

**2023**

**Advancing  
Racial Equity  
Speakers  
Bureau**

indiana  humanities  
think. read. talk.

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# **Happy 5th Birthday: Hair Discrimination Has No Age Limits**

*How can one's appearance be political? What is hair politics?*

**Jantina Anderson**

Doctoral Candidate, Indiana University, Indianapolis



## Happy 5th Birthday: Hair Discrimination Has No Age Limits

**Presenter:** Jantina Anderson, Doctoral Candidate,  
Indiana University, Indianapolis

**Contact:** [jantina.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:jantina.anderson@gmail.com)

**Format:** 30-minute presentation with  
10 to 15-minute Q&A session

**Tags:** Protective Hair Styles, Discrimination, Hair  
Politics

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- PROTECTIVE HAIR STYLES
- DISCRIMINATION
- HAIR POLITICS

Dove USA reported, Black girls begin experiencing race-based hair discrimination due to wearing protective hairstyles (braids, afros, locs, and twists) at age 5. Further, a majority (54%) of Black women alter their textured hair to secure employment. Historic and current hair biases and discriminations will be presented with vibrant images, physical examples, and data. Additionally, black women's and girls' hair narratives will be shared to illustrate the lived experiences of hair politics. Ideally, attendees will leave with an understanding of how responses to Black/African American hair texture has and continues to perpetuate racism (internalized, systematic, and/or institutional) in America.

Jantina Anderson (she/her) is an Indiana University – Indianapolis doctoral candidate. Her research centers Black girls' and women's aesthetic choices, sense of belonging in institutional and corporate spaces, and resulting identity, agency, and success implications. Jantina's work has been presented at various national conferences and published in academic journals. Additionally, she is a Fortune 500 HR Director, and a proud alumna of Clark Atlanta University and Michigan State University. Outside of her pursuits, Jantina cherishes quality time with her husband and two daughters while residing in the Indianapolis, Indiana area.

# **Reviving a Forgotten Freetown: The Lives and Legacies of the US Colored Troops in Southeast Indianapolis**

*How do we recover forgotten histories in our cities by relying on community narratives and oral histories?*

**Kaila Austin**

Executive Director, Rogue Preservation Services, LLC



## Reviving a Forgotten Freetown: The Lives and Legacies of the US Colored Troops in Southeast Indianapolis

**Presenter:** Kaila Austin, Executive Director, Rogue Preservation Services, LLC

**Contact:** [ktaustin08@gmail.com](mailto:ktaustin08@gmail.com) | 317.777.5020

**Format:** 45-minute presentation with Q&A

**Tags:** Civil War, Black Veterans, Freetowns

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- CIVIL WAR
- BLACK VETERANS
- FREETOWNS

Founded officially in 1872, Norwood is a Reconstruction Era settlement outside the boundaries of Indianapolis. Norwood's founders were African American veterans from Kentucky because of their service beside the Indiana 28th Regiment during the last years of the Civil War. Norwood and its partner community Barrington sat as stable, independent Freetowns until they were annexed into Indianapolis in 1912. Using these oral histories and family archives, we have reconstructed the story of the Southeast side of Indianapolis from the perspective of the USCT that first called it home. These stories have been left out of the dominant narratives of our culture and have only been revived through the voices of their descendants.

Kaila Austin (she/her) is an artist, public historian and community activist from Indianapolis, Indiana. In 2019, she began Rogue Preservation Services, a historic consulting firm, to work with underserved communities to help them mobilize their histories to protect their ancestral spaces. Since 2021, she has been working with six Reconstruction Era communities on the Southeast side of Indianapolis founded by the US Colored Troops: Norwood, Barrington, Hosbrook, Babe Denny, Bean Creek and Zuniville.

