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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Happy Birthday BCRI

The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute Celebrates 29 Years of Distinction

BIRMINGHAM, AL (November 10, 2021) – 29 years ago, The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute was founded with a charge of preserving and promoting the legacy of the 1963 Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham. In commemoration, BCRI invites the community to gather for a reception of celebration and reflection. **The affair taking place on Saturday, November 20th from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. will be free and open to the public with historic gallery tours, birthday cake, musical entertainment, food trucks, and more!**

Mayor Richard Arrington, Jr., Birmingham's first Black Mayor, secured funding from the Historic Preservation Authority to open The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute 1992. At its founding, it was determined that BCRI would not be a museum, but a living Institute to continue dialogue, training, and advocacy for civil and human rights. Our BCRI Board of Directors and staff are deeply committed to ensuring that the Institute thrives. We take the historical responsibility that has been entrusted in our care as a sacred duty to safeguard this history for subsequent generations.

BCRI is in the heart of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument created by President Barack Obama in 2017. We're excited to celebrate the monumental 30th anniversary of this sacred place - a must-see destination for those on a pilgrimage to retrace the history of The Civil Rights Movement. Built upon ground where peaceful protesters marched to demand civil rights, The Institute has served as the preeminent organization cataloguing and exhibiting the stories of The Movement. The interactive galleries at BCRI chronicle the struggle for civil rights and gives guests a deeper understanding of the pursuit of justice. Visitors come from all over the world to walk in the footsteps of those who sacrificed their lives for our rights.

A nonprofit institution, BCRI depends on proceeds from admissions and gift store sales as well as support from the community and sponsors to fund its general operations. Members are the foundation of BCRI's community of support. Thanks to the beneficence of stakeholders, BCRI is poised to continue producing exciting new exhibitions and exceptional programming to meet its mission for preservation, inspiration, and education. Through its programming, BCRI provides a forum for dialogue and community engagement for all people. In this current national climate intensely grappling with issues on race and justice, the presence of The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute is needed now more than ever to provide leadership training, education and engagement on racial justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We're excited to approach a third decade of promoting understanding of today's pursuit of social and racial justice through the historical context of the 1963 Civil Rights movement and to serve as a gathering place for the community. We look forward to hosting our allies on November 20th for birthday festivities and hope to see a wealth of contributions to foster the growth and posterity of The Institute. Visit bcri.org for more information and follow The Institute on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter - @bhamcivilrights. **We'll see you on November 20th!**

About BCRI: The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute is a cultural and educational research center that promotes a comprehensive understanding for the significance of The Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham. For 30 years, we have enlightened each generation about civil and human rights. A part of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument and an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, we stand strong as the cornerstone of the civil rights story, a living memorial with an ongoing mission.