

Who we are

A group of people of different color, class and age who want to understand what it means today, to – as the 1964 Freedom School curriculum put it – be “active agents of social change.” We believe that fundamental change can happen when regular people act collectively.



Our Mission:

Through film, text, and eyewitness testimony, the Freedom School offers hope in a time of despair, and authenticity in an era of distortion and deception. We provide activists, educators, students and adults with an opportunity to analyze how social movements happen. This is done through studying the Civil Rights movement as a case study of how everyday people, not just famous leaders, contributed to ending segregation in the South. This allows participants in the Freedom School to renew their commitment to, rekindle their passion for, and find greater clarity in how to promote social justice in the Bay Area today.

Summer Freedom School

We were inspired by the Freedom Schools that were part of “Freedom Summer,” a project of the Southern Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi in 1964. We offer a Freedom School, on 6 Saturdays during the summer, from 10am to 4pm. Our Program:

Films:

We watch documentaries and docudramas to learn the historical context and understand the issues.

Guest Speakers:

Veterans of the Civil Rights Movement talk to us about their experience and what their participation in the Freedom Struggle meant to them. Or we hear others with experience on the topic of the day.

Potluck:

Sharing good food and good company....



Discussion and Activities:

What can we learn? How does it help us? What needs to be done, and what can we do? And how about starting...now?

Guiding Principles

- The school promotes social change.
- Studying Civil Rights history helps us understand how social movements happen, i.e., how individual action and historical forces combine to create change. Thus, we can get ready to be ready.
- Each one teach one: students leave the school inspired to educate others.
- Questions are to be open-ended.
- Problem-solving skills and dispositions are crucial.



Other Programs

The Summer Freedom School is our flagship program, but we organize and offer other programs, too:

- **Workshops for teachers: Thinking about civil rights and education**
- **Workshops or discussion groups in churches or community organizations**
- **Programs about the Civil Rights Movement**
- **Civil Rights Movement Feature Film Discussions: Who gets to write history**