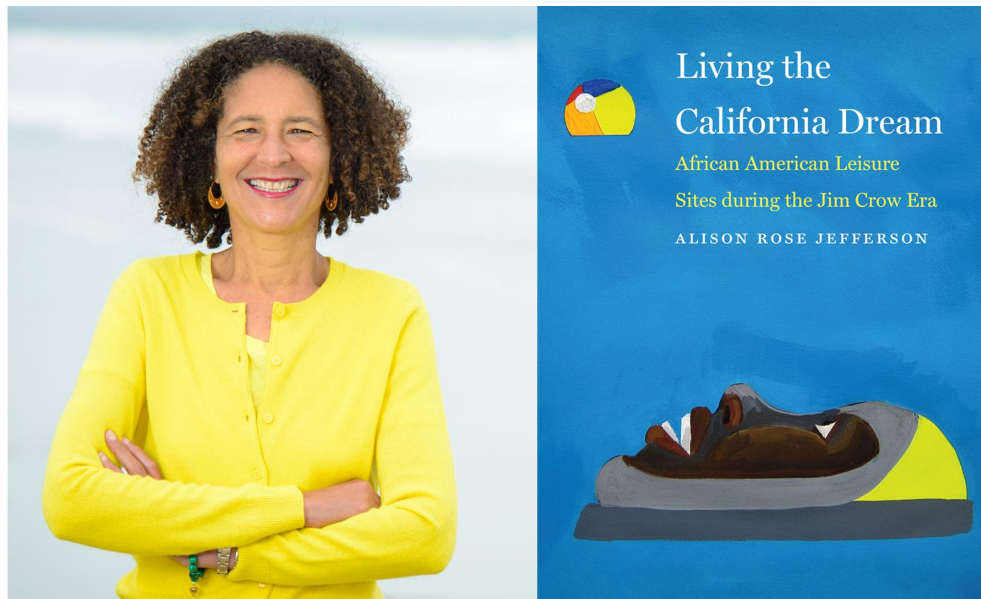


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Pepperdine Libraries and The Frederick R. Weisman Museum
of Art present**



**“Black Leaders of Leisure at California Beaches in the
Struggle for Freedom during the Jim Crow Era:
The Implications of their Stories for Our Lives Today”**

A Lecture by Alison Rose Jefferson

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

12:30 – 1:30 PM

Payson Library, Surfboard Room

Pepperdine Libraries and the Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art will present a lecture by independent historian Dr. Alison Rose Jefferson titled “Black Leaders of

Leisure at California Beaches in the Struggle for Freedom during the Jim Crow Era: The Implications of their Stories for Our Lives Today" on **Wednesday, March 16, 2022 from 12:30–1:30 PM** in the Surfboard Room of Payson Library. The lecture is free of charge and open to the general public; [advance registration](#) is required. Seating is limited.

Jefferson will discuss the overlooked stories in the “collective memory” of Southern California beach culture heritage in Santa Monica, Venice, and Manhattan Beach. She will highlight stories of African Americans who faced discrimination and their contestation responses during the Jim Crow era. She will also review the current innovative public programming forged in new partnerships with colleagues in ocean stewardship, the history industry, local government and ocean aquatics that are facilitating pathways to broader audiences connecting to these more diverse stories of our collective history and heritage.

In their leisure-making practices African Americans made history, before and after, racial restriction attempts on California’s public beaches were abandoned in 1927. Jefferson's research demonstrates how these local stories contribute to the national narrative of mass movement that illustrates how the struggle for leisure and public space also reshaped the freedom rights struggle.

Her presentation will feature some material from her recent book, [Living the California Dream: African American Leisure Sites during the Jim Crow Era](#) (University of Nebraska Press, 2020), which presents new directions in Black Western Studies and ways history public programming is being used to empower people with useful knowledge to be a force for civic engagement, justice, and equality, while facilitating individual and community pride.

