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By Elman + Rojas

The Miami Times and the Fight for Equality

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What's so mind-boggling is how voter suppression is still happening today, particularly in the South. In 2013, the Supreme Court of the United States struck down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act and effectively nullified the Section 5 pre-clearance provision, which had been in place since 1965. This decision allowed states with a history of discrimination to implement new voter restrictions, such as voter ID laws and poll taxes. These laws disproportionately affect minority communities and are a form of modern-day Jim Crow voting rights suppression.

Since the 1990s, I’ve heard of areas of the South where we lost thriving Black communities that segregated, even after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, ending legal segregation. I’ve heard it said, “Segregation, I’ve heard it said, that voter suppression is still a thing. What we lost was a voice in the democratic process.” I’m sure you are aware that the loss of a Black voice in the democratic process was a conscious effort by the white-dominated state to disenfranchise African-American voters.

Look what we got. But look what we lost.

TheMiamiTimes.org informs you today? Historically, has the Black press been impactful in motivating and organizing people of color to take action? Historically, has the Black press been able to raise awareness and affect policy change? Has the Black press been an unintended springboard for White people to develop a greater understanding of the Black experience?

The year 2020 feels like an intended springboard. The Black press was there in 1960 and 1980 and in the past 15 years. What’s on your drawing board? The year 2020 feels like an unintended springboard. The Black press was there in 1960 and 1980 and in the past 15 years. What’s on your drawing board? Has the Black press been an unintended springboard for White people to develop a greater understanding of the Black experience?


A native of the Republic of Panama, McLeod was raised in historic St. Augustine, Florida. She is also a graduate of FAMU, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in broadcast journalism. McLeod earned both a Ph.D. in African-American History and a master’s degree in U.S. History from Florida State University. She is also a graduate of A&M University (FAMU) College of Social Sciences, Communications and Alumni Relations for the Florida A&M University (FAMU) Alumni Association and the College of Communications. McLeod is also a Broadcaster, social historian, and journalist. Demonstrating the interdisciplinary nature of history and journalism, her research specializes in the history of the African-American experience.

When you were doing your research, what were some of the biggest surprises and challenges you faced while researching African-American History? Regarding the end of the era of segregation, what was your first awareness? Where did you grow up and what’s on your drawing board? When did you first learn about the Miami Times? What's on your drawing board? What's on your drawing board?

What has been the biggest surprise of doing this research? What are the biggest surprises? What did you know? What did you learn? What do you think are some important stories related to the African-American experience?

McLeod strives to elevate social consciousness and improve understandings of the African-American experience. Her research and writing are organized by the Smithsonian Museum of African American History. She is a visiting artist and writer-in-residence for the Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Social Sciences, Communications and Alumni Relations for the Florida A&M University (FAMU) Alumni Association and the College of Communications. McLeod is a Broadcaster, social historian, and journalist. Demonstrating the interdisciplinary nature of history and journalism, her research specializes in the history of the African-American experience.

Inspicio Arts published a video interview with Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools, who said, “Education without arts education is malpractice.”