

Bruce

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According to documents and records, through corrupt means, the City of Manhattan took ownership of their property, representing the racial imbalance of that time. Looking through a lens of equality today, public officials of Los Angeles County decided to revisit the possibility of returning

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power of the beachfront back to the descendants of the Bruce family.

Located on 2600 Highland Avenue in Manhattan Beach, California, Bruce’s Beach served as an oasis-like resort for people of color looking to enjoy the scenic coast during times of segregation. Noted previously, Willa and Charles Bruce purchased this piece of paradise for \$1,225 (\$33,034) and followed suit in buying more land after that.

Other families of color bought beach estates alongside them, forming a Black community of coastal property owners developed during the Jim Crow era. There was a shared notion that only certain races should be allowed selected properties; this agenda was carried out through policies to seize privately-owned land for the betterment of the community.

The distaste in Black-ownership was not hidden; racially charged vandalism and sabotage were found routinely at Bruces’ Beach and similar places. During the Jim Crow era, Manhattan Beach City officials

obtained the rights to Bruce’s beach, and other Black-owned coastal plots, through an ordinance known as eminent domain.

Through the eminent domain procedure, certain members of the Manhattan community empowered City officials to acquire privately-owned properties and reinvent the lots for public use. The urgent takeover of the Bruce’s land was to fill the need for a public park.

The Bruce family fought for years in litigation; they asked for \$120,000 (\$3,203,044) for loss of property and damages. After a strenuous battle, the Bruces received \$14,000, which is \$300,000 in present-day, and the other families received far less than that.

On April 8, Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn announced steps towards returning the waterfront landscape known as Bruce’s Beach back to the decedents of Charles and Willa Bruce.

California State Governor Gavin Newsom announced through a press release, “Moving to Right Historical Wrong.” He signed legislation to return Bruce’s Beach back to descendants of the original owners.

According to the information released by the California governor’s office, the directive, SB-796, allows Los Angeles County Supervisors to transfer the land immediately to the Bruce family. Soaking up the historical moment at Bruce’s Beach, Newsom was joined by Senator Steven Bradford, Bruce’s family members, and other civic public servants.

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Awards

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shadow for the film development process. Until the 1970s, the subject was always a White woman who was often labeled “normal,” with other skin colors – if they were included at all – referred to as “other.” Davis explored the idea of working with visual media that had white skin and whiteness already programmed in as a default. The effect is his often vintage-style portraits of Black subjects in their own Shirley card-evoking layouts, much more vibrant and colorful than Kodak’s restrictive calibration would have allowed.

“I did these paintings that were about that, so a lot of the subject matter that circles around the subject and the piece kind of references those Shirley cards, or magazine publications from the fifties, more Black-centered publications like Jet and Ebony,” Davis said. “I try to include a little bit more content in the bodies of work that are about an idea versus a particular subject.”

For a more recent project, however, Davis stuck to the portrait approach.

In 2015 and 2016, Davis wrestled with the feverish press coverage of police

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killings of unarmed Black Americans. While he felt the attention was necessary, he also wanted to see more Black media presence that wasn’t overwhelmingly sad.

“I wanted to also spotlight achievements from Black people,” Davis said. “So I started doing these paintings around then that kind of highlighted these different artists, poets, people that I knew and people that I just found out about through research that just really enhanced the work for me, and

enhanced the experience for people viewing the work.”

He was drawn to the lesser-known histories in particular, like civil rights and women’s rights activist Pauli Murray and singer and early screen star Nellie Hill.

“The idea of making work that calls people to do their own research, find out something new and dig in, just became really interesting to me,” Davis said. “It just continues the process of seeing the piece in the museum, then you want to go home and find out more, to expand upon – it being an art piece, it being a learning experience at the same time.”

Community Justice

Preuitt started as a probation and parole officer nearly three decades ago with Multnomah County’s Department of Community Justice Gang Unit, later becoming the director of the department’s Adult Services di-

vision. In 2017 she became the first African American woman to act as president of the American Probation and Parole Association, which serves 45,000 community corrections professionals nationally. She was named Director of Multnomah County’s Department of Community Justice in 2019 (<https://www.theskanner.com/news/northwest/29158-erika-preuitt-appointed-director-of-multnomah-county-s-department-of-community-justice>).

Her approach is grounded in the belief that people have the capacity to change.

“I look at it from the perspective that we are about public safety, but our public safety impact really is a long-term impact,” Preuitt told The Skanner in 2019. “Because when we help a person change their life, and help them to restore their family, we help our commu-



Driving Diversity Opens New Doors

Chip Shields, a former Oregon state senator established the Portland Justice Fund which provided funding to Worksystems to develop a unique program that’s creating new pathways for people of color and women into trucking careers. Partnering with Interstate Trucking Academy and the Portland Haulers Association, Worksystems developed the Driving Diversity in Portland Program to prepare and qualify diverse job seekers to work in the recycling and waste hauling industry. On Friday, October 8 the second cohort of students graduated and entered driver careers. To date, 80% of trainees have been hired by Portland Haulers Association member companies into permanent jobs that start at \$50,000 or more and include comprehensive benefits.

Reimagine

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ly stalling legislation important to Reimagine Oregon. Wise said the group was now working with Prozanski to bring back areas of criminal justice reform that were cut from the now-passed House Bill 2002.

Wise also said the group gave Clackamas County an “F” grade on public safety, noting that communication with the county had broken down with the transition to Clackamas Board of County Commissioners’ Chair Tootie Smith’s leadership.

Housing

Last year, Reimagine Oregon partnered with elected officials at the city, count and state levels to hold lawmakers accountable to substantive policy change, as outlined on the project’s website, addressing urgent needs in education, police divestments, housing, health and wellbeing, transportation, economic development, legislative process and community safety.

Demands were categorized as state-wide, Metro, or by county,

with legislative leads designed to each. Reimagine Oregon asked the relevant legislators to give a prognosis – or progress report – on each demand.

While Reimagine Oregon’s demands are divided into eight

“People have spoken in streets, in research reports and in daily service

categories, the group focused on three in summarizing the state’s performance last week: housing, public safety and legislative process.

“We launched this project about a year ago in the spirit of expectation,” Katrina Holland, executive director of JOIN, said, adding it was “an expectation of catalytic movement, of beginning to dismantle anti-Black racism in Oregon.”

In the area of housing, however, the state had only made incremental improvements, she said.

Reimagine Oregon had asked the state to intervene in evictions and aide COVID recovery by canceling rent and removing barriers to rent assistance.

“Early in the legislative session and even before, there were many alternative options to canceling rent that were presented and discussed, that would’ve taken the burden off of renters, recognizing the constitutional potential violation that canceling rent would’ve brought on, that would assure just compensation, but a lot of them weren’t thoroughly explored or even attempted,” Holland said.

The group had also pushed forward the cancelation of a controversial housing subsidy: mortgage interest deductions on secondary residences, which critics point out costs the state about \$500 million each year).

Read more at [TheSkanner.com](#)