THE LOS ANGELES INNER CITY CULTURAL CENTER
AND THE AFRICAN GROVE INSTITUTE FOR THE ARTS, INC.
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
THE UCLA BELOVED COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

PRESENT

A 25th anniversary Retrospective-Prospective of the 1998 Town Hall "African American Theater - The Next Stage: Los Angeles"

FEATURING

THE LOS ANGELES PREMIERE OF

HOWILEARNED WHAT LEARNED

BY AUGUST WILSON

SATURDAY APRIL 15, 2023

THE LATINO THEATER COMPANY

© THE LOS ANGELES THEATRE CENTER
514 S. SPRING STREET | LOS ANGELES, CA 90013

Production Team



Ernest Dillihay | Executive Producer (See bio on page 5)



Carmen Hayward-Stetson | Co-Executive Producer

Carmen Hayward is a SAG/AFTRA performing artist with many credits in movies, theater, commercials and television. She began her stage career with a debut at the Mark Taper Forum as Sassy in A Song for My People, by Paris Qualles. Television appearances have included American Crime Story and Rebel. Other recent appearances include Insecure and Music for the Movement. Currently she can be seen in a Stand Up to Cancer Promo with Actor/rapper Common. As a singer, she toured with Anthony Newley and Burt Bacharach, the Voices of the Supremes, and the Gospel group, Embrace.

Ms. Hayward-Stetson is also a stage, television and event producer (dba VisuaLife Enterprises). As a board member at the Ensemble Studio Theater in Hollywood she produced numerous plays, including West Memphis Mojo starring Larry Riley (A Soldier's Story and Knots Landing) and directed by Michael Peters (Thriller). She gained production and copywriting skills working for ABC-TV, ABC Motion Pictures and Taft Entertainment Television before going on to executive produce a talk show, Gettin' It Right, a Contemporary Discussion of Mental and Physical Health Issues for African American families.

Carmen is a graduate of the UCLA TFT Department, and an Inner City Cultural Center alumna. She is also a current board member for Inner City, working as an administrator for the LAICCC/Performing Arts Legacy project, and as an event producer. Carmen is represented by Jerry Pace of Apple Talent and MZA.



Michael O'Daniel | Chief Relevance Officer, Molten Core Productions: Strategic communications

Michael O'Daniel is in his third year of providing strategic communications services to Inner City Cultural Center. He first worked with ICCC in 1975, when his client Redd Foxx bankrolled its production of Tommy Butler's original musical "Selma," about the last days of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Michael has since launched a number of nonprofit arts ventures in Los Angeles, returning to his roots in that field which began in 1965 as assistant manager of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and advance tour manager / media liaison on its around-the-world tour, the first ever undertaken by an American orchestra.

He later founded a New York artist management / production firm that broke new ground in career development for leading jazz and pop artists as well as classical singers, conductors and instrumentalists.

Michael produced the concert series "Jazz at the Music Center," a Duke Ellington centennial concert series, three summers of JazzAmerica master classes at the Music Center, and was program director for the late American jazz master Billy Higgins' Saturday workshop at the World Stage in Leimert Park. He later served as executive director of the Brubeck Institute at University of the Pacific during the 2003-04 academic year.

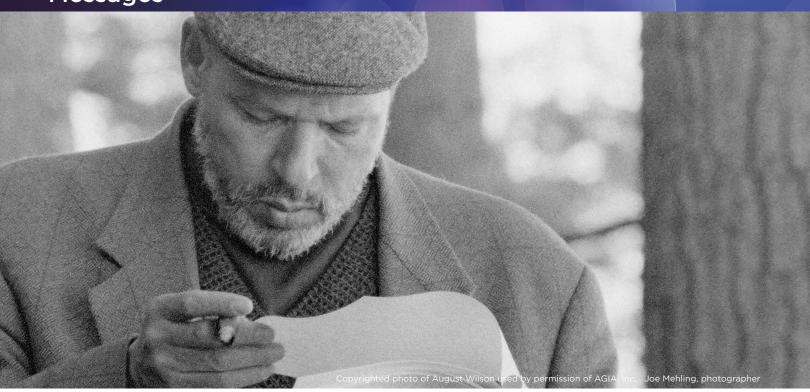
Michael is a composer/arranger and lyricist, producer, screenwriter, author, editor, publisher, journalist and former radio host. He is also a recovering C-level executive, business consultant and marketing communications practitioner, serving numerous clients in both the nonprofit and private sectors. A reasonably complete rap sheet can be found at https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-o-daniel-642239/.



