

AFRICAN HERITAGE STUDIES ASSOCIATION



48TH
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 2-4, 2017

The Queen Mary
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

The Dynamics of Leadership in Economic,
Political and Social Transformation in
Africa and The African Diaspora

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MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

November 2-4, 2017

Dear Conference Participants and Organizers,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I am proud to welcome you all to the 2017 African Heritage Studies Association (AHSA) annual conference. We are excited to be the home to such an impressive gathering of experts.

Our community has strong connections to the African diaspora, with leading scholars in the field of African Studies at both California State University Long Beach and Long Beach City College, as well as a ten-year sister city partnership with Mombasa, Kenya. These efforts have helped showcase African culture throughout the city, and we are pleased to work with AHSA on projects to bring more exciting opportunity to Long Beach.



During your stay in Long Beach, I hope you take some time to enjoy all that our city has to offer. Long Beach is pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly and has been ranked one of the "Most 'Walkable' Neighborhoods in America." Within an 8-block area of our downtown waterfront, you will find many attractions, shopping, entertainment, nightlife and more than 125 quality restaurants, serving cuisines from around the world. Well-lit walkways and promenades provide stunning oceanfront vistas where attendees and guests can enjoy the vibrant blending of urban amenities and the welcoming atmosphere of a seaside community.

We are pleased to host the 2017 AHSA conference in our city. We wish you a successful and productive event and hope you have a great time exploring Long Beach.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

Greetings from the President



The African Heritage Studies Association (AHSA) invites you to the 48th Annual Conference and to be part of the deliberations of variegated types of leadership in Africa and the African Diaspora. Global Africa is, today and has been overtime, rife with leaders, even though we sometimes hear articulations to the contrary. Cross-nationally, as we peruse the many places in the world that people of African descent inhabit, we see leaders in diverse spheres of life. These spheres include, but are not exclusive to, the political, social, economic, intellectual, military, cultural, religious, spiritual, and also non-governmental. These spheres are also sometimes stratified by gender and age. Longitudinally, we see that leaders have emerged to guide and serve as long as people of African descent have existed.

Leadership that is dedicated to continuity of African survival world-wide, in the aforementioned spheres, is the reason that African heritage has been preserved into the 21st century. Despite consistent onslaughts against people of African descent from transoceanic slaveries, colonialisms, neo-colonialisms, neo-slaveries - some in the present – Global African leadership has reproduced itself and continues to manifest in the diverse sectors and in various forms.

Today, Global African leadership is demanding the recognition of African people's right to exist, and to be respected as human beings with bundles of rights as world citizens. More specifically, leadership is "taking the knee" and reminding the world that indeed "Black Lives Matter" and Black voices will not be silenced.

In the face of reemerging white nationalism in multiple places in the world, leadership in Global Africa is especially critical at this time in history for Global African survival in the 21st century. Black international interests are coalescing, and perhaps laying the foundation for Africa's reemergence and renaissance. Africa's 6th Region – the Diaspora – is part of the renaissance, where leadership is strikingly promising, especially youth leadership. They are, following a leadership tradition from our Global African heritage, charting a course that ensures our survival. Our Africanity is sustaining us and seeing us through. The youth have heard and imbibed the Malawian proverb on leadership: "The words of the elders become sweet someday."

Sincerely,

Lisa Aubrey

Lisa Aubrey
President, African Heritage Studies Association

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

AHSA Board Meeting..... 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
(Royal Salon)

Community Salon for the ASA Project 7:30pm - 9:00 pm
(African American Cultural Center)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND

Conference Registration..... 9:30 am - 4:00pm
(Promenade)

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER

MORNING SESSION

(Queen's Salon)

African Heritage Lecture & Tour 8:30 am -12:00 pm

Lecture: "THE GOLDEN LEGACY OF AFRICAN PEOPLES" 8:30 am - 9:30 am
Anthony Browder, Notable author and Director of the ASA Restoration Project and the IKG Education and Cultural Center

