



6120 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90044 • 323-759-6063 • www.socallib.org • e-mail archives@socallib.org • fax 323-759-2252

## Selected Resources on South Los Angeles

### Archival Collections

An asterisk \* denotes collections with registers accessible through SCL's listing in the Online Archive of California.

You can reach the Online Archive of California through SCL's website at [www.socallib.org](http://www.socallib.org) or directly at [www.oac.cdlib.org/dynaweb.ead](http://www.oac.cdlib.org/dynaweb.ead)

#### Charlotta A. Bass Collection (1924–1977).

Papers of the longtime editor and publisher of the *California Eagle*, the oldest African American newspaper in Los Angeles, and vice-presidential candidate on the Progressive Party ticket, 1952. The Library also has the *California Eagle*, 1914–1950, on microfilm.

#### Black Panther Collection (1960s–1970s).

Flyers, articles, ephemera documenting the Panthers in Los Angeles (and Oakland, CA). The collection is complemented by the Library's run of the organization's newspaper *The Black Panther*.

#### California CIO Council Union Research and Information Services Records (1940s–1950s).

Research files on collective bargaining, the Taft-Hartley Law of 1947, and specific unions, maintained by the research office of the state CIO and housed in the Los Angeles CIO building at Avalon and Slauson.

#### *California Eagle* Photograph Collection (late 1800s–1950s).\*

Photographs from the *California Eagle*, the oldest African American newspaper in Los Angeles. Many of the photos depict the social, cultural and political life of LA's African American community, particularly in the 1940s and 1950s. Social conditions and progressive political causes and campaigns are also depicted.

#### Charles Bratt Papers (1933–1952).\*

Papers of Charles Bratt and Clarence Johnson, both employees of the World War II era United State Employment Services (USES), part of the War Manpower Commission. The documents deal with the work of the Committee on Fair

Employment Practices to prevent discrimination based on race, creed, color, or national origin, with special attention to discrimination within unions.

#### Civil Rights Congress, Los Angeles Chapter files (1940s–1950s).

Organizational records, case files, correspondence, campaign, legal and other documents from the Civil Rights Congress, Los Angeles Chapter (CRCLA). Organized in 1946, the CRC defended the rights of labor, Left political activists, Blacks, Mexican-Americans and other people of color. There were eight functioning sub-chapters and committees in the Los Angeles area.

#### Emil and Tassia Freed Papers (1915-1987).

The files of Emil and Tassia Freed are divided by series: personal, general, politics, correspondence, hearing local 311, IAM and Jail-1949. Emil is also an alumnus of Manual Arts High School and the University of Southern California and founder of the Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research.

**Using History to Advance Social Justice**

The Southern California Library is a vital community resource in the heart of Los Angeles dedicated to education for social change. SCL offers unique and accessible collections and programs on Southern California's social and progressive history. We engage people across generations in using history to advance social justice.

Los Angeles Housing Authority Photographs (1940s—early 1950s).

Photographs of slums, children, project housing, and official functions of the Los Angeles Housing Authority. Includes photographs of Frank Wilkinson, assistant to the Director of the Los Angeles Housing Authority, who advocated integrated low-income housing and faced political opposition that ultimately led to his dismissal from the Authority in 1952.

Frances Williams Papers (1930s—1990s).

Papers documenting the life of the late African American actress, theatre producer, and social activist. A beloved cultural figure in the African American and progressive community in Los Angeles, she ran *The Frances Williams Corner Theatre* out of her garage in South LA for decades. Her collection documents her political activism, particularly her work locally and nationally with the South Africa Support Committee working to bring about the end of apartheid as well as her work in film and television and the many productions of the Corner Theatre.

Los Angeles Integration Project (1978—1982).\*

Legal papers, minutes of meetings, and reports of a community organization formed to monitor and influence the court-ordered desegregation of the Los Angeles Public schools.

The Nickerson Family Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company Collection (1920s—1970s).

Records from the largest black-owned insurance company west of the Mississippi, the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company, founded in 1925 by William Nickerson Jr.

Clippings recording the growth and success of the company, publications and documents about company policies and procedures. The collection also contains family documents and personal correspondence of William Nickerson.

The Victor A. Nickerson Family Photographs Collection.

Donated by Victor A. Nickerson, son of the late William J. Nickerson, these family photographs depict significant occasions in the family's history, famous persons with whom they had contact, as well as Golden State Mutual events.

South Central Los Angeles Documentation Project Collection (1930s—1990s).

Files, including high school yearbooks, church bulletins, photographs, clippings and organizational literature documenting churches, groups, schools, individuals and neighborhoods in South Central Los Angeles.

James Strong Papers (1960s).

Papers of a community activist involved in several local organizations pursuing racial integration in housing and education in the 1960s, including the Community Relations Conference of Southern California, Californians for Fair Housing, Crenshaw Neighbors, and Morningside as an integrated (black and white) neighborhood.

Watts '65 Project Collection.

Reports, newspaper clippings, photographs, oral history interviews and other documentation collected as part of SCL's Watts '65 program commemorating the 25th anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion.

## Books

Los Angeles Murals by African American Artists (1995).

25 full-color reproductions of some of the Los Angeles area's most beautiful and significant murals in postcard form.

Changing Faces, Changing Places: Mapping Southern Californians by James P. Allen and Eugene Turner (2002).