# **The Rise of Policing in Indiana**

*Indianapolis has had African American police officers since 1876, longer than larger and older cities like Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, New York, Philadelphia, or Washington D.C., so how did this happen?*

**Leon Bates**

Ph.D. Student, Department of Pan African Studies, University of Louisville





## The Rise of Policing in Indiana

**Presenter:** Leon Bates, Ph.D. Student, Department of Pan African Studies, University of Louisville

**Contact:** [leon.e.bates@outlook.com](mailto:leon.e.bates@outlook.com)

**Format:** 45 to 60-minute presentation with Q&A

**Tags:** Civil Rights, Law Enforcement, Urban Environment

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- CIVIL RIGHTS
- LAW ENFORCEMENT
- URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Sixty years after statehood and eighty years before the modern Civil Rights movement, Indianapolis became the fourth city in the United States to employ African American policemen. For a city in a state on the western frontier, not known for its altruism, what made Indianapolis leaders take such a radical step? Indianapolis precedes Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, Louisville, St. Louis, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and Washington D.C.; all had larger black populations at the time. On the eve of the most hotly contested, racially divisive presidential election in US history, Indianapolis opted to hire three black policemen and four black firemen. Why?

Leon Bates (he/him) is a U.S. historian (Americanist) of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era (GAPE), the end of Reconstruction to the Great Depression (1876-1929). His research focus is the Urban Environment, with interests in Education, Housing, Infrastructure, Labor, Medicine, Policing, Violence, Police Violence, and the intersection of Race. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Africana Studies and History from Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis. A Master of Arts in Pan African Studies from the University of Louisville and a Master of Arts in History from Wayne State University with a Graduate Certificate in Archival Administration. Currently, he is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Pan African Studies at the University of Louisville.

# **Who was George Tompkins?: Exploring the Politics and Personhood of a Lynching Victim**

*How does taking a human-centered approach change the way we discuss lynching victims?*

**Haley Brinker**

Historian



## Who was George Tompkins?: Exploring the Politics and Personhood of a Lynching Victim

**Presenter:** Haley Brinker, Historian

**Contact:** [hbrinker2@gmail.com](mailto:hbrinker2@gmail.com)

**Format:** 45-minute presentation with Q&A

**Tags:** Lynching, Human-Centered Approach, Memorialization

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- LYNCHING
- HUMAN-CENTERED APPROACH
- MEMORIALIZATION

Who was George Tompkins? In 1922, a 19-year-old Black man was found dead in a wooded area of Riverside Park. While newspapers called it a lynching, the coroner declared the cause of death as suicide, and the case faded into obscurity. 100 years later, a graduate student heard about the case and sought to understand just who this young man was beyond his moniker of victim. This talk delves into the politics surrounding the lynching death of George Tompkins, the importance of a human-centered approach, and how the archive can bring insight into the lives of those long dead.

Haley Brinker (she/her) is a Hoosier by transplant having moved to Indiana in 2011. After receiving her B.S. in Classical Cultures at Ball State University, she earned her M.A. in History with a focus on Public History from IUPUI, where her research focused on anti-Black violence and Black resistance in her adopted home state. She currently works as an architectural historian with INDOT's Cultural Resources Office performing Section 106 reviews on transportation projects.

# **Black Quilters: Hard Topics, Soft Blows**

*What are the contributions of Black quilters to the arts and how have they used this medium as a vehicle for storytelling?*

**Tony Jean Dickerson**

Founding President, Akoma Ntoso Modern Quilt of Central Indiana



## Black Quilters: Hard Topics, Soft Blows

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**Presenter:** Tony Jean Dickerson, Founding President, Akoma Ntoso Modern Quilt of Central Indiana

**Contact:** [tdickerson3602@gmail.com](mailto:tdickerson3602@gmail.com) | 816.447.6395

**Format:** 45-minute presentation with Q&A

**Tags:** Social Justice, Traditional Arts, American History

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- SOCIAL JUSTICE
- TRADITIONAL ARTS
- AMERICAN HISTORY

Arts hold a vital place of importance in our society. Quilts, often seen as "women's work" and "sheer arts and crafts" by some, actually have a prominent place in telling the struggles and triumphs of many cultures. Moreover, the African American community has fought to tell its stories and quilts have been used as an important vehicle to tell these stories. From individuals and guilds alike, the artistry of African American quilters can no longer be denied as frontrunners of the quilting scene.

