**Contact:** Angela Fisher Hall, Vice President of Publications and Special Projects  
**Phone:** (205) 328-9696 Ext. 211  
**Fax:** (205) 251-6104  
**E-Mail:** [ahall@bcri.org](mailto:ahall@bcri.org)

### **BCRI's Coleman Completes Smithsonian Training Program**

*Birmingham, Alabama*—Wayne Coleman, Head of Archives at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI), has completed a prestigious visiting professional program with the Smithsonian Institution. Smithsonian Affiliations, a national outreach unit of the Smithsonian Institution that shares Smithsonian collections and expertise with a network of more than 160 museums and cultural organizations across the country, named Coleman as one of two recipients of its prestigious visiting professional program awards. BCRI was named a Smithsonian Affiliate in 2007.

In his capacity as Head of Archives, Coleman formulates and implements division policies and procedures and makes all processed archival materials available to the public. A native of New Orleans, Louisiana, Coleman was previously employed by the Amistad Research Center, an African-American archives located on the campus of Tulane University. Coleman received a B.A. in Communications from Loyola University. His tenure at BCRI began in December 1995. Coleman began a four-week professional residency in the exhibition development departments at the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service, National Postal Museum, National Museum of African American History and Culture and Smithsonian Office of Exhibits Central March 3, 2009.

Founded in 2002, the Smithsonian Affiliations Visiting Professional Program provides staff members at Affiliate organizations with the opportunity to gain additional training and hands-on, specialized experience in any aspect of museum work. The program is open to staff members at Smithsonian Affiliate organizations, especially entry-level and mid-level museum professionals who are seeking more experience. Through a competitive application process, visiting professionals are selected to come to the Smithsonian to work with Smithsonian staff in subject areas or on projects that complement the Affiliate's endeavors and the applicant's professional goals.

Visiting professionals are typically in residence full-time (40 hours per week) at the Smithsonian for two to six weeks. At the end of the residency, visiting professionals return to their home institutions, where they put their new knowledge into practical use.

For a complete list of Smithsonian Affiliates, visit the Smithsonian Affiliations Web site at <http://affiliations.si.edu>. If you want additional information about the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, go to [www.bcri.org](http://www.bcri.org).

###