The lecture will be available for real-time viewing via [livestream](#).

This event is presented in conjunction with the spring 2022 Weisman Museum exhibition *The Cultivators: Highlights from the Kinsey African American Art and History Collection*.

ABOUT DR. ALISON ROSE JEFFERSON

Dr. Alison Rose Jefferson is an independent historian, heritage conservation consultant and a third generation Californian. Jefferson is a 2021–22 Getty Conservation Institute Scholar in Residence where she is doing research on the historical African American experiences and public policies to conserve it in the California coastal zone district of Los Angeles’ Venice area. Her recently finished Applied History projects draw on her research of Southern California locales that feature historical significance as well as

contemporary consequence to elucidate the African American experience during the Jim Crow era for Santa Monica's Belmar History + Art project and the Angels Walk L.A. Central Avenue heritage trail. She was a 2021 Scholar in Residence with the Institute for the Study of Los Angeles at Occidental College where she in virtual campus and public programs shared her work of re-centering the African American experience in local history, heritage conservation efforts and the American identity.

Her recent book, *Living the California Dream: African American Leisure Sites during the Jim Crow Era* was honored with the 2020 Miriam Matthews Ethnic History Award by the Los Angeles City Historical Society for its exceptional contributions to the greater understanding and awareness of regional history.

Jefferson earned a PhD in History from University of California, Santa Barbara, a Master of Heritage Conservation from University of Southern California, and a bachelors of arts from Pomona College. Her work has garnered attention in KCET-LA programming, the *Los Angeles*, the *New York Times*, the *Guardian* and *Le Monde* newspapers, CBS TV's *60 Minutes*, and other media.

Learn more about Jefferson's work at: alisonrosejefferson.com.

ABOUT THE CULTIVATORS

The Cultivators: Highlights from the Kinsey African American Art and History Collection features masterful works of art, photographs, rare books, letters, and manuscripts that chronicle the achievements and contributions of African Americans over the last five centuries. Curated by Khalil Kinsey and Larry Earl, *The Cultivators* includes some of the collection's signature objects, which have traveled the globe to more than 30 venues over the last 15 years, along with works that have never before been shown publicly. Marking the first major hometown presentation of the Kinsey Collection since 2007, *The Cultivators* is currently on view at the Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art now through Sunday, March 27, 2022.

Representing the intersection between art and history, the exhibition covers the lives, accomplishments, and artistry of African Americans from the 16th century through the years of slavery and emancipation, to the Civil Rights Movement and up to the present day. Important objects include bills of sale, advertisements, letters, and legal papers documenting the slave trade; hand-colored tintypes from the Civil War era; art and literature from the Harlem Renaissance; and items spotlighting key moments in the Civil Rights Movement, which are linked in this presentation to the story of the 1963 student protests at Florida A&M University. Bernard and Shirley Kinsey began their journey together at Florida A&M before eventually settling in California, where they both earned

graduate degrees from Pepperdine University and raised a son, Khalil, who now serves as chief operating officer and chief curator of the Kinsey African American Art and History Collection and Foundation.

The Kinseys' art collection reflects their journey of self-discovery, respective upbringings, and shared experiences. Discovering new places and ideas through travel has shaped their vision of themselves as cultural caretakers of Black history and culture, charged with sharing it with the world. *The Cultivators* charts a history of African American art through more than 30 exemplary works by celebrated figures, including Ernie Barnes, John Biggers, Bisa Butler, Elizabeth Catlett, Robert S. Duncanson, Sam Gilliam, Jacob Lawrence, Norman Lewis, Augusta Savage, Henry Ossawa Tanner, Alma Thomas, Charles White, and many more.

ORGANIZATION

The Cultivators: Highlights from the Kinsey African American Art and History Collection is organized by the Bernard and Shirley Kinsey Foundation for Arts & Education and KBK Enterprises, Incorporated.