Dr. Tony Jean Dickerson (she/her) was born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana, and has earned degrees from Lincoln University, University of Central Missouri, and University of Missouri-Kansas City. In 2019, after a successful thirty-year career in education she earned her doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Kansas. She returned home in 2017 and became the lead faculty for Martin University's School of Education's Teacher Preparation Program in June of 2022. Besides teaching, Dr. Dickerson is a nationally recognized quilter and is a member of 8 local and national quilt guilds including the founding president of the Akoma Ntoso Modern Quilt Guild of Central Indiana.

# **For Whose Protection?: Black Women and Confinement in the Late-19th Century**

*How have legacies of incarceration and criminality shaped the lives and experiences of women of color?*

**Charlene Fletcher**

Assistant Professor of History, Butler University



## For Whose Protection?: Black Women and Confinement in the Late-19th Century

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**Presenter:** Charlene Fletcher, Assistant Professor of History, Butler University

**Contact:** [cfletche@butler.edu](mailto:cfletche@butler.edu)

**Format:** 45-minute presentation with Q&A

**Tags:** Black Women's History, Incarceration, Confinement

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- BLACK WOMEN'S HISTORY
- INCARCERATION
- CONFINEMENT

This talk illuminates the lives of confined Black women by examining places like jails, prisons, mental health asylums, and – a site not typically considered confining - the home and related domestic spaces. I explore how Black women defied and defined confinement through their interactions with public, social, and political entities of the period and how they challenged Victorian ideas of race and femininity in the late 19th century.

Charlene J. Fletcher (she/her) is an assistant professor of history at Butler University. She holds a Ph.D. in History from Indiana University, specializing in 19th-century United States and African American history and gender studies. Before returning to Indiana, Charlene led a domestic violence/sexual assault program and one of the most significant prison reentry initiatives in New York City, assisting women and men in transitioning from incarceration to society. Charlene's first book, *Confined Femininity: Race, Gender, and Incarceration in Kentucky, 1865-1920*, is under contract with the University of North Carolina Press.

# **Confronting Difficult Histories in Museums, Archives, and Historic Spaces**

*Why do we consider some histories “difficult”?*

**George Garner**

Assistant Director and Curator, Indiana University South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center





## Confronting Difficult Histories in Museums, Archives, and Historic Spaces

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**Presenter:** George Garner, Assistant Director and Curator, Indiana University South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center

**Contact:** [g.w.garner@icloud.com](mailto:g.w.garner@icloud.com) | 574.300.1328

**Format:** 30-minute presentation with Q&A | Virtual Only

**Tags:** Museums, Archives, Racial Injustice

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- MUSEUMS
- ARCHIVES
- RACIAL INJUSTICE

Recently, conversations reignited around appropriate presentations of so-called "difficult" histories like white supremacy, colonization, and other racial injustices, and how those histories challenge long-standing, narrow, or often inaccurate interpretations. This session dives into how museums and other memory spaces can and must acknowledge and host those difficult conversations and the important histories they can teach. It challenges the idea of them as "difficult" and asks guests to explore why we value some interpretations over others.

George Garner (he/him) earned his M.A. in Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program where he gained experience in museum administration, exhibitions, and collections care at such well-known institutions as the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum and the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. He has dedicated his career to exploring how museums and memory spaces can help people make meaning from traumatic histories and use history to work actively toward change today. Since 2012, he has served the Indiana University South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center, a space that, for thirty years, operated as a segregated city-owned swimming pool.

# **Making Waves: Civil Rights and the South Bend Natatorium**

*What did the history of segregation and the fight against it mean to Hoosiers?*

**George Garner**

Assistant Director and Curator, Indiana University South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center



## Making Waves: Civil Rights and the South Bend Natatorium

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**Presenter:** George Garner, Assistant Director and Curator, Indiana University South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center

**Contact:** [g.w.garner@icloud.com](mailto:g.w.garner@icloud.com) | 574.300.1328

**Format:** 30-minute presentation with Q&A | Virtual Only

**Tags:** Segregation, Civil Rights, Resistance

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- RESISTANCE
- CIVIL RIGHTS
- SEGREGATION

In 1922, the word “public” adorned South Bend's first municipal swimming pool. Despite this, the people in charge denied entry to African Americans. The Natatorium became a focus of local resistance to injustice with activists pushing thirty years to enact change. In 2010, the Natatorium was rebirthed as a home for the Indiana University South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center. In "Making Waves: Civil Rights and the South Bend Natatorium," CRHC Assistant Director and Curator George Garner uses the Natatorium to explore South Bend's history of white supremacy, Black resistance, and the broader experiences of African Americans in this city.

