This book roundtable panel will discuss V. P. Franklin’s 2021 book, "The Young Crusaders: The Untold Story of the Children and Teenagers who Galvanized the Civil Rights Movement."

Distinguished historian V. P. Franklin illustrates how the ingenuity of youth activists made civil rights campaigns across the country successful in bringing about the end to legalized racial discrimination. It was these unheralded young people who set the blueprint for today’s youth activists and their campaigns to address poverty, joblessness, educational inequality, and racialized violence and discrimination. Understanding the role of children and teenagers transforms how we understand the Civil Rights Movement and the broader part young people have played in shepherding social and educational progress, and it serves as a model for the youth-led “reparatory justice” campaigns seen today mounted by Black Lives Matter, March for Our Lives, and the Sunrise Movement.