Tour: AC Bilbrew County of Los Angeles, Public Library 10:00 am -10:40 am
Black Resource Center

Tour: California African American Museum & Library..... 11:15 am-12:00 pm

Lunch & Wrap-up Discussion 12:00pm – 12:45 pm

AFTERNOON OPENING SESSION 2:00 pm-3:30 pm

(Queen's Salon)

PLENARY: "THE LEGACY OF DR. LEONARD JEFFRIES, AFRICAN HERITAGE AWARDEE"

Chair: Lisa Aubrey, *AHSA President and Professor Arizona State University*

Panelists:

Shelby Lewis, *Professor Emeritus, Atlanta University & Past AHSA President*

Wade Nobles, *Professor Emeritus, Department of Africana Studies. SFSU*

Ambassador Perezi K. Kamunanwire, *Retired Ugandan Representative to the United Nations and CCNY Professor*

AFTERNOON SESSION 3:45 pm-5:00 pm

PANEL: GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

(Queen's Salon)

Chair: Mae C. King Professor Emeritus, *Howard University*

Panelists:

“Patriotic Narratives on National Leadership in Post-2000 Zimbabwe: Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) and Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) Song Texts”
Tavengwa Gwekwerere, *California State University, Los Angeles*

“Thomas Sankara: An Upright African Leader”
Akil Parker, *Association for the Study of African Civilizations, Philadelphia*

“Black Leadership in White Institutions: Good Governance and Sustainable Peace through Uprooting Cancerous Colonial legacy in Africa”
David Oladimeji Alao, *Babcock University, Ikenne, Nigeria*

PANEL: SISTERS ON THE MOVE

(Kings View Room)

Chair: Gerterlyn Dozier, *Fordham University and Member, AHSB Board*

Panelists:

“Celebrating and protecting the genius of Black girlhood”
Vivian Anderson, *Organizer EveryBlackGirl.inc. Columbia, South Carolina*

“Financial innovation in Toronto’s inner suburbs: African-Canadian women organize Rotating Savings and Credit Associations (ROSCAs)”
Caroline Shenaz Hossein and Maymun Abukar, *York University, Toronto, Canada*

“Blossom Black Girl”-- An Affirmation book dedicated to the essence of black girls
Ericka Duke, *Xavier University, Louisiana*

FILM SCREENING

(Board Room)

Film Name: PILGRIMAGE TO THE ROOTS

Producer: Dr. Lisa Aubrey

Directed by: Jean Ndoumbe

Discussant: Gloria Braxton

“ Since 2012, Roots and Reconnection has been organizing trips to Cameroon, Central Africa for African Diasporans who wish to make a pilgrimage to the once-little-known site of forced embarkation onto European slave ships at Bimbia, South West of Cameroon. In December 2016 – January 2017, the DNA Bamilekes Rashad and Raushanah El-Amin, along with Dr. Gloria Braxton, Dr. Loretta Braxton, and Shirley Johnson arrived in Cameroon for their very first time. As we witness in this video their immersion into African culture, we also hear their feelings about being close to their roots, and their thoughts about the African Diaspora’s reconnection to the African continent.”

EVENING SESSION

AHSB Board Meeting 5:15 pm -6:45pm

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

Conference Registration..... 8:30 am - 4:00pm
(Promenade)

MORNING SESSION.....9:00 am - 10:45 am

PANEL: "AFRICA AND AFRICAN DIASPORA COLLECTIONS"

(Board Room)

Chair: Ife Williams, *AHSA Vice President and Program Chair*

Panelists:

"California African American Museum (CAAM) "
George Davis, *CAAM Executive Director*

"African and Diaspora Collections at The Fowler Museum at UCLA"
Erica Jones, *African Arts Curator, Fowler Museum*

"Preserving African and Diaspora Art and History in America"
Rosalind Jeffries, *Art Historian, Curator, Author and Lecturer*

PANEL: GLOBAL VOICES IN LEADERSHIP

(Kings View Room)

Chair: Keith Claybrook, *Africana Studies, California State University Long Beach*

Panelists:

"Crossing the red sea - Hip Hop, Leadership and the Search for Identity in Sao Paulo, Brazil"
Daniela F. Gomes da Silva, *University of Texas at Austin*

"Publishing the Message: Jamaica's Black Power and the Symbiotic Relationship Between the Abeng and the Jamaican Advocate"
Kofi Barima, *Jackson State University, Mississippi*

"Incentivizing Love for Homeland: Dual citizenship and the Africa Diaspora"
Uwem Essia, *Pan African Institute for Development – West Africa (PAID-WA) Buea, Cameroon*

PANEL: BIMBIA - NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE SITE

(Royal Salon)

Chair: Lisa Aubrey, *University of Yaounde I, Cameroon & Arizona State University, President AHSA*

"Recently Unearthed Bimbia—Hidden Site of Enslavement for Forced Transport of Africans from Cameroon into Transatlantic Slavery"

Panelists:

Barbara James, *Wichita State University and Saving We*

Alonzo Medley, *Arizona State University, Junior Fellows Honors Student*

Jozh Watson, *University of Southern California*

MORNING SESSION #2..... 11:00 am - 12:45pm

PANEL: HISTORICAL LEADERSHIP

(Royal Salon)

Chair: William Dorsey, *Atlanta Metropolitan State College, AHSA Treasurer*

Panelists:

“W. E. B. Du Bois, Pan-African Ideas, and Pan-African Actions: Remembering the Founder of the Pan-African Congress Movement”

J Vern Cromartie, *Contra Costa College, California*

“The Conversation We Need to Have With Minister Malcolm”

Shujaa K. Baker, *African Restoration Project, Rialto California*

“Linking Theory and Praxis in 21st Century Black Student Activism: An Interview with David C. Turner”

M. Keith Claybrook, Jr., *California State University, Long Beach*

“Frantz Fanon, The Making of a Man: The Humanistic Philosophy of an Intellectual Leader”

T.J. Robinson, *California State University, Los Angeles*

PANEL PROPOSAL: AFRICAN-CENTERED WOMANISM PHILOSOPHY AND PRACTICE

(Kings View Room)

Chair: Tiamoyo Karenga, *Kawaida Institute of Pan-African Studies*

“Kawaida Womanism: Philosophical and Practical Dimensions”

Panelists:

“Frances Ellen Watkins Harper: Race Defender and Educator of All the Faculties of the Human Soul”

LaRese Hubbard, *California State University, Long Beach*

“Rereading Anna Julia Cooper and Frances E. W. Harper: The Moral and Spiritual Dimensions.”

Natalie Sartin, *Cerritos College, Norwalk, California*

“Centered in Our Own Brilliant Legacy and Proud Of It”

Dorothy Tsuruta, *San Francisco State University*

“Deconstructing Gender Relations in Classical Africa in Order to Reconstruct Gender Relations in Contemporary Africa”

Uche Ugwueze, *California State University, Long Beach*

Film Screening

(Board Room)

Film Name: “*Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*”

“The filmmaker Katrina Browne discovers that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. She and nine cousins retrace the Triangle Trade and gain powerful new perspectives on the black/white divide.”

Discussions to focus on transatlantic slavery history, truth telling, descendants of enslavers confronting their past and the descendants of the enslaved, reparations etc.

12:45 - 2:00PM LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

(Promenade Café)

Roundtable Lunch with the Fulbrighters-Join former recipients to discuss their experiences and opportunities for international opportunities.