George Garner (he/him) earned his M.A. in Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program where he gained experience in museum administration, exhibitions, and collections care at such well-known institutions as the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum and the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. He has dedicated his career to exploring how museums and memory spaces can help people make meaning from traumatic histories and use history to work actively toward change today. Since 2012, he has served the Indiana University South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center, a space that, for thirty years, operated as a segregated city-owned swimming pool.

# Confronting Our Legacy of Redlining

*How do historically racist structures and events, like redlining, continue to impact people's lives in significant ways?*

**Mark Latta**

Assistant Professor of English, Marian University



## Confronting Our Legacy of Redlining

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**Presenter:** Mark Latta, Assistant Professor of English, Marian University

**Contact:** [m.nlatta@gmail.com](mailto:m.nlatta@gmail.com) | 218.519.0269

**Format:** 45-minute presentation with Q&A

**Tags:** Racism, Redlining, Urban Issues

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- RACISM
- REDLINING
- URBAN ISSUES

Redlining, the practice of denying mortgages and home ownership on the basis of race, was a national policy that formally segregated metropolitan neighborhoods across the United States and targeted predominately Black communities for disinvestment, dispossession, and denial of services. Although formally outlawed, the legacy of redlining continues to impact neighborhoods through poverty, violence, and a public health crisis of premature death. This presentation defines redlining, discusses its historical origins, and identifies how it continues to inscribe itself in urban geographies. Copies of original redlined maps will be shared, and resources will be offered on challenging the legacy of redlining.

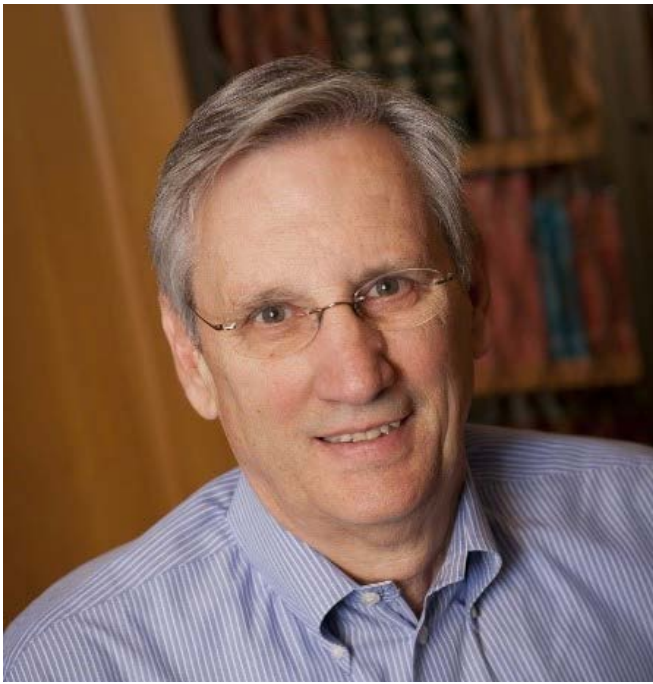
Mark Latta (he/him), an assistant professor of English at Marian University, developed the university's community engaged learning program. He collaborates extensively with The Learning Tree, an association of neighbors in the Indianapolis Near Northwest that focuses on social change through asset-based community development. His research and teaching interests focus on the intersections between community engagement, unwinding racism and colonialism, and the ways literacy is used to resist oppression and enact futures. Latta gained his first experience teaching through an AmeriCorps term of service at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility and remains involved in carceral education as a Women's College Partnership faculty member.