The Kinsey African American Art and History Collection and Foundation is one of the preeminent institutions dedicated to the research, interpretation, and presentation of the African American experience internationally. As a sought-after educational resource with nationwide institutional partnerships, kindergarten through college, the Kinsey Foundation assists academic and cultural institutions with increasing public awareness about African American history and culture. The foundation's work is executed via the Kinsey African American Art and History Collection, a traveling exhibition that has been experienced by over 15 million people. The collection is composed of rare primary source historical objects and artifacts dating from 1595 to present day, and fine art created by canonical African Americans artists from 1865 forward.

With education as a goal, the Kinsey African American Art and History Collection has been on national tour since 2007. The collection has been exhibited at such notable institutions as the California African American Museum, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center (Cincinnati), the DuSable Museum of African American History (Chicago), and the Norton Museum of Art (West Palm Beach), to name a few. It is the first privately held collection to show at both the Smithsonian National Museum of American History (Washington, DC), and EPCOT-Walt Disney World (Orlando, FL), where a portion of the collection was on view from 2013 to 2018. The exhibit made its international debut in Hong Kong at the University of Hong Kong Museum and Gallery in 2017. Celebrities and personalities such as Whoopi Goldberg, Morgan Freeman, Kerry

Washington, Katie Couric, Diane Sawyer, Angela Bassett, Zendaya, and more have endorsed and lent support in the exposure of the collection.

The Kinsey Collection uniquely showcases the intersection of art and history, telling the often-untold stories of African American achievement and contribution through primary source historical objects starting from 1595, as well as two and three-dimensional artworks from the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. The collection has been cited in three national awards, including the President's National Award for Museum and Library Services.

ABOUT THE BERNARD & SHIRLEY KINSEY FOUNDATION FOR ART AND EDUCATION, A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

The Bernard and Shirley Kinsey Foundation for Art and Education assists educational/cultural institutions with educating underserved youth and increasing public awareness about African American history and ancestry, by exposing and bridging cultural and societal gaps while addressing stereotypes and social ills. Utilizing the Kinsey African American Art and History Collection, the foundation's programming is designed to address the large gaps in education in the areas of American history and the arts and highlight the significant accomplishments of African Americans in building this nation. The foundation's work is done through exhibitions, public programs, lectures, books, workshops and training seminars with schools and organizations.

Special programming includes an 18-page Newspaper in Education (NIE) study guide, developed presentations, a website, videos, catalogs, and an innovative delivery system developed with Apple to reach students on iPads, iPods and iPhones. In 2009 an African American History curriculum based on the Kinsey Collection was developed and implemented by the Florida Department of Education for 3.2 million students in grades K–12 statewide.

AN IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR VISITORS

For more information about current health and safety policies at Pepperdine University, please visit [here](#).

FREDERICK R. WEISMAN MUSEUM OF ART

Pepperdine University
24255 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu, CA 90263

The Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art at Pepperdine University was dedicated in September 1992, and since then, has showcased modern and contemporary art by internationally recognized artists, with a focus on the art of California. Past exhibitions include *Claes Oldenburg: Drawings* (2004), *Chihuly Los Angeles* (2005), *Jim Dine: Some Drawings* (2007), *Mercedes Matter: A Retrospective Exhibition* (2010), *Roy Lichtenstein: In Process* (2011), *Thiebaud: Works on Paper* (2014), *Andy Warhol: Life and Legends* (2016), *Larry Bell: Pacific Red* (2017), *Richard Diebenkorn: Beginnings, 1942–1955* (2019), and *Rodin and Women: Muses, Sirens, Lovers* (2020), in addition to numerous exhibitions drawn from the collection of the Frederick R. Weisman Foundation.

For more information, visit arts.pepperdine.edu/museum or call 310.506.4851. Admission is always free, but advance reservations are required. Book your visit and access information about Weisman Museum health and safety protocols at arts.pepperdine.edu/visit.

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for news and updates.

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