Shows the racial diversity in the Southern California region including South LA.

Residential Apartheid: The American Legacy edited by Robert D. Bullard, J. Eugene Grigsby III and Charles Lee (1994).

*Taking It to the Bank: Race, Credit, and Income in Los Angeles* by Gary A Dymski and John M Veitch. Reveals how banks and savings and loan associations make fewer and smaller loans in low-income and high-minority neighborhoods in Los Angeles.

*African American Mobility and Residential Quality in Los Angeles* by J. Eugene Grigsby, III. A study looking to determine how residential mobility has affected housing quality for Los Angeles' black residents.

Los Angeles-Struggle Toward Multiethnic Community: Asian American, African American and Latino Perspectives edited by Edward T. Chang and Russell C. Leong (1993).

Scholars, journalists and writers contribute literary works concerning race and ethnic relations in LA as they emerged from the 1992 uprising.

Life in a Day of Black LA: The Way We See It edited by Roland Charles and Toyomi Igus (1992).

Ten photographers set out to document the Black LA they know and love.

Seeking El Dorado: African Americans in California edited by Lawrence B. De Graaf, Kevin Mulroy and Quintard Taylor (2001).

*Becoming Democrats: Liberal Politics and the African American Community* by Douglas Flamming. Shows the relationship between African American citizens and the Democratic Party, making reference to areas in South LA and the *California Eagle*.

*Coalition Building in Los Angeles: The Bradley Years and Beyond* by Raphael J. Sonenshein. Shows African American mayor Tom Bradley's approach to bring the ethnicities of South LA together, the disruption of the 1992 uprising and the hope for continual social change in the community.

Redlining Revealed: Where to Bank to Save Your Neighborhood by Ron Finney, Greg Jackson and Sheridan Sonne (1997).

Showing the geographical lending discrimination occurring in West Adams community.

Race Rebels: Culture, Politics and the Black Working Class by Robin D. G. Kelley (1994).

Comprehensive overview of the African American culture, highlighting South LA's people, politics, uprisings and culture.

Caught in the Middle: Korean Communities in New York and Los Angeles by Pyong Gap Min (1996).

Displays the history of Koreans, their economic segregation, their rise as merchants, their representation in African American and Hispanic neighborhoods, and the conflicts that occur within the multicultural neighborhoods of Los Angeles.

Los Angeles A to Z: An Encyclopedia of the City and County by Leonard Pitt and Dale Pitt (1997).

A comprehensive outlook on the Los Angeles region, containing descriptions on many topics and areas in the South LA area.

City of Angels edited by Gerry Riposa and Carolynn Dersch (1992).

*Negro y Moreno "In the Hood"* by James A Mitchell. Views the journey of Blacks and Latinos to South LA and the forces that bound them to live together, showing the Black and Latino demographic change in the 1980s. Also mentions the 1965 and 1992 uprisings.

The UNIA and Black Los Angeles by Emory J. Tolbert (1980).

Studies Garveyism, the UNIA and the black community of LA up to the 1930s.

Latino Metropolis by Victor M. Valle and Rodolfo D. Torres (2000).

Comprehensive overview of Latinos in the Los Angeles area, including South LA, showing their culture, class, politics, race relations and the 1992 uprising.

Ethnic Los Angeles edited Roger Waldinger and Mehdi Bozorgmehr (1997).

Highlights the changing demographics of the multicultural metropolis based on the 1990 census, including South LA.

The Watts Towers of Los Angeles by Leon Whiteson (1989).

Whiteson gives a historical overview of the Watts Towers, showing their cultural and artistic value and the conservation challenges.

### Periodicals

The Black Panther (1961–1971).

California Eagle (1914–1950).

Microfilm.

Herald Dispatch (1953–1958, 1967–1968, 1972–1982, 1984–present, incomplete).

The Integrator (1967–1969).

published by Crenshaw Neighbors.

Los Angeles Negro Directory and Who's Who 1930–1931

Published by the *California Eagle*.

Los Angeles Sentinel (1954, 1969, 1970–present, incomplete).

LA Watts Times (1990–present, incomplete).

Rice Paper (1991–1995, 1996–present, incomplete).

Turning Point (1996–present).

Watts Star Review (1989, 1991–present, incomplete).

Wave (1997–present, incomplete).

### Los Angeles Subject Files

Files contain clippings and pamphlets from the early twentieth century to the present concerning the Los Angeles region, including South LA. Information concerning South Los Angeles can be found under such headings as African Americans, Chicana/os, Education, Housing, Latina/os, Neighborhoods, and Race Relations.

### Videos

Fremont High School/Slauson Village Society Family Reunion [98].

A documentary film showing the reunion of the graduating classes in the 50s and 60s.

On Any Day [174].

A visit to four Los Angeles Neighborhoods including South LA.

Race in America: A Message from Los Angeles [199].

Examines the racial conflict and growing multiculturalism in Los Angeles (including South LA).

Marching Into the Millennium [154].

A documentary film by local scholar Emma Pullen, chronicling the history of Africans and African-Americans in Los Angeles.

See also Pathfinders on Arts and Culture in South LA, and 1965 and 1992 LA Uprisings.

Compiled by SCL interns: Vanessa Diaz, Christina Guevarra, delia herrera, and Mynor Mendez, June 2003.