# Hoosier Heroes in the Struggle for Racial Justice

*Who are those Hoosiers who fought against racial discrimination in our past and why might they be important to understanding our challenges today?*

**James H. Madison**

Professor Emeritus of History, Indiana University



## Hoosier Heroes in the Struggle for Racial Justice

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**Presenter:** James H. Madison, Professor Emeritus of History, Indiana University

**Contact:** [madison@indiana.edu](mailto:madison@indiana.edu)

**Format:** 45-minute presentation with PowerPoint, plus Q&A

**Tags:** Heroes, Indiana, Discrimination

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- HEROES
- INDIANA
- DISCRIMINATION

This talk will begin by exploring the nature of racial discrimination in Indiana's history. Against this background, the presentation will highlight a half dozen heroes--men and women who challenged majority opinion and found practical means to fight the good fight, even before the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Their courage can spark thought about our present-day challenges. PowerPoint slides will enhance understanding and conversation.

James H. Madison (he/him) is the Thomas and Kathryn Miller Professor Emeritus of History at Indiana University, Bloomington, where he served for four decades. His books include *Eli Lilly: A Life; Slinging Doughnuts for the Boys: An American Woman in World War II; Hoosiers: A New History of Indiana; A Lynching in the Heartland: Race and Memory in America; and The Ku Klux Klan in the Heartland*. He has spoken to dozens of public audiences across the state. Jim is the recipient of the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Lifetime Author Achievement Award and the Indiana Historical Society's Living Legends Award.

# **Mirrors and Windows: Reading for & Beyond Empathy**

*What are the connections between reading and empathy, and why should we read outside of our comfort zones?*

**Leah Milne**

Associate Professor of English, University of Indianapolis





## Mirrors and Windows: Reading for & Beyond Empathy

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**Presenter:** Leah Milne, Associate Professor of English, University of Indianapolis

**Contact:** [milnel@indy.edu](mailto:milnel@indy.edu)

**Format:** 30 to 45-minute presentation with Q&A

**Tags:** Literature, Reading, Empathy

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- LITERATURE
- READING
- EMPATHY

Scholar Rudine Sims Bishop and author Grace Lin liken reading to mirrors and windows. Some books are mirrors, reflecting one's identity. In the wake of recent race-based discussions in the US, many readers sought windows, books that offered insights into differing lives and experiences. This talk explores the connections between reading and empathy, and the benefits of reading outside our comfort zones. What are strategies for reading empathetically? On the other hand, what are the limits to this approach to empathy, especially when reading across differences of race, ability, or gender? Do certain narratives more readily foster compassion?

Leah Milne (she/her) is the author of *Novel Subjects: Authorship as Radical Self-Care in Multiethnic American Narratives*, which won the 2021 Midwest Modern Language Association Book Award and examines multiculturalism and self-care in works by authors such as Carmen Maria Machado, Ruth Ozeki, Toni Morrison, and Louise Erdrich. As an Associate Professor of English at the University of Indianapolis, she teaches multicultural, postcolonial, and young adult literature. Her work has been published in journals and magazines such as *The Journal of American Culture*, *African American Review*, *Newsweek*, *The Hill*, and *Ms. Magazine*. You can find out more at [LeahMilne.com](http://LeahMilne.com).

# **The Many Lives of Zora Neale Hurston**

*Who was Zora Neale Hurston and how do we understand her legacy today?*

**Leah Milne**

Associate Professor of English, University of Indianapolis



## The Many Lives of Zora Neale Hurston

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**Presenter:** Leah Milne, Associate Professor of English, University of Indianapolis

**Contact:** [milnel@uindy.edu](mailto:milnel@uindy.edu)

**Format:** 30 to 45-minute presentation with Q&A

**Tags:** Literature, Zora Neale Hurston, History

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- HISTORY
- ZORA NEALE HURSTON
- LITERATURE

One of the most renowned authors of American literature, Zora Neale Hurston is best known for her 1937 novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. But she was also a prominent anthropologist, researcher, and journalist who indelibly shaped the Harlem Renaissance and made lasting contributions to American history and folklore. In this talk, we will view Hurston's journey through the lens of her novels, as well as her ethnographic work, her personal experiences, and her aspirations. We'll conclude by returning to Hurston's most famous novel, and the reasons why *Their Eyes Were Watching God* remains a classic.

