

# California African American Museum



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**THE CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM TO COMMEMORATE THE 25<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOS ANGELES UPRISING WITH AN ORIGINAL EXHIBITION:  
“NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE: LA 1992”**

**Preview: March 8, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. followed by Opening Reception from 7:00 – 9:00 pm**



(Los Angeles, CA) — The California African American Museum (CAAM) will present four new exhibitions in March 2017, including *No Justice, No Peace: LA 1992*, a history exhibition that marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1992 Los Angeles Uprising. *No Justice, No Peace: LA 1992* will be on display from March 8–August 27, 2017.

On March 3, 1991, Rodney King led the California Highway Patrol on a high-speed chase that concluded with a struggle, during which some of the officers beat King with their batons. The brutality in the videotaped arrest sent shockwaves around the world and enraged many in the already-frustrated African American community in LA. On April 29, 1992, when a predominantly white jury acquitted the four officers accused in King’s beating, rage turned to violence.

*No Justice, No Peace: LA 1992* looks back at crucial episodes in Los Angeles history that influenced the

quality of life for African Americans and other communities of color over the course of fifty years. These include the second wave of the Great Migration of the 1940s, during which African Americans fled the harsh realities of the South, seeking employment and opportunity after World War II; the rising racial tensions between Mexican Americans and law enforcement heightened by the Zoot Suit Riots (1943) and Bloody Christmas (1951); and the legislative achievements of the Civil Rights Movement that shaped African American expectations for equality in the 1960s, but were slighted by the reality of unequal housing practices and discrimination.

The unjust treatment and oppressive conditions created by the overwhelming presence of law enforcement in black communities would create the worst civil rebellion the country had ever seen to date: the Watts Rebellion of 1965. In light of the strained political climate after this cataclysmic event, the City of Los Angeles made efforts to counter negative representations and



move toward equality in political representation through the election of its first African American mayor in 1973, former police officer Tom Bradley.

Despite the presence of a black mayor, communities of color were still left to confront their contentious relationship with law enforcement during the War on Drugs overseen by the Reagan Administration. Throughout the 1980s, Los Angeles saw the hyper-criminalization of black citizens and

aggressive responses by the police department, which sought to curb drug possession and dealing. These interactions incited violent drug raids, such as 39th and Dalton, which highlighted the pervasive nature of the LAPD's excessive use of force. Compounding animosity towards law enforcement seeped into the 1990s, leading ultimately to the 1992 Los Angeles Uprising.

With powerful photographs, videos, historic documents, posters, flyers, and important ephemera—including an original zoot suit from the 1940's, personal photos and items from Latasha Harlins' family, and an official LAPD police vehicle—*No Justice, No Peace: LA 1992* considers decades of complex socio-political history that have contributed to underlying tensions among Los Angeles's marginalized groups and communities, and it sheds light on race relations, socioeconomics, and equality in America today.

This exhibition is curated by Tyree Boyd-Pates, History Curator and Program Manager, CAAM.

### **In Conjunction**

*Trouble Every Day: LA 1965 /1992*

March 8 – August 27, 2017

Music has always been an integral part of the African American experience. Documentaries on the Civil Rights Movement frequently highlight important albums and concerts, and for many people, listening to jazz, R&B, and hip-hop has animated learning about African American history. Amidst the fighting and frustration of the 1965 Watts Rebellion, the aggravation of the 1992 LA Uprisings, and all that ensued in the intervening years, the radio played on, broadcasting music by Horace Tapscott, Sam Cooke, Ice Cube, Elaine Brown, 2Pac, Watts Prophets, and Charles Wright, among many others. *Trouble Every Day: LA 1965/1992*—an immersive listening environment—is presented in conjunction with *No Justice, No Peace: LA 1992* to highlight the music of civil rights struggles.

*Trouble Every Day: LA 1965/1992* is organized by Naima J. Keith, Deputy Director, Exhibitions and Programs, CAAM; Josh Kun, Professor of Communication, USC; and artist Genevieve Gaignard.

### **Related Public Programs**

Thursday, March 16, 2017 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

#BlackGirlsMatter

In 1991, Latasha Harlins, a 15-year-old African American girl, was shot in the head by a Korean clerk at a convenience store—a death that occurred just thirteen days before the beating of Rodney King by the LAPD. More than twenty-five years later, the fate of black girls' lives remains largely ignored. Join us for a roundtable discussion exploring the role and importance of girls such as Latasha in the black community and beyond, with Brenda Stevenson, professor

of history, UCLA; Funmilola Fagbamila, professor, activist, and an original member of Black Lives Matter (BLM); Shamell Bell, UCLA doctoral candidate and an original member of BLM; Tia Oso, national organizer, Black Alliance for Just Immigration; Denise Harlins, Latasha's aunt; and Britni Danielle, *Ebony Magazine*.

Thursday, May 18, 2017 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Can We All Get Along? 25 Years Later

In 1992, Rodney King made a national appeal in an attempt to quell Los Angeles's violent response to the acquittal of the four officers who beat him. In a panel discussion Tyree Boyd-Pates, curator of CAAM's exhibition *No Justice, No Peace: LA 1992*, will engage Reverend Cecil Murray of First AME, Rodney King's daughter, Lora King, and Mark D. Craig, author of *Ain't a Damn Thing Changed* and an original Parker Center demonstrator, to examine the legacy of the uprisings and assess whether LA is faring any better in 2017 than it did in 1992.

Wednesday, June 7, 2017 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Frame by Frame: The Media's Response to the LA Uprisings of 1992

Twenty-five years ago, the world witnessed the brutality and subsequent violence that resulted from the 1992 Los Angeles Uprising. Join us at CAAM for a panel led by USC Professor of Communication, Josh Kuhn, with Kirk McCoy, *LA Times* photographer; Jim Newton, a professor and former *LA Times* reporter; and photographer Ted Soqui, who will discuss what it was like to cover the uprisings in LA at the height of the rebellion.



### **About the California African American Museum**

CAAM explores the art, history, and culture of African Americans, with an emphasis on California and the West. Chartered by the State of California in 1977, the Museum began formal operations in 1981 and is a state-supported agency and a Smithsonian Affiliate. In addition to presenting exhibitions and public programs, CAAM houses a permanent collection of more than four thousand works of art, artifacts, and

historical documents, and a publicly accessible research library containing more than twenty thousand volumes.

### **Visitor Information**

Admission to the California African American Museum is free. Visit [caammuseum.org](http://caammuseum.org) for current exhibition and program information or call 213-744-7432 for tours or additional assistance.

Hours: Tuesday–Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Mondays and national holidays. The California African American Museum is located in Exposition Park at the corner of Figueroa Street and Exposition Boulevard, west of the 110 (Harbor) Freeway. Easy parking is available for \$12/\$15 (cash only) at 39<sup>th</sup> and Figueroa Streets. The Metro Expo line stop Expo Park/USC is a five-minute walk through the Exposition Park Rose Garden to the Museum.

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Images:

Page 1: Ted Soqui, The riots of 1992 in Los Angeles. A young boy standing near a fire damaged building on Adams Ave. May 2, 1992. © Ted Soqui, 1992

Page 2: James VanHise, *Korean community held a march in Koreatown to call attention to their plight*, 1992. Digital image from a photographic print, Courtesy the artist and the California African American Museum

Page 3: Ted Soqui. The riots of 1992 in Los Angeles. A large building housing a swap meet mall on fire at 7th Street and Union Ave in Pico/Union area of Los Angeles. May 1, 1992. © Ted Soqui, 1992