



## COMMUNITY BUILD, CENTRAL LIBRARY AND U.S. POSTAL SERVICE UNVEIL *Ernest Gaines* BLACK HERITAGE STAMP

Los Angeles Central Library, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), Community Build, Inc. and the African American Heritage Month Legacy Project concluded Black History month with a ceremony unveiling the 46th postage stamp in the Black Heritage series honoring author Ernest J. Gaines. Gaines is best known for his 1971 novel "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," which became an award-winning television movie starring Cicely Tyson.

"It's impossible to acknowledge all the contributions of African American heritage in a single month," Community Build, Inc. President Robert Sausedo said. "I commend the United States Postal Service, the Central Library and the African American Heritage Month Legacy Project for continuing to shine a light on the accomplishments of men and women and work that educates us on our past and inspires us to dream for our future."

## L.A. REC AND PARKS PARTNERS WITH COMMUNITY BUILD TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY



While record winter storms drenched Los Angeles, youngsters celebrated the last Saturday of Black History Month splashing, swimming, learning standup paddle boarding and kayaking in the heated Olympic pool at the Celes King III Aquatic Center. The center is part of the sprawling 24-acre Michelle and Barack Obama Sports Complex in Baldwin Hills.

The festivities were part of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks' Black History Month Aquatic Celebration. Event attendees received swimsuits, kick boards, towels, backpacks, goggles, and swim fins courtesy of ARENA of North America and a complimentary lunch from McDonald's.

Community Build, Inc. President Robert Sausedo spoke about setting intentions. "You may not realize it now, but these programs can help you create a mindset that will see you through for the rest of your life," Sausedo said. Community Build, Inc. was a co-sponsor of the event as a part of its community outreach. Albert Lord, Vice President of Government Affairs and Arts Programming coordinated the community partnership with ARENA of North America and the McDonald's lunch.

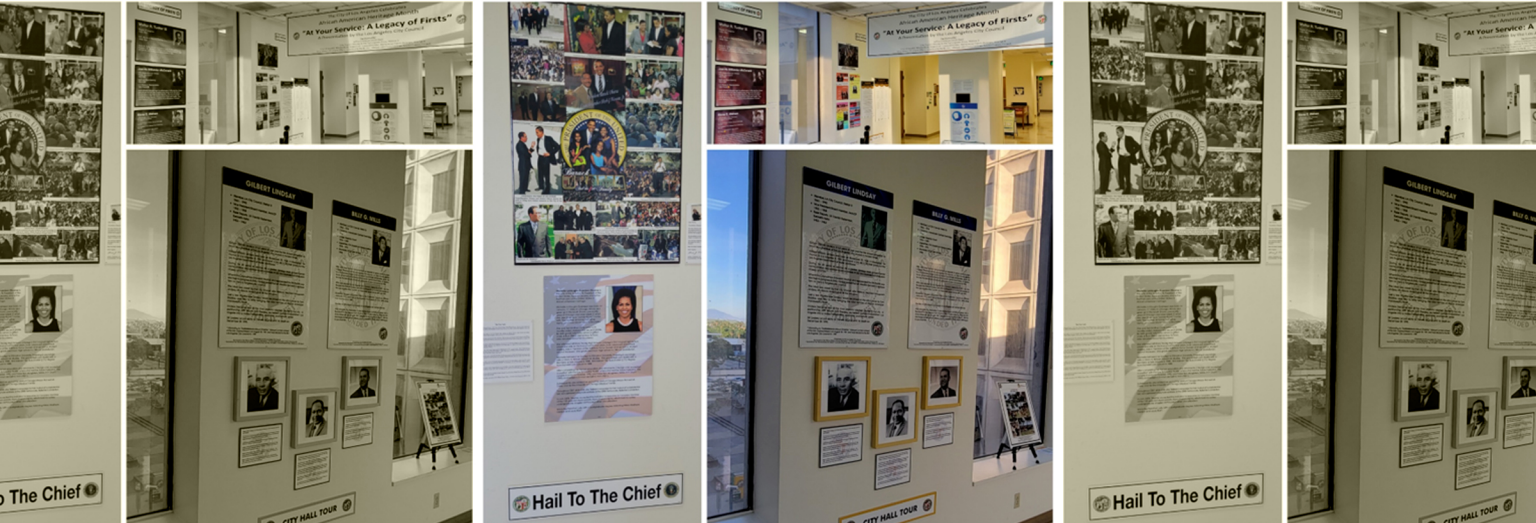
## "A LEGACY OF FIRSTS" DISPLAYS THE HISTORY OF BLACK ELECTED OFFICIALS

"At Your Service: A Legacy of Firsts" is the sixteenth installation in the African American Heritage Month exhibit series and the first AAHM exhibit on display in City Hall since the 2020 Covid pandemic shutdown.

The exhibit was produced by Albert Lord, Community Build Vice President of Governmental Relations and Arts Programs. Lord developed African American Heritage Month Legacy Project to commemorate the cultural, political, entertainment and educational accomplishments of Black Americans.

Community Build, Inc. will serve as the community partner in archiving the entire AAHM Legacy Project, preserving the City's recognition of African American history and contributions. Future plans for the AAHM Legacy Project include a collaboration with the Los Angeles Public Library to develop a web based virtual exhibit with educational programming.

"It is up to us to be the keeper of our own history and the history of those who came before us." Community Build President Robert Sausedo said. "We owe it to future generations to let them know the legacy of those who paved the way."



## LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TOURS LEIMERT PARK VILLAGE

Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-55, Los Angeles) took California Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis on a tour of South Los Angeles including Leimert Park Village and Crenshaw. Councilwoman Heather Hutt (CD 10) also joined the tour, visiting shops, restaurants and merchants. Stops included Ride On! Bike shop, Hot and Cool Café, Sika, Nappily Naturals and Sole Folks.

During her visit inside Community Build, Inc., President Robert Sausedo gave her a speedy 4-minute overview of some of CBI's primary services: GRYD intervention and prevention programs, Safe Passage, economic development projects, creative economic and community health workers program.

"No tour of South Los Angeles would be complete without a stop in Leimert Park Village, the mecca of activity, creativity and culture," Sausedo said. "And Community Build's programs and services support the community. I'm appreciative that we had a chance, however brief, to show her what we're accomplishing here and what our future plans are. I think she was impressed."