

For Immediate Release: Contact Leona Tate at 504-681-7763, or ltate@lafcinc.org

The McDonogh Three Memorial

The Leona Tate Foundation for Change and the Plessy & Ferguson Foundation announce plans for a Memorial to commemorate the desegregation of New Orleans' public schools.

New Orleans, LA – The Leona Tate Foundation for Change and The Plessy & Ferguson Foundation are thrilled to announce plans for a long-overdue memorial at 5909 St. Claude Avenue commemorating the brave actions of The McDonogh Three.

On November 14, 1960, three little girls -- Leona Tate, Gail Etienne, and Tessie Prevost -- were the first African-Americans to enroll in McDonogh #19 Elementary School, a school that had been "whites only" ever since the Plessy v. Ferguson Supreme Court Decision of 1896. Each little girl had to be escorted to school daily by U.S. Marshals to protect them from angry mobs – such was the environment in which these girls and their families made an incredibly brave and difficult choice to carve out a new path for themselves, and for generations to follow.

The McDonogh Three Memorial is now in the planning stages, with a scheduled unveiling for November 14, 2012. The Foundations are working with Perez, a New Orleans based architectural, engineering, and construction firm, to develop a memorial site that will both honor the past and inspire future generations.

For more information, or to inquire about donations for this exciting project, contact Leona Tate at 504-681-7763, or ltate@lafcinc.org.

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