AFTERNOON SESSION 2:15 pm - 4:00 pm

PANEL: DEEP THINKING IN AFRICANA STUDIES: EXPLORING METHOD AND METHODOLOGY

(Royal Salon)

Chair: Chimbuko Tembo, *Kawaida Institute of Pan-African Studies*

Panelists:

“Putting Some Soul Into Critical Thinking in Africana Studies”

M. Keith Claybrook, Jr., *California State University, Long Beach*

“Africana Studies: The Role of Theory in the Research Process”

Serie McDougal, III, *San Francisco State University*

“Djaer, Maatian Deep Thought: Critical and Ethical Thinking in Africana Studies”

Maulana Karenga, *California State University, Long Beach*

PANEL: “NOTABLE AFRICAN AMERICAN LIBRARIES IN LONG BEACH AND LOS ANGELES”

(Board Room)

Chair: Shelia Flemming-Hunter, *President, Black Rose Foundation and AHS Archivist*

Panelists:

“AC Bilbrew County of Los Angeles, Public Library Black Resource Center”

Rose Mitchell, *Black Resource Center Librarian*

“The Mayme Clayton Library and Museum”

Lloyd Clayton, *Executive Director*

“The African American Area of the Burnett Library”

Glenda Williams, *Director of Library Services for the Long Beach Library System*

AFTERNOON SESSION #24:15 pm - 6:00pm

PANEL: "WOMEN, HBCU's and AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT"

(Royal Salon)

Chair: Shelby Lewis, Prof. Emeritus, *Atlanta University and International Development Specialist*

Panelists:

"Tertiary Education Linkages Program (TELP) in South Africa"

Gloria Braxton, *TELP Chief of Party, 2003-2009*

"Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI)"

Darlita Moyé, *Administrative Coordinator, Clark Atlanta University*

"HBCUs: University Partnerships in Selected African Countries"

Shelby F. Lewis, *Past UNCF/SP Vice-President for International Programs*

PANEL: IDENTITY AND CULTURE

(Kings View Room)

Chair: Lisa Aubrey, *Arizona State College and AHSA President*

Panelists:

"Diaspora and the Notion of Flows"

Mukurima Muriuki, *MBS Conflict Resolution Group, Long Beach, California*

"Re-Negotiating The Distorted Culture and Identity in Africa and The African Diaspora"

Amos Biven, *Kaduna State College of Education Gida- Waya, Nigeria*

"The Black Arts Movement: Lookin' Back and Lookin' Ahead"

Dhanifu Kumbufu, *JOKO Collective, Los Angeles, California*

Film Screening

(Board Room)

Film Name: *"Reflections Unheard: Black Women In Civil Rights"*

Directed by: Nevline Nnaji

Feature-length documentary that focuses on black women's marginalization between the Black Power and Feminist movements of the 1960s and 70s. It is the first and only film of its kind to focus exclusively on black women's experiences and contributions during the Civil Rights era.

AHSA ANNUAL AWARDS GALA 7:00 pm-10:00pm

(Queen's Salon)

Presiding: Lisa Aubrey, *AHSA President*

Welcome: Ife Williams, *AHSA Vice President and Program Chair*

Trane African Drumming

Gala Dinner

Trane African Drumming

2017 AHSA AWARDS

Melina Abdullah, *Chair, Department of Pan-African Studies, CSULA, Public Lecturer and Co-founder of Black Lives Matter*

Maulana Karenga, *Chair, Africana Studies Department, CSULB, Author, Public Lecturer and Creator of Kwanzaa*

Introduction of Awardee

Sheila Harmon-Martin, *University of the District of Columbia*

Shelia Flemming-Hunter, *President of Black Rose Foundation, Managing Editor of Phylon and AHSA Archivist*

Maxine Waters, *Congresswoman 43rd Congressional District, California*

Introduction of African Heritage Awardee

Ambassador Perezi K. Kamunanwire, *Retired Ugandan Representative to the United Nations and CCNY Professor*

Speaker: Leonard Jeffries, Ph.D. *Scholar Activist, Retired Chair, Black Studies Department, CCNY, Global Lecturer on African History & Culture*

Acknowledgements

Shelby Lewis, *Chair, Local Arrangements Committee*

Closing Statement

Lisa Aubrey, *AHSA President*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH

MORNING SESSION 9:00 am - 10:45 am

PANEL: DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS

(Royal Salon)

Chair: Keith Claybrook, *Africana Studies, California State University Long Beach*

Panelists:

“Authentic Leadership, a Model for the 21st Century”

Norma T. Hollis, *Inglewood, California*

“Leadership: Responsibility or Choice?”