Leah Milne (she/her) is the author of *Novel Subjects: Authorship as Radical Self-Care in Multiethnic American Narratives*, which won the 2021 Midwest Modern Language Association Book Award and examines multiculturalism and self-care in works by authors such as Carmen Maria Machado, Ruth Ozeki, Toni Morrison, and Louise Erdrich. As an Associate Professor of English at the University of Indianapolis, she teaches multicultural, postcolonial, and young adult literature. Her work has been published in journals and magazines such as *The Journal of American Culture*, *African American Review*, *Newsweek*, *The Hill*, and *Ms. Magazine*. You can find out more at [LeahMilne.com](http://LeahMilne.com).

# **How Do We Repair the History of City Planning?**

*Why are there so many racial disparities in American cities?*

**Britt Redd**

Certified Urban Planner



## How Do We Repair the History of City Planning?

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**Presenter:** Britt Redd, Certified Urban Planner

**Contact:** [britt@brittredd.com](mailto:britt@brittredd.com)

**Format:** 45-minute presentation with Q&A

**Tags:** City Planning, History, Social Justice

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- CITY PLANNING
- HISTORY
- SOCIAL JUSTICE

This talk will use compelling visuals to explore parts of United States history that have shaped cities but are often excluded from city planning discourse. Past decisions created the racial inequities in cities that exist today. As we journey through and honor the contextual history, we'll turn a critical eye toward policymaking and our relationships with each other to help create a path toward healing, reconciliation, and liberation.

Britt Redd (they/them) is a certified urban planner who is dedicated to ensuring neighbors have power over the places they value and the decisions that affect them. Britt has over 10 years of experience collaborating with neighbors on regional and neighborhood plans, public space designs, and economic development strategies. Britt has conducted extensive research exploring how racism has impacted housing mobility and the pollution burden in Indianapolis. Their upcoming project, *An Unequal Burden*, combines empirical data and oral history interviews with Black residents who have lived in the city's most polluted areas. Britt holds a Master of Urban and Regional Planning and a Social and Environmental Justice Certificate from Ball State University College of Architecture and Planning.

# **History of Redlining: And Other Federal, State, and Local Policies That Shape & Reshape Indianapolis**

*What is redlining and what are other overt/covert forms of housing discrimination?*

**Jordan Ryan**

Principal Consultant, The History Concierge LLC



## History of Redlining: And Other Federal, State, and Local Policies That Shape & Reshape Indianapolis

**Presenter:** Jordan Ryan, Principal Consultant, The History Concierge LLC

**Contact:** [thehistoryconcierge@gmail.com](mailto:thehistoryconcierge@gmail.com)

**Format:** 45-minute slideshow presentation with 15+ minute Q&A

**Tags:** Redlining, Housing Discrimination, Spatial Equity

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- REDLINING
- HOUSING DISCRIMINATION
- SPATIAL EQUITY

Why do we live where we live? Where do we feel we can live? This talk breaks down how redlining functioned in Indianapolis and centers the topic on the forms of overt and covert housing discrimination that take place prior to and after redlining. Layers of federal, state, and local policies over time have accumulated into a landscape of injustice and intentionally inequitable design choices. But it's not too late to redesign for justice.

Jordan Ryan (they/them) is an architectural historian, archivist and activist-scholar, currently working on built environment, land use, and other site-specific projects under the independent consulting firm, The History Concierge. Some of their ongoing projects include reference and archiving for the City of Indianapolis' Department of Metropolitan Development and facilitating oral histories and research for the NEH-funded Central State Hospital memory project for the Indiana Medical History Museum. Before that, Ryan managed the Indianapolis Bicentennial Collecting Initiative and curated the Indianapolis bicentennial exhibition. Their scholarship revolves around the built environment, urban planning, historic preservation, marginalized communities, and spatial equity.

