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**“Black Dallas” Comes to Rural, Northeast Texas:  
A Humanities Texas Exhibit in Celebration of Black History Month**



*Melba Theater by R. C. Hickman, 1955. R. C. Hickman Photographic Archive (VN 85-43-000279a). The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin.*

[Commerce, Texas]—Beginning February 21, 2011, at the main lobby of the Commerce City Hall, the Converging Literacies Center (CLiC @ Texas A&M-Commerce) will present **“Behold the People: R. C. Hickman’s Photographs of Black Dallas, 1949–1961,”** an exhibition by the Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin, presented in partnership with Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Support for “Behold the People” was provided in part by a grant from Humanities Texas.

R. C. Hickman was a Dallas photographer whose thousands of images produced from 1949 to 1961 document aspects of life in an African American community in Texas. His photographs depict a community largely invisible to white Americans—thoroughly a part of mainstream America by virtue of accomplishment and lifestyle but excluded from it because of race.

Mr. Hickman worked as a commercial portrait photographer, a photojournalist for several black newspapers in Dallas, a freelance photographer for national black publications such as *Jet*, *Sepia* and *Ebony* and a photographer for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). His images reveal his awareness of a community within which individuals survive, grow and understand themselves.

The exhibition will be available to the public from (February 21, 2011) to (March 31, 2011).

According to project director Shannon Carter (Associate Professor of English, Texas A&M-Commerce), several additional Humanities Texas exhibitions will be on display in Commerce, including “Jasper, Texas: Healing of a Community in Crisis” (at Gee Library, Texas A&M-Commerce) and “Literary East Texas: An Exhibition Honoring 25 East Texas Writers” (Hall of Languages, Texas A&M-Commerce). The fourth exhibition, “Images of Valor: U.S. Latinos and Latinas of World War II,” will be on display at the Audie Murphy Cotton Museum in Greenville, Texas. All exhibitions will be free and open to the public from 2/21/2011 until 3/31/2011. Carter is Co-Director of CLiC.

For more information about viewing hours visit CLiC online at <http://convergingliteraciescenter.wordpress.com/>

Humanities Texas develops and supports diverse programs across the state, including lectures, oral history projects, teacher institutes, museum exhibitions and documentary films. For more information, please visit Humanities Texas online at <http://www.humanitiestexas.org> or call 512.440.1991.

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