Etaka Tambe Jerry, *University of Yaounde I, Roots and Reconnection Club Cameroon*

“Leadership in Electronic Africology: Online Scholarly Content in the 21st Century”

Itibari M Zulu, *Editor Africology: California Institute of Pan African Studies; California Africology Association, Long Beach, California*

PANEL: REPARATIONS AND REPATRIATION

(Kings View Room)

Chair: Gloria Braxton, *Blue Skies International Foundation*

Panelists:

“Repatriation is a Must: The Transformative Work and Leadership of Rastafari Elder Emmanuel Charles Edwards”

Anta Anthony W. Merritt, *San Diego State University*

“Looking at the Agitation of the Jamaican Nyahbinghi Mansion for Reparations and Repatriation Through the Lenses of the Jamaican Pan-African Tradition”

Michael Barnett, *University of West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica*

“Reparations in the Caribbean: CARICOM and CPAN”

Ife Williams, *Delaware County Community College, Pennsylvania*

CLOSING PLENARY ROUNDTABLE: PROTEST UNDER 45 AND WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? 11:00 am - 12:45 pm

(Royal Salon)

Chair: Shelby Lewis, Prof. Emeritus, *Atlanta University and International Development Specialist*

Panelists:

Melina Abdullah, *Chair, Department of Pan-African Studies, CSULA, Public Lecturer and Co-founder of Black Lives Matter*

Maulana Karenga, *Chair, Africana Studies Department, CSULB, Author, Public Lecturer and Creator of Kwanzaa*

Shelia Flemming-Hunter, *President of Black Rose Foundation, Managing Editor of Phylon and AHSA Archivist*

Leonard Jeffries, *Scholar Activist, Retired Chair, Black Studies Department, CCNY, Global Lecturer on African History & Culture*



Dr. Leonard Jeffries

Dr. Leonard Jeffries is a political scientist, historian, educator, master-teacher/administrator and Pan-Africanist. He was born and raised in Newark, NJ where as a young man, he first developed his leadership skills and Pan-African consciousness. After receiving an excellent formal and informal education at outstanding universities, in America and Europe, he has become a leading voice in the African-centered education movement. He is regarded as a foremost authority on Africa, having traveled to the continent, Latin America and the Caribbean more than 100 times on various missions and projects. He speaks fluent French and has taken courses in Portuguese and Russian.

He has recently been appointed the International Executive Director of the Organization of Afro-American Unity (O.A.A.U.), founded in 1964 by El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (Malcolm X). Dr. Jeffries and his colleagues plan to build on the vision of Malcolm X and expand the legacy of Pan-Africanism for the 21st century. He is currently the International President of the World African Diaspora Union (WADU). He is also a founding director and a former Vice-President and President of the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations (ASCAC). In 1986, at the ASCAC Conference in New York, Dr. Jeffries proposed that a pilgrimage and conference be held in the Nile Valley. In 1987, 1000 Black men, women and children, from the United States, attended this historical event. In 1969, during the Black Studies explosion, Dr. Jeffries assisted Dr. John Henrik Clarke establish the African-centered organization the African Heritage Studies Association (AHSA) and later became its vice-president and national president. In 1975-76, he joined other scholars as the founding director of the National Council for Black Studies (NCBS), which coordinated the activities of hundreds of Black Studies Programs and Department throughout the United States.

In the late 1960's, Dr. Jeffries was among the handful of people asked to take on the extraordinary task of developing the first Black Studies programs and departments in the country. In 1969, he was appointed by San Jose State College in California, to set up one of the earliest degree-granting Black Studies Department. Prof. Jeffries began to build on firm ground, his own vision of a curriculum based on the "African world focus." In 1972, Dr. Leonard Jeffries was recruited by City College of New York to organize their Black Studies Department. Over the next three decades, Dr. Jeffries and his colleagues developed the most comprehensive Black Studies Department in the country. The program objectives were first and foremost academic excellence, community-orientation and overseas outreach to Africa, the Caribbean and Brazil. During his tenure, the department sponsored/hosted/organized 25 major national and international conferences and seminars.

