



Guide to the Las Vegas African American Community Conversations round table interviews

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
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Creator:	O'Brien, Lucy
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Creator:	Brantley, Jackie, 1948-
Creator:	Brown, Hannah, 1939-
Creator:	Washington, David L.
Creator:	Langston, Esther Jones
Creator:	Hoggard, Verlia Davis
Creator:	Gaines, Ida M., 1937-
Creator:	Young, Linda
Creator:	White, Lonnie
Creator:	Ligon, LaVerne
Creator:	Mason, Walter
Creator:	Thomas, B. J.
Creator:	Polk, Leonard, Jr., 1948-
Creator:	Douglas, Michael L., 1948-
Creator:	Bailey, John
Creator:	Evans, Booker T.
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Abstract:	The Las Vegas African American Community Conversations is a four-part conversation with local Las Vegans. The first part of the round table is moderated by Trisha Geran with a central theme of "Migration, Work and Community Emergence." The panelists discuss the early history of the African American

community in Las Vegas, Nevada. They also discuss how and why their families moved to Las Vegas, most citing the economic opportunities as a major factor. The participants share their personal histories and family histories building up the African American community in downtown Las Vegas and the Westside. The second part of the round table is moderated by Sonya Horsford with a central theme of "Education, Economy, and Integration." The panelists discuss the Clark County School District pre- and post-integration. They discuss the hardships of the Sixth Grade Center Integration Plan on the African American community as well as discussing the differences in the school facilities. The round table participants also discuss the social services and social programs and the history of those programs from the African American perspective. They also discuss civic involvement and the various civic groups started by the panelists, and share discrimination they faced. The third part of the round table is moderated by Claytee D. White with a central theme of "Civil Rights and Entertainment." The panelists discuss the racism and segregation present in Las Vegas and discuss how African American community leaders worked to integrate African Americans into the Las Vegas community. They discuss the 1969 riots in detail, and discuss African American entertainers and the entertainment industry. They share personal experiences working in the entertainment industry and discuss the importance of the local unions, such as the Culinary Workers Union Local 226, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 720, and their contributions to the unions. The fourth and final part of the round table is moderated by Rachel Anderson with a central theme of the "Early African American Legal Community." The panelists discuss the foundations of the professional legal community in Las Vegas, noting the contributions of Charles Keller, Dr. William Bailey, and the Reverend Marion Bennett as driving forces for civil rights activism in Las Vegas. They share their experiences growing up in Las Vegas facing discrimination and segregation. Lastly, they share the changes they have seen and how both the legal and African American communities have grown.

Preferred Citation

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Scope and Contents Note

The Las Vegas African American Community Conversations is a four-part conversation with local Las Vegans. The first part of the round table is moderated by Trisha Geran with a central theme of "Migration, Work and Community Emergence." The panelists discuss the early history of the African American community in Las Vegas, Nevada. They also discuss how and why their families moved to Las Vegas, most citing the economic opportunities as a major factor. The participants share their personal histories and family histories building up the African American community in downtown Las Vegas and the Westside. The second part of the round table is moderated by Sonya Horsford with a central theme of "Education, Economy, and Integration." The panelists discuss the Clark County School District pre- and post-integration. They discuss the hardships of the Sixth Grade Center Integration Plan on the African American community as well as discussing the differences in the school facilities. The round table participants also discuss the social services and social programs and the history of those programs from the African American perspective. They also discuss civic involvement and the various civic groups started by the panelists, and share discrimination they faced.

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Administrative Information

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Processing Note

Interview materials were processed by UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives in 2019. Victoria Palma wrote the collection description. Access copies were created for born-digital audio files.

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Names and Subjects

- Oral histories (document genres)
- Law
- Entertainment
- Education
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Race discrimination
- African Americans -- Civil rights -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Civic improvement
- Clark County School District (Nev.)
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Culinary Workers Union Local 226