In a year featuring a presidential election, perhaps the most important one of our lifetimes, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) is honored to team up with ASALH to host a panel on how the National Park Service and the African American museum community are preserving and interpreting the history of the ongoing struggle for voting rights. Our panelists will include Ajena Rogers, Supervisory Park Ranger at the Maggie Lena Walker National Historic Site in Richmond, Virginia, Vedet Coleman-Robinson, Executive Director of Association of African American Museums, and Josephine Bolling McCall, a native of Lowndes County, Alabama, and the author of The Penalty for Success: My Father was Lynched in Lowndes County, Alabama.

Each of our guests will address various aspects of the history of the struggle for voting rights – preservation efforts at the federal and state levels including the commemoration of the struggle for voter registration waged in 1965 in Lowndes County via a proposed new National Heritage Area, the influence and impact of African American women on the struggle for black voting rights, and how that history informs contemporary activists as the struggle with voter suppression continues. Alan Spears, NPCA’s Senior Director for Cultural Resources, will moderate the discussion.