During the past 50 years, Dr. Jeffries life has truly been an excellent example of commitment to the current theme of the African Union (AU) which is Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance. His education, research and publication attest to his growth and development as a Pan-African bridge builder.

Dr. Jeffries' personal leadership development and contribution on the national and international level included completing, in 1959, a 150-page honors research thesis for the Lafayette College B.A degree, entitled, *The Urban Crisis: Study of Intergroup Relations*. This was followed in 1959-60, by a year of studying abroad after winning a Rotary International Fellowship and being awarded a certificate of International Affairs, from the University of Lausanne in Switzerland. In 1960-61, during his year of studying law at New York University, he made a dramatic career change after hearing a presentation on the Challenge of Africa by the Rev. Dr. James H. Robinson, founder and director of Operation Crossroads Africa, a unique work-camp study program linking Africans and Americans on projects throughout Africa. He took his first trip to Africa with Crossroads in 1961 to the Ivory Coast Republic. His leadership abilities and proficiency in French made him as asset to the program. He was asked to join the Crossroads staff and was chosen to be the leader of the projects to the Senegal Republic in 1962 and the Republic of Guinea in 1963. By 1964, he had travel to Africa a dozen times and was made the regional representative of Crossroads based in Accra, Ghana, responsible for West and Central Africa.



Dr. Maulana Karenga

Dr. Maulana Karenga is professor and chair of the Department of Africana Studies at California State University, Long Beach. He holds two Ph.D.'s: his first in political science with focus on the theory and practice of nationalism (United States International University) and his second in social ethics with a focus on Maat, the classical African ethics of ancient Egypt, (University of Southern California). An ethical philosopher, Dr. Karenga is the leading exponent of Maatian ethical thought, having developed over the last three decades, a creative and scholarly Kawaida interpretation of ancient Egyptian ethical thought as a living tradition and a useful philosophical option for critical reflection on the urgent issues of our time.

An activist-scholar of national and international recognition, Dr. Karenga has had a far-reaching effect on Black intellectual and political culture since the 1960s for which he has received numerous awards. Through his organizational and intellectual work, and his philosophy, Kawaida, he has played a vanguard role in shaping the Black Arts Movement, Black Studies, the Black Power Movement, the Black Student Union Movement, Afrocentricity, ancient Egyptian studies and the study of ancient Egyptian culture as an essential part of Black Studies, Ifa ethical studies, rites of passage programs, the Independent Black School Movement, African life-cycle ceremonies, the Simba Wachanga Youth Movement, Black theological and ethical discourse, Black united fronts and the Reparations Movement.

Dr. Karenga is the executive director of the African American Cultural Center and the Kawaida Institute of Pan-African Studies, Los Angeles; national chairman of The Organization Us and the National Association of Kawaida Organizations (NAKO); and co-chair of the Black Community, Clergy and Labor Alliance, Los Angeles (BCCLA). He served on the executive council of the national organizing committee of the Million Man March/Day of Absence and authored its Mission Statement. Moreover, Dr. Karenga is internationally known as the creator of the pan-African cultural holiday, Kwanzaa and the Nguzo Saba and of Kawaida philosophy out of which both were conceived and created. He is also the author of the authoritative book on the subject titled: *Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture*. Also, he has lectured on the life and struggle of African peoples on campuses of the U.S.A. and in Senegal, Nigeria, Egypt, South Africa, the People's Republic of China, Cuba, Trinidad, Britain and Canada.

Moreover, Dr. Karenga is author of numerous scholarly articles and books, including: *Introduction to Black Studies*, 4th edition; *Selections from the Husia: Sacred Wisdom of Ancient Egypt*; *Odu Ifa: The Ethical Teachings*; *Maat, The Moral Ideal in Ancient Egypt: A Study in Classical African Ethics*; *Kawaida and Questions of Life and Struggle*; *Essays on Struggle: Position and Analysis*; and co-editor, *Handbook of Black Studies* and *By Any Means Necessary: Malcolm X, Real Not Reinvented*. He is currently writing a book on *The Liberation Ethics of Malcolm X: Critical Consciousness, Moral Grounding and Transformative Practice*.

