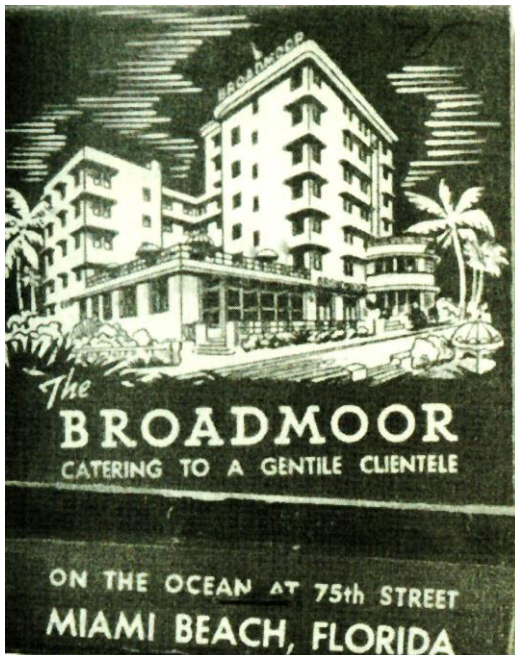


CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
YOUTH COMMISSION TEACHER GUIDE FOR SCREENING #MBHISTORY
THE MIAMI BEACH YOUTH COMMISSION'S SERIES

“The History of Minorities on Miami Beach”

Goal: To better understand the present and future by examining the history of minority communities on Miami Beach and the roots of ongoing challenges to address inequality and bias.

Each program runs approximately 30 minutes. Youth Commissioners participate in each. There are discussions intermittently during the webinar. Teachers may consider pausing the program at these points to open classroom participation in the discussion of specific topics, if time permits. **Prior to showing the programs to students, it is**



essential that teachers preview each one.

As a prelude to screening this program or any in the series, it would be helpful for students to understand the dynamics of bias (both conscious and unconscious), bigotry, and discrimination. (adl.org/everydaybias)

Many students may have been targeted themselves or know someone who has. They might be willing to share their own story, given a safe and confidential setting, but should not share other people's stories without their permission.

Viewing this series also raises awareness of the social and psychological damage of discrimination in recent decades and what is needed to shape a safer and more equitable society.

Program 1: The Jewish History of Miami Beach

Key points: The City of Miami Beach was founded on March 26, 1915. The founder, Carl Fisher, a wealthy industrialist, was anti-semitic. His original vision was as a winter playground for his wealthy Midwestern friends. All his hotels were restricted to non-Jews.



Review questions:

Q: What evidence is there of Miami Beach's early anti-semitism? (Signs on hotels, promotional brochures, and an ordinance which excluded Jews from building or owning property north of Fifth Street) What was your reaction to seeing this evidence?

Q: Anti-semitism persisted despite the large number of Jewish residents. Ruth Karp's successful lawsuit against what kind of establishment effectively ended overt discrimination? Can you think of recent

examples of other groups using lawsuits to further their goals?

Q: At one time, the City of Miami Beach had the greatest concentration of a specific group of the U.S. Jewish population. What was that group? (Holocaust survivors)

General Discussion:

Q: At the beginning of the program, Miami Beach Mayor Dan Gelber states that the groups which were discriminated against in the past - Jews, Blacks, Hispanics, and LGBTQ people - are still being discriminated against. Do you agree or disagree? What evidence do you have?

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Q: What are some of the stereotypes that persist about Jews?
How are stereotypes hurtful?

Q: *Bias* is an attitude either pro or con certain people or ideas. *Discrimination* is the denial of attention, rewards, and opportunities to a group of people because of bias. Given the fact that many people are unaware of their biases, is it possible to eliminate bias? If so, how? (According to the AntiDefamation League's NOPLACEFORHATE program operating in many MDCPS schools, when students hear a joke or put-down of a person or group of people because of their religion, skin color, or physical condition, they should NOT simply ignore the remark but react by 1) saying "I don't agree with your viewpoint," or "That has not been my experience." 2) Reflect back the remark with a question, e.g. "Are you saying, then, that all _____ people are _____?"

Field trip or virtual tour of the Miami Beach Holocaust Museum, Jewish Museum of Florida, <https://jmof.fiu.edu/>

Relevant websites: Shoah Foundation, <https://sfi.usc.edu/>, www.miamibeachvisualmemoirs.com; adl.org (Anti-Defamation League)

Recommended reading: South of the South: Jewish Activists and the Civil Rights Movement in Miami 1945–1960, Raymond A. Mohl; Night, Elie Wiesel, 1960

Program 2: The Black History of Miami Beach

Summary: Although Black laborers made Miami Beach possible by clearing the mangrove swamps and building the infrastructure, Black people were not able to own property on Miami Beach. After its development, the City of Miami Beach was off-limits to all Blacks except to workers until 11pm. After that time, any Blacks caught on the streets were taken to jail and held overnight. Although the city is open to everyone now, today only 5% of Miami Beach's residents are black.



Review questions:

Q: Ironically, some of the first owners of land on Miami Beach were Black laborers. How did they come to be landowners? (They were given plots of land instead of cash payment for their labors but could not develop it.)

Q: In 1945, a small group of Black men staged a “wade-in” at Haulover Beach, demanding beach access for Black families. What was the result of their action? (The county set aside Virginia Key Beach for Blacks only.)

Q: What famous Black international figure was snubbed by the political leadership of Miami-Dade County, which caused Black people to boycott visiting or holding conventions on Miami Beach? (Nelson Mandela)

Q: Why was there very little violence in Miami/Miami Beach during the civil rights movement compared to other southern cities? (The governor and mayor feared negative publicity would threaten tourism revenues. According to Miami civil rights leader A.D. Moore, there was little, if any, violence in Miami. The police actually protected protestors from counter- protestors.

(www.vimeo.com/215855317)

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Q: What role did Black performers play in desegregating night clubs on Miami Beach? (They insisted on integrated audiences as a condition of performing.)

General questions:

The City of Miami Beach made international news in March 2021 during Spring Break when of thousands of mainly Black youth came to South Beach to party. The reaction of the Miami Beach police was criticized by civil rights groups.

Q: What was the cause of friction between the visitors and the Miami Beach Police? (Excessive noise and disorganization and tension causing outbreaks of violent encounters v. the tourists feeling discriminated against by the police because of their skin color and reacting differently to Blacks than they did to White people in similar situations.)

Q: If you were in charge of crowd control for big Beach events, how would you handle it? What would you avoid?

Field trips: Virginia Key Beach Park, Historic Hampton House

Websites: www.miamibeachvisualmemoirs.com

www.miamibeachvisualmemoirs.com, section on Black History;