Ed De Shae | Stage Manager

His Equity Card attained with the DC Black Repertory Company's, Kennedy Center production of The Blacks, Ed's credits encompass from local to international, including B'way with "Checkmates" & "Having Our Say"; presenting Queen Elizabeth II, at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, and presenting President Obama at the Organization of American States', 5th Summit of the Americas; and a treasured stint with Sidney, Harry & Ossie Productions' presentation of Ruby Dee's "My One Good Nerve". Honored recipient of the National Black Theater Festival's inaugural Outstanding Achievement in Stage Management Award. Also a director, designer & educator...A Renaissance Man!

Messages





When my husband, August Wilson, was first commissioned to put a solo piece together at Seattle Repertory Theatre, he told me, "All I know is that it won't be autobiographical." Then when facing real deadlines, he turned to me with a grin and said, "All I know is that it will be autobiographical." And so How I Learned What I Learned was born. This piece is what I call "a portrait of the artist as a young man." Twenty years later, August's ideas, his philosophy on life, his experiences, and lessons are more relevant to our modern world than ever.

As the Executive Director of the August Wilson Legacy LLC, I'm excited to see the Los Angeles Inner City Cultural Center, UCLA Beloved Community Initiative, the African Grove Institute for the Arts, Inc.

and CHARTOR Entertainment commemorate the importance of *How I Learned What I Learned* and I am beyond thrilled about the conversation and discourse which will follow and carry the torch of August's legacy forward. I wish I were there!

Constanza Romero-Wilson

Executive Director of the August Wilson Legacy LLC



Vusiszwe Azania

A Word (or A Message) from the Co-Founder and Director of the UCLA Beloved Community Initiative (BCI): In 2020, we added C. Bernard Jackson's name to our UCLA Bridge Builders Award because of how we at the UCLA Beloved Community Initiative learned what we learned.

Along this journey of building bridges to each other, and thereby to the Beloved Community, we have learned what we learned through applying research and remembering and reflection to respond to challenges artfully, thoughtfully.

In his song 'Down as a Great' the late Nipsey Hussle said: 'So many (people) doin' time/who are you and lo play with it/ it's a blessin'/ so reach for the sky'. That song, those words are what inspired our theme for Beloved Community Awareness Week 2023 - "Reaching for They Sky".

I never met Jack. I never met Nipsey. And I never met August Wilson. However, in meeting and learning about people who knew them, their legacy in part seems clear. That their lives are meant to be examples of what going for it can look like.

In that spirit, may how we continue to learn what we learn inspire us to keep reaching for the sky.



The relationship between August Wilson and the Los Angeles Inner City Cultural Center began when the late director Claude Purdy brought August from Minneapolis to Los Angeles to participate in Inner City's Readers Theatre program. August and C. Bernard Jackson, Inner City's co-founder, talked and engaged with one another before the play, a black western musical written by the yet unknown playwright, was read. Since that reading, many Inner City alumni continued their interaction with August as confidents and colleagues, and with his plays as actors, directors, and producers. The National Black Theater Summit, the Town Hall Meeting, and the African Grove Institute for the Arts, Inc. (AGIA), spawned relationships with Dartmouth College and the creation of AGIA Statewide Chapters.

Commemorating the 25th anniversary of the 1998 Town Hall and the legacy established by Mr. Jackson, the Inner City Cultural Center and August Wilson challenges us to answer their call and continue the narrative, bring our stories to the community, and build platforms to sustain them. Taking the next steps to secure our voices for posterity, our response is the Cultural Legacy Project. This will serve as a testament and will be a lasting contribution to the "Beloved Community."