A highly respected senior scholar in Black/Africana Studies and a board member of the National Council for Black Studies, Dr. Karenga has played a major role in the founding and development of the discipline and is the recipient of numerous awards for scholarship, leadership and community service from the preeminent professional organizations, departments and programs in the field. Finally, Dr. Karenga is the subject of a book titled *Maulana Karenga: An Intellectual Portrait* by Dr. Molefi Kete Asante, which is the definitive text on his intellectual and organizational work.



Dr. Melina Abdullah

Dr. Melina Abdullah is Professor and Chair of Pan-African Studies at California State University, Los Angeles. She earned her Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Southern California in Political Science and her B.A. from Howard University in African American Studies. She was appointed to the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission in 2014 and is a recognized expert on race, gender, class, and social movements. Abdullah is the author of numerous articles and book chapters, with subjects ranging from political coalition building to womanist mothering.

Professor Abdullah is a womanist scholar-activist – understanding the role that she plays in the academy as intrinsically linked to broader struggles for the liberation of oppressed people. Professor Abdullah is a leader in the fight for Ethnic Studies in the K-12 and university systems and was a part of the historic victory that made Ethnic Studies a requirement in the Los Angeles Unified School District. She was among the original group of organizers that convened to form Black Lives Matter and continues to serve as a Los Angeles chapter lead and contributes to the national leadership. She is co-host and co-producer of the weekly radio program Beautiful Struggle which airs on KPFFK, part of the Pacifica radio network. Dr. Abdullah also serves on boards for the Black Community, Clergy and Labor Alliance (BCCLA), California Faculty Association-Los Angeles, Los Angeles African American Women's Public Policy Institute, Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA-CAN), National Association for Ethnic Studies, Reverence-Wellness Salon, and Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE).

Melina is the recipient of many awards, most recently the 2016 Racial Justice Award presented by the YWCA, 2016 Fannie Lou Hamer Award for outstanding community service presented by the Coalition of Mental Health Professionals, 2016 Fannie Lou Hamer Award presented by the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, 2016 Sacred Sistahs Award, 2016 California Teachers Association Human Rights Award, 2016 BCCLA Ella Baker Award, 2015 Freedom Now Award, and the 2015 Communitas Award. She was recognized by LA Weekly as one of the 10 most influential Los Angeles leaders, "Urban Girl of the Year" by 2UrbanGirls, and one of the 15 "Fiercest Sisters" of 2015 by Fierce. She has appeared on MSNBC, CNN, TV One, ABC, PBS, KTLA, KCET, BET, Free Speech TV, and Al-Jazeera, and is featured in the films 13th, When Justice Isn't Just, and Justice or Else. Melina is originally from Oakland, California. She is a single "soccer mama" of three children and resides in Mid-City Los Angeles.



Dr. Sheila Flemming-Hunter

A Ph.D. in African and African American History, Sheila Flemming-Hunter is Founder and President of the Black Rose Foundation for Children. The mission of the foundation is to provide resources to organizations seeking to empower children, through programs, services and advocacy. She is also serving as Managing Editor of *Phylon: The Clark Atlanta University Review of Race and Culture* and Adjunct Professor in the Department of African American, Africana Women Studies and History at Clark Atlanta University. She has served in the professoriate at several universities including Bethune-Cookman University, University of Texas and University of Maryland. Sheila has spent most of her career in the academy as historian, dean and vice president. As professor her goal is to empower students to see the world as a continuum of humanity and to encourage them to find their niche in it.

Sheila is author of *Bethune-Cookman College 1904-1994: The Answered Prayer to a Dream* and she has contributed articles on African and African America women, Nelson Mandela, Mary McLeod Bethune, and Black Women's Health in published works and reviewed textbooks for the UNA/USA. Her teaching and research interests include the history of black higher education, African and African American history, with special emphasis on women and race relations.