# **Black in Indiana**

*How is Black history in Indiana being researched, documented, and preserved?*

## **Eunice Trotter**

Director of Black Heritage Preservation Program, Indiana Landmarks





## Black in Indiana

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**Presenter:** Eunice Trotter, Director of Black Heritage Preservation Program, Indiana Landmarks

**Contact:** [etrotter@indianalandmarks.org](mailto:etrotter@indianalandmarks.org) | 317.489.8556

**Format:** 30-minute presentation with Q&A

**Tags:** Black History, Slavery, Indentured Servitude

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- BLACK HISTORY
- SLAVERY
- INDENTURED SERVITUDE

This talk explores the earliest settlement of African Americans in Indiana in the southwestern portion of the state and what they faced in residing here. It focuses on a little-known State Supreme Court case (*Mary Bateman Clark vs. General Washington Johnston*) that set a precedent for ending indentured servitude/slavery in Indiana. This case is the centerpiece of the talk's focus on the importance of documenting Black heritage. This presentation covers how this history was researched and what it has led to today, including the speaker's book, *Black in Indiana*.

Eunice Trotter (she/her) holds journalism undergraduate degrees and an MBA. She was the owner of *The Indianapolis Recorder*, the first African American editor at *The Indianapolis Star* and held editing or reporting positions at several other newspapers, including *The New York Post*, *Florida Today*, *The Palm Beach Post* and *The Lafayette Journal and Courier*. She was inducted into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame. She recently published her first book, *Black in Indiana*, which has received state and national first-place awards. Eunice is now director of Indiana Landmark's Black Heritage Preservation Program. Her job and her passion are to uncover, document and preserve Black heritage statewide.

# **The Plight of Afro Hair**

*How does the plight of Afro hair impact employers, American citizens, cosmetology, and barbering schools?*

**Ladosha Wright**

Author



## The Plight of Afro Hair

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**Presenter:** Ladasha Wright, Author

**Contact:** [ladoshaw@yahoo.com](mailto:ladoshaw@yahoo.com) | 216.321.1101

**Format:** 45-minute presentation with Q&A

**Tags:** Afro Hair, Natural Hair, Black History

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- AFRO HAIR
- NATURAL HAIR
- BLACK HISTORY

The Plight of Afro Hair is a meaningful discussion about the poignant "Afro" phobia. "Afro" phobia has its roots in the Y2K modern day natural hair movement. Given the rich history and legacy of Afro hair, the misunderstanding, miseducation, and the unfortunate efforts to classify Afro hair exacerbates the plight of it. The discussion takes participants on a historical and scientific journey about Afro hair. It is coupled with sources and solutions to uplift, motivate, and empower Afro hair enthusiasts from every walk of life!

Ladasha Wright (she/her) is the owner of the Reverence Design Team Hair Salon and author of three books. To date, she continues as an activist. She has been featured in several local and national publications. In 2019, Ladasha traveled to West Africa for a developmental aid endeavor to help write the country's first cosmetology curriculum. In January 2022, she was awarded a grant teaching hair care to people affected by hair shaming. Later in 2022, she produced her first documentary, *The Narrative*, followed by the 2023 Businesswoman of the Year award from Cleveland Heights.

# **It's Me. I'm the Problem: The Role of Personal Reflection in Antiracism Work**

*How can I, personally, make changes that will aid in the development of an antiracist society?*

**Charla Yearwood**

Founder & CEO, Connected in Community



## **It's Me. I'm the Problem: The Role of Personal Reflection in Antiracism Work**

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**Presenter:** Charla Yearwood, Founder & CEO, Connected in Community

**Contact:** [charla@connectedincommunity.org](mailto:charla@connectedincommunity.org)

**Format:** 45-minute workshop with small group conversations

**Tags:** Antiracism, Mental Health, Personal Reflection

### IDEAS EXPLORED IN TALK

- ANTI-RACISM
- MENTAL HEALTH
- PERSONAL REFLECTION

In our pursuit of racial equity, we tend to prioritize white benevolence towards non-white communities reinforcing existing power structures and failing to challenge harmful societal norms. Achieving true equity requires recognizing that our current ideas of "normal" are harmful and learning how these beliefs shape all aspects of our society. We can combat this by engaging in personal reflection, challenging both internal and external false beliefs, centering marginalized voices, and committing ourselves to discover a new way forward. This presentation emphasizes the importance of personal reflection in our equity efforts.

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