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BCRI Black History Month Program to Feature Marita Rivero, Chair of the Board of  
the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Executive Director, Museum of  
African American History, Boston & Nantucket

January 28, 2016, Birmingham, Alabama -- The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) welcomes Marita Rivero, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, as keynote speaker for its 2016 Black History Month program to be held on Thursday, February 18 at 6:00pm in the Woolfolk Gallery at BCRI. The program is free and open to the public.

In keeping with the 2016 Black History Month National Theme, *Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories*, Rivero, who was recently appointed Executive Director of the Museum of African American History (NTHP), Boston & Nantucket, will discuss how and why the National Trust for Historic Preservation and its state and local partners work to protect significant places representing our diverse cultural experience. Sites of memory include places of both local and national importance such as Birmingham's A. G. Gaston Motel. The Gaston Motel was named a National Treasure by the NTHP in 2015, when it was also named to the Trust's list of the nation's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places.

"We are honored to have Marita Rivero as our special guest," said BCRI President & CEO Andrea Taylor. "Rivero brings a wealth of personal and professional experience to the topic of preservation and African American history."

Rivero has had a distinguished career in public broadcasting, which began in 1970 at WGBH Boston, where she produced public affairs television programming. Her projects received numerous major production awards, including the Peabody and Emmy Awards for WGBH/PBS' *Africans in America, a History of Slavery*. As General Manager for Radio and Television, Rivero oversaw all of WGBH's radio and television activities, including programming, digital, marketing, and administration. In her new role, Rivero oversees

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some of the nation's most important National Historic Landmarks -- on Boston's Beacon Hill the first African Meeting House in the nation, and on the Island of Nantucket the Florence Higginbotham House, believed to be the oldest home built by a black family for their own occupancy, and the African Meeting House, the island's most vivid reminder of a thriving 19th-century African American community.

About the National Trust for Historic Preservation: The National Trust for Historic Preservation, chartered by Congress in 1949, is a private, nonprofit membership organization. It protects significant places representing our diverse cultural experience by taking direct action and inspiring broad public support. For more, visit [www.savingplaces.org](http://www.savingplaces.org).

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