Ernest Dillihay

LAICCC Board Member

Executive Director

The Cultural Legacy Project



Twenty-five years ago, I had the honor of partnering with August Wilson to convene the National Black Theatre Summit 'On Golden Pond' at Dartmouth College, followed by one in Atlanta, Georgia. The Summit was inspired by a vision Wilson articulated at the 1996 Theatre Communications Group Conference: a call "for Black playwrights, Black theatre intellectuals, and Black theatre artists to confer with one another...to come together to meet each other face to face, to address questions of aesthetics and ways to defend ourselves from nay-sayers who would trumpet our talents as insufficient to warrant the same manners of investigation as the majority. We need to develop guidelines for the protection of our cultural property, our contributions, and the influence they accrue... we should confer... so that we

may enter the millennium united and prepared for a long future of prosperity." Following the groundbreaking Summits, the African Grove Institute for the Arts, Inc., was created to address the challenges Wilson outlined in his revolutionary speech. While AGIA has faced challenges in its quarter century, it has been consistent in its advocacy of the African diasporic theatre community that Wilson envisioned, a "spearhead of a new movement to reignite and reunite our people's positive energy for a political and social change that is reflective of our spiritual truths..."

Dr. Victor Leo Walker, IIExecutive Director, AGIA, Inc.
Managing Partner,
CHARTOR Entertainment, LLC

Los Angeles City Council District 4 commendation to Art Evans



Born and raised in Berkeley, California, Art Evans has a wide range of Theatre, Film, Television and Music credits. For the past few decades Art has taught his mentor, Frank Silvera's, "Theater of Being" and in the 60's notably went to Broadway where he originated the role of "David" in James Baldwin's THE AMEN CORNER with Ms. Beah Richards. Mr. Evans has been honored by many notable organizations for acting and his lifetime of achievements. He has appeared in numerous feature films including: A SOLDIER'S STORY, JOJO DANCER YOUR LIFE IS CALLING, SCHOOL DAZE, TALES FROM THE HOOD, DIE HARD2, TRESPASS, and METRO. His TV adventures continued in 2022 with a guest starring role on Kevin Hart's BLACK HUSBANDS OF HOLLYWOOD and most recently THE PROUD FAMILY LOUDER & PROUDER (voiceover). 'Pass it Forward' is Art's mission.

Presenters: Glynn Turman and Ted Lange.



Charles Floyd Johnson

Host/MC

Charles ("Chas") Floyd Johnson is recognized as one of Hollywood's most successful Producers. He currently serves as Executive Producer of the hit CBS Television Network series, NCIS, which follows his tenure as Executive Producer of such other well-known network series as JAG, MAGNUM, P.I., QUANTUM LEAP and THE ROCKFORD FILES, in addition to subsequently serving as Executive Producer for eight two-hour THE ROCKFORD FILES movies and two seasons of B. L. STRYKER, an ABC Mystery Movie Presentation starring Burt Reynolds. Mr. Johnson has three Emmy Awards including wins for THE ROCKFORD FILES, which was his first Emmy Award for 'Outstanding Dramatic Series,' and two Awards for the 1982 PBS Special, VOICES OF OUR PEOPLE...IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK POETRY, for which he received Awards as both a

Producer and Performer of an 'Outstanding Entertainment Special.'

In addition to his status as an acclaimed television producer, Mr. Johnson was lauded in 2012 as Producer with George Lucas and Lucasfilm, Ltd., of the critically successful feature film RED TAILS, for which he received an NAACP Image Award for "Best Motion Picture." This action-driven movie details the exploits of World War II's first Squadron of African American fighter pilots, the famed Tuskegee Airmen. With the Producers Guild, he founded and produced the Oscar Micheaux Awards, which was the forerunner of the Guild's now successful Celebration of Diversity Awards.

Mr. Johnson is an Outstanding Alumnus of Howard University where he received both his Bachelor of Arts and his Juris Doctorate Degrees.



Rocky Carroll

Actor

One of Hollywood's best-kept secrets, Rocky Carroll is a critically acclaimed actor and director who has consistently proven his ability to master diverse roles in film, theatre and television.

Carroll currently stars as Leon Vance on the primetime CBS hit series "NCIS" and its spinoff "NCIS Hawaii." He is also featured in "NCIS: LA" and "NCIS: New Orleans," making him the first actor to reprise his role across four hit primetime series. In 2015 he made his television directorial debut on "NCIS" and has since directed 21 episodes.

Carroll's other television credits include "Chicago Hope," "Roc," "Grey's Anatomy," "The Game," "Invasion," "Kevin Hill," "Boston Legal," "ER," "American Dreams" and a starring role on "The Agency."

He also recently found time to return to his first love, the stage, starring in the political drama "Fraternity" for the Ebony Rep Theatre Company.

Carroll's relationship with the late August Wilson dates back to 1997, beginning with workshops and the premiere of Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning play "The Piano Lesson." He was nominated for Tony and Drama Desk Awards for his performance in the 1990 Broadway production. In the summer of 2005, Carroll starred in a national tour of Wilson's then-final original play, "Radio Golf."

His films include a starring role opposite Oprah Winfrey in "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" for HBO, as well as "Crimson Tide," "The Great White Hype," "Yes Man," "Prisoner," "The Ladies Man," "Best Laid Plans," "Born of the Fourth of July," "Prelude to a Kiss," "Talk Radio" and "The Chase."

Panelists



Dr. Victor Leo Walker, II

Dr. Victor Leo Walker, II has served as a Professor on the faculty of several of our nation's preeminent academic institutions: University of California, Stanford University and Dartmouth College. His most recent book, *Black Theatre: Ritual Performance in the African Diaspora* (Temple University Press), was lauded by scholars and book critics alike as a significant contribution to the disciplines of Theatre, Performance and Cultural Studies. While on the faculty at Dartmouth College, Dr. Walker produced two National Theatre Summits in partnership with Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning playwright August Wilson. The Summits' in-depth examination of African

American participation in theatre was published in a major report, *Black Theatre's Unprecedented Times*, coauthored by Dr. Walker with a "Special Introduction" by Mr. Wilson. Dr. Walker served as Co-Producer of Wilson's play JITNEY at Second Stage Theatre in New York. The production received the Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Off-Broadway Play.

Dr. Walker and August Wilson co-founded the African Grove Institute for the Arts, Inc. Dr. Walker is AGIA's Executive Director.

As a producer with DreamTeam Entertainment Group, LLC, Dr. Walker successfully produced Geraldine Connor's hit musical CARNIVAL MESSIAH, and the critically successful film short LIFTED. Following his tenure at that company, Dr. Walker and Charles Floyd Johnson launched CHARTOR Entertainment LLC, an independent multimedia production company.

Dr. Walker is the recipient of The Black Theatre Network Distinguished Scholars, Alabama State University's Dorothy Mells Spirit and Leadership Awards including the Ford, Prudential and Rockefeller Foundations, The Getty Trust and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Ifa Bayeza

Ifa Bayeza is an award-winning playwright, director, novelist and educator. Her diverse works are driven by a passion to convey the full humanity of Black people and champion the nobility of their struggle against enslavement and its historic and pervasive legacies. Described as "breathtaking," "staggering," "extraordinarily lyrical," and "triumphant," Bayeza's literary style and transcendent themes veer from the intimate to the mythic and compel us to re-examine embedded ideas we attach to race and gender. Plays include The Till Trilogy (The Ballad of Emmett Till, That Summer in Sumner, and Benevolence), reimagining the saga of 1955 Civil Rights icon Emmett Till; String Theory, giving

voice to the 1839 Amistad slave ship survivors and their allies; Welcome to Wandaland, a childhood memoir and Infants of the Spring, adapted from Wallace Thurman's classic Harlem Renaissance novel. Musicals include the World War love story, Charleston Olio, a Fred Ebb Award finalist; Bunk Johnson, a blues poem, on the legendary Jazz originalist; and KID ZERO, an anthropomorphized romp through the world of mathematics and physics. Her novel Some Sing, Some Cry was co-authored with her sister Ntozake Shange.

A finalist for the 2020 Herb Alpert Award in Theatre and for the 2020 Francesca Primus Prize, Bayeza in 2018 was the inaugural Humanist-in-Residence at the National Endowment for the Humanities and is the recipient of two commissions from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. A 2022 MacDowell fellow, Bayeza is a graduate of Harvard University with an MFA in Theater from University of Massachusetts Amherst.



Mariea Rayford Cromer, J.D.

Ms. Cromer holds graduate degrees from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education and Stanford University Law School. Ms. Cromer is a practicing attorney and the former Chief Legal Counsel and Executive Director of the Managed Care Institute of the Morehouse School of Medicine. In addition, she served as Chief Legal Council for the African Grove Institute for the Arts, Inc. (AGIA), a non-profit arts organization that she incorporated in consultation with the late playwright, August Wilson, twice winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and co-founder of AGIA. Ms. Cromer has served as special assistant to the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Social Services

(DHHS), with special responsibility for building and enhancing relationships between the federal government and historically Black colleges and universities. She played a strong role in enhancing the DHHS civil rights enforcement program, and helped to monitor both health and welfare reform proposals and their effects on minority and vulnerable populations. During her years as a practicing attorney, Ms. Cromer served as legal counsel to large hospital organizations, as well as participating in commercial transactions and intellectual property adjudication. She has also represented individuals in family disputes and regulatory hearings. A member of the District of Columbia Bar, Ms. Cromer is also certified in various aspects of alternative dispute resolution, particularly mediation, and has maintained a private mediation practice, as well as helping to establish mediation systems within public agencies. Ms. Cromer lived and conducted research in Botswana as a Ford Foundation Near East and Africa Research Scholar.



Dominic Taylor

Dominic Taylor is a writer-director and scholar of African-American theater and whose work has been seen around the world. The Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Ensemble Studio Theatre and New York Theatre Workshop have all commissioned him. His play, *I Wish You Love*, premiered at Penumbra Theatre, and was produced at both The Kennedy Center and Hartford Stage. His published plays include *Hype Hero*, *Wedding Dance*, *Personal History*, and *Upcity Service(s)*. His essay "Don't Call African American Theatre Black Theatre: It's Like Calling a Dog a Cat" was published by the Massachusetts Review.

Taylor is an alumnus member of New Dramatists. He received his bachelor's and master of fine arts degree from Brown University and is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society and the Dramatists Guild. He is a Full Professor of Theater at the UCLA School of Theater. Film and Television.



Ernest D. Dillihay

Ernest Dillihay is the Founder/President of Arts Culture Entertainment (ACE), LLC, a program development, production and arts advocacy company. He is also Executive Director for "The Cultural Legacy Project," i.e., the Los Angeles Inner City Cultural Center/C. Bernard Jackson Memorial Library (LAICCC/CBJML). He has worked with LAICCC in various capacities and is a current board member. He is a founding partner in the Diversity Equity Inclusion Group, LLC; an advisory board member for the UCLA Beloved Community Initiative, and an administrator for the Entertainment Community Fund (ECF) LAICCC Performing Arts Legacy project.

Ernest is a former Performing Arts Director and Cultural Facilities Director for the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, supervising operations and productions at five city-owned theaters and the citywide Festival, Video, Dance, Theater, Music, Variety Arts and Traditional & Folk Arts Programs. He supervised a cultural real estate portfolio consisting of 350,000 square feet in 33 theaters, art centers, galleries, and museums in Los Angeles.

Ernest has served on the board of the Los Angeles Stage Alliance; is former chair for the California African American Theatre Roundtable; and was the California State Chapter Chair for the African Grove Institute for the Arts, a national arts advocacy group co-founded by the late playwright August Wilson. He is a National Endowment for the Arts and CORO Public Affairs and the Arts Program Fellowship awardee. Ernest is a graduate of the UCLA Ethnic Arts (World Arts & Cultures-B.A.) and Theatre Management (M.F.A.) programs. He is a USMC veteran.



Dr. Oscar Edwards

Managing Member, Diversity Equity Inclusion, Group, LLC; and CEO, Higher Growth Strategies, LLC. Dr. Oscar Edwards is a seasoned professional with extensive experience in organizational and community engagement, change processes, and management advisory services. As the Managing Member of Diversity Equity & Inclusion Group, LLC, he specializes in designing and facilitating engagement and change processes that are rooted in storytelling. He is also the CEO of Higher Growth Strategies, LLC, where he provides management advisory services to family-run, small, and middle-sized enterprises in strategy, capital structuring, and exit planning.

Dr. Edwards is highly regarded in his field and has been recognized for his expertise in finance and marketing. He currently leads the Finance Faculty for the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program at Los Angeles City College and is the Advisory Committee Chair for the UCLA Beloved Community Initiative (BCI). He has also served as the Past Chair of the Minority and Women-Special Interest Group of the United States Association for Small Businesses and Entrepreneurship (USASBE).

Dr. Edwards is a respected scholar and is currently among a select number of venture innovation and entrepreneurship scholars convening nationally to explore the enhancement of DEI at the intersection of STEM for BIPOC. He holds a BA in Economics, an MBA in Finance/Marketing from the UCLA Anderson School of Management, and a Doctor of Business Administration from Grand Canyon University. Additionally, Dr. Edwards is a True Storytelling Institute (TSI) Level I and II Certified Trainer, specializing in deconstructing and reconstructing narratives based on moral answerability, together-telling, and sensemaking with bets on the future.



Monica White Ndounou, PhD

Associate Professor of Theater, Film & Media, AAAS Dartmouth College (As the Founder and Executive Director of The CRAFT Institute and Convener of The International Black Theatre Summit, which launched the annual Black Theatre Day (September 17),

Dr. Ndounou is a creator and co-curator of *Echoes of Us* directed by Michele Shay, produced by the African Diasporic Network.

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Visual Arts Exhibit Coordinator - Rico Smith assisted by Rosamaria Marquez

Visual Artists - Alvin Takamori, Homer Raymond, Kenneth Gatewood, Guadulesa Rivera, Pinchi

Michi Art, Trace Fukuhara and Cola Smith

Anindo Marshall - Marshall Dance Company/African Drummer

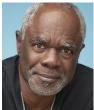
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Committee of One Thousand Contributors

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- Ralph J. Bunche, '27

About the UCLA Beloved Community Initiative:

Since 2015, the UCLA Beloved Community Initiative offers immersive, interdisciplinary multimedia experiences that explore and advance the Beloved Community as a vision for the 21st century. We do this by hosting Beloved Community Awareness Week from the third Tuesday to the fourth Tuesday of April each year, and other programs throughout the year, that examine contemporary and historical issues through film, broadcasts, panels and more. In utilizing the legacy of UCLA's Royce Hall and the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s. 1965 visit to UCLA, our aim is to effect positive change locally, nationally, and globally. Our vision is to see people healing the breaches of society so that true storytelling, reconciliation, reciprocity, hope, and kindness can pave the way for the Beloved Community to manifest.

Visit us at www.uclabelovedcommunityinitiative.org























Higher Growth Strategies, LLC

Imagination is Power

"...A spiritual or divine community capable of achieving the highest good as well as the common good."

-JOSIAH ROYCE

"The arc of the universe is long but it bends towards justice"

-DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

"The arts may be the only tool we have left to save ourselves from destruction"

-C. BERNARD JACKSON

"Community is the most valuable thing that you have in African-American culture," he explains.

"The individual good is always subverted to the good of the community."

-AUGUST WILSON

A PDF of the publication "Black Theatre: Unprecedented Times," published by and © by the African Grove Institute for the Arts, Inc. (AGIA, Inc.) and the Black Theatre Network (BTN), which followed the 1998 Town Hall, may be found here:

https://nebula.wsimg.com/b7708b492d2ef157dc1ecde41e956a77?AccessKeyId=D2BE8918F-5C13BE7D10A&disposition=0&alloworigin=1

NOTE: Please be advised that there can be no recordings of any kind of the play.



- **18** Beloved Community Luncheon
- Healing Community Through True Storytelling & Collage Portraiture
- Reel Talk Film Series screening of "Selma"
- **22** Teaching MLK Conference
- 22 X-S.T.R.E.A.M.M. Interactive Day
- **23** Day of Service
- **25** MLK Remembrance Day @ UCLA

UCLA Office of the Chancellor



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