

## NATIONAL AUTHORS SHARE CULTURAL INSIGHTS WITH DELRAY BEACH AUDIENCES THREE MONTHS IN A ROW

*“Authors Speak: The Impact of Race on American Society” Series Runs February-April; Hybrid Events Produced in Collaboration with Spady Museum, Arts Garage and CRA*

**Delray Beach, FL (January 8, 2021)** – This spring, the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, Arts Garage and the Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) will welcome three nationally-acclaimed authors to share their insights on race and its impact upon American culture. From February to April 2021, one author will be featured each month, as part of a hybrid speakers’ series, entitled “*Authors Speak: The Impact of Race on American Society*,” which will be free and accessible to the public.

“This dynamic series is our way of keeping the conversations around race going by featuring renowned authors on the subject matter,” said Delray CRA Executive Director Renée A. Jadusingh, Esq.

Kicking off the series during February, or Black History Month, will be Jason Reynolds, co-author of the best-selling novel, “*Stamped: Racism, Anti-Racism & You*.” March will welcome Tina K. Sacks, author of “*Invisible Visits, Black Middle-Class Women in the American Healthcare System*.” And in April, Richard Rothstein will share about his book, “*THE COLOR OF LAW: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*.”

“We are excited to hear from three distinct voices about their perspectives on race in America, at a time when our nation is more attuned to its sustained impact and influence in every aspect of our culture,” said Charlene Farrington, director of the Spady Museum. “It will be interesting to compare and contrast their research, as each author will bring something different to the conversation, which I anticipate will be engaging and informative for us all.”

In 2020, the Spady Museum explored Reynolds’ book with its youth group, and Farrington is thrilled to have Reynolds to interact with them and other young people interested in the anti-racism movement.

“Arts Garage and I are excited to participate in this series. Providing access to conversations about difficult topics like race creates a space for open dialogue and community healing,” said Arts Garage President and CEO Marjorie Waldo, M.Ed.

**Virtual Event Schedule:** All events to be held via Zoom and broadcast live from The Spady Museum and the Arts Garage’s Facebook pages.

Saturday, February 20, 2021: Jason Reynolds, author of “*Stamped: Racism, Antiracism & You*” 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.; speaker will give a 30-minute talk, followed by 15 minutes of Q&A

Wednesday, March 24, 2021: Tina K. Sacks, author of “*Invisible Visits, Black Middle-Class Women in the American Healthcare System*” 7-8 p.m.; speaker will give a 45-minute talk, followed by 15 minutes of Q&A

Thursday, April 29, 2021: Richard Rothstein, author of “The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America”

4-5 p.m.; speaker will give a 40-minute, followed by a Q&A

### About Jason Reynolds

Reynolds is the New York Times best-selling author of *All American Boys*, *the Track series*, *Long Way Down*, *For Everyone*, and *Miles Morales-Spiderman*.

He is an American author, who writes novels and poetry for young adult and middle-grade audiences, including *Ghost*, a National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature.

Born in Washington, DC and raised in neighboring Oxon Hill, Maryland, Reynolds found inspiration in rap to begin writing poetry at nine years old. He focused on poetry for approximately the next two decades, only reading a novel cover to cover for the first time at age 17 and publishing several poetry collections before he published his own first novel, *When I Was The Greatest*, in 2014. He won the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe Award for New Talent for this first work of prose and seven more novels followed in the next four years, including *Ghost* (2016) and two more books in what became his *New York Times* best-selling Track series, *Patina* (2017) and *Sunny* (2018); *As Brave As You* (2016), winner of the 2016 Kirkus Prize, the 2017 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work for Youth/Teen, and the 2017 Schneider Family Book Award; and a Marvel Comics novel called *Miles Morales: Spider-Man* (2017).

Reynolds returned to poetry with *Long Way Down* (2017), a novel in verse which was named a Newbery Honor book, a Printz Honor Book, and best young adult work by the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar Awards. Learn more at <https://www.jasonwritesbooks.com/>

### About Tina K. Sacks, PhD

Sacks is an assistant professor in the School of Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley, who studies racial and gender inequities in healthcare settings, social determinants of health, and poverty and inequality. Sacks' work has been published in *Race and Social Problems*, *Health Affairs*, and *MSNBC News*, and she frequently collaborates with the photographer/filmmaker Carlos Javier Ortiz on documentary film projects about issues affecting Black and Latino communities in the U.S. and abroad.

Her book “Invisible Visits, Black Middle-Class Women in the American Healthcare System,” analyzes how middle-class Black women navigate the complexities of dealing with doctors in this environment. It challenges the idea that race and gender discrimination, particularly in healthcare settings, is a thing of the past, and questions the persistent myth that discrimination only affects poor racial minorities. In so doing, the book expands our understanding of how Black middle-class women are treated when they go to the doctor, why they continue to face inequities in securing proper medical care, and what strategies they use to fight for the best treatment (as well as the consequential toll on their health).

Drawing from original research, Sacks shines a light on how women perceive the persistently negative stereotypes that follow them into the exam room, and proceeds to illustrate why simply

providing more cultural-competency or anti-bias training to doctors will not be enough to overcome the problem. For Americans to truly address these challenges, the deeply embedded discrimination in our prized institutions, including those in the healthcare sector, must be acknowledged.

### About Richard Rothstein

Rothstein is a research associate of the Economic Policy Institute and a Fellow at the Thurgood Marshall Institute of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. He lives in California, where he is a Fellow of the Haas Institute at the University of California–Berkeley.

Rothstein has spent years documenting the evidence that government not merely ignored discriminatory practices in the residential sphere, but *promoted* them. The impact has been devastating for generations of African-Americans, who were denied the right to live where they wanted to live, and raise and school their children where they thought best.

While the Fair Housing Act in 1968 provided modest enforcement to prevent future discrimination, it did nothing to reverse or undo a century’s worth of state-sanctioned violations of the Bill of Rights, particularly the Thirteenth Amendment, which banned treating former slaves as second-class citizens. So the structural conditions established by 20<sup>th</sup> century federal policy endure to this day.

At every step of the way, Rothstein demonstrates, the government and our courts upheld racist policies to maintain the separation of whites and blacks. Leading to the powder keg which has defined Ferguson, Baltimore, Charleston, and Chicago. THE COLOR OF LAW is not a tale of Red versus Blue states. It is sadly the story of America in all of its municipalities, large and small, liberal and reactionary.

### **Photo captions:**

**Jason Reynolds:** Jason Reynolds will be featured in a virtual event on Saturday, February 20, 2021, on Facebook Live at the Arts Garage and The Spady Musuem pages. Reynolds, author of “Stamped: Racism, Antiracism & You,” will talk about his book and the anti-racism movement.

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