She and her daughters (Attorney Alero Afejuku and Dr. Ayo Gathing) recently penned an article, "Love Lessons: Black Women Teaching Black Girls to Love," in *Black Women's Mental Health: Balancing Strength & Vulnerability*, edited by Stephanie Y. Evans, Kanika Bell & Nsenga K. Burton. Having served on several national boards, she is Archivist for the African Heritage Studies Association, a member of the Board of Directors of Share and Seed Academy for the Performing Arts in Jacksonville, FL and recently elected to serve on the Executive Council of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, of which she served as National President from 2004-2007. A global citizen, Sheila has traveled to every continent but Australia and enjoys seeing the world from her African centeredness.



Congresswoman Maxine Waters

Congresswoman Waters is considered by many to be one of the most powerful women in American politics. She has gained a reputation as a fearless and outspoken advocate for women, children, people of color and the poor. As she confronts issues such as poverty, economic development and equal justice under the law, Congresswoman Waters enjoys a broad cross section of support from diverse communities across the nation.

In November 2016 she was elected to the 43rd Congressional District of California for her fourteenth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. She is the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Financial Services and a member of the Steering & Policy Committee. She is also a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and member and past chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. Congresswoman Waters has served on the Democratic National Committee (DNC) since 1980. She was a key leader in five presidential campaigns: Sen. Edward Kennedy (1980), Rev. Jesse Jackson (1984 & 1988), and President Bill Clinton (1992 & 1996). In 2001, she was instrumental in the DNC's creation of the National Development and Voting Rights Institute and the appointment of Mayor Maynard Jackson as its chair.

Prior to her election to the House of Representatives in 1990, Congresswoman Waters had already attracted national attention for her no-nonsense, no-holds-barred style of politics. During 14 years in the California State Assembly, she rose to the powerful position of Democratic Caucus Chair. She was responsible for some of the boldest legislation California has ever seen: the largest divestment of state pension funds from South Africa; landmark affirmative action legislation; the nation's first statewide Child Abuse Prevention Training Program; the prohibition of police strip searches for nonviolent misdemeanors; and the introduction of the nation's first plant closure law.

Throughout her years in public service, Congresswoman Waters has used her skill to shape public policy and deliver the goods: \$10 billion in Section 108 loan guarantees to cities for economic and infrastructure development, housing and small business expansion; \$50 million appropriation for "Youth Fair Chance" program which established an intensive job and life skills training program for unskilled, unemployed youth; expanded U.S. debt relief for Africa and other developing nations; creating a "Center for Women Veterans," among others. She is a co-founder of Black Women's Forum, a nonprofit organization of over 1,200 African American women in the Los Angeles area. In the mid-80s, she also founded Project Build, working with young people in Los Angeles housing developments on job training and placement.

Congresswoman Waters has been an advocate for international peace, justice, and human rights. She was a leader in the movement to end Apartheid and establish democracy in South Africa. She opposed the 2004 Haitian coup d'etat, which overthrew the democratically-elected government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Haiti, and defends the rights of political prisoners in Haiti's prisons. She leads congressional efforts to free poor countries in Africa and Latin America from the burden of international debts to wealthy institutions like the World Bank. Congresswoman Waters is the founding member and former Chair of the 'Out of Iraq' Congressional Caucus that was established in 2005 to bring to the Congress an on-going debate about the war in Iraq and urge the return of US service members to their families.

Expanding access to health care services is another of Congresswoman Waters' priorities. She spearheaded the development of the Minority AIDS Initiative in 1998. Under her continuing leadership, funding for the Minority AIDS Initiative has increased from the initial appropriation of \$156 million in fiscal year 1999 to approximately \$400 million per year. She is also the author of legislation to expand health services for patients with diabetes, cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

Congresswoman Waters authored the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, which provides grants to states, local governments and nonprofits to fight foreclosures, home abandonment and blight and to restore neighborhoods. One testament to her work is the Maxine Waters Employment Preparation Center, a multimillion dollar campus.

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