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*New Art Mural Honoring the Late Fred Shuttlesworth  
Unveiled at Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport*

*Members of the Shuttlesworth Family Present for the Unveiling*

BIRMINGHAM, AL (May 23, 2024) – A new mural unveiled this afternoon at the Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport (BHM) pays tribute to the man who helped propel Birmingham into the national spotlight during the Civil Rights Movement. The image of Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, surrounded by colorful rays that extend out across the wall, is the centerpiece of the new art exhibit, called “Fred S.”

The artwork is a collaboration between Leadership Birmingham, the airport, and artist Rico Gatson, who has been in Birmingham for the past two weeks, creating the mural. “Everyone has worked incredibly hard to bring this mural to life here in the airport terminal,” said Ashby Pate, Secretary of the Birmingham Airport Authority Board and a member of the Leadership Birmingham class that chose this collaboration as their community project. “We wanted to create a lasting tribute to Reverend Shuttlesworth here because it is such a significant transient space—the mural’s placement in the terminal ensures that more than three million visitors to the airport each year will be able to draw inspiration from this incredible artistic interpretation of his legacy,” Pate said.

The airport was renamed after Shuttlesworth back in 2008 to forever pay tribute to his bold leadership during the Civil Rights Movement. In 1956, Rev. Shuttlesworth established the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights (ACMHR), which sparked a chain of events that included various acts of violence against him and his family. But it also served as a lightning rod for change. Shuttlesworth challenged segregation in Alabama at every turn, and in 1957, joined Martin Luther King and others, to form the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). His tireless and fearless work in desegregating public schools and securing public accommodations in Birmingham holds a solid place in the history books in our nation. “Rev. Shuttlesworth changed Birmingham forever—and when he did, he changed the world,” said Pate.

The new mural is located along Concourse B. It's nearly 13 feet high, 66 feet wide, and features primary colors that radiate from the man in the center. The mural first appeared as an exhibit at the Birmingham Museum of Art in August 2022 and was featured in an Emmy-nominated documentary, aptly called "Shuttlesworth," produced by Birmingham native and Leadership Birmingham graduate, T. Marie King, in partnership with co-producer J. Whitson and Alabama Public Television. "T. Marie King's vision was a huge inspiration for this project," said Pate. A link to the "Shuttlesworth" documentary is embedded in the mural's official plaque. "Our hope is that visitors will be inspired to download the documentary to learn more about Rev. Shuttlesworth's lasting impact and, in turn, make their visit to Birmingham richer and more exciting in the process."

Members of the Shuttlesworth family were present at the unveiling, including his daughters; Dr. Ruby Shuttlesworth Bester, Dr. Carolyn Shuttlesworth, and Patricia Shuttlesworth Massengill. His son, Fred Lee Shuttlesworth, Jr. was unable to attend. Rev. Shuttlesworth passed away in October, 2011 at the age of eighty-nine.

### **About Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport**

As Alabama's largest commercial airport, Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport has served as a gateway to the sky for more than 90 years. Governed by the Birmingham Airport Authority, the airport continues to be a catalyst for growth and economic development for the entire region. For more information, visit [flybhm.com](https://flybhm.com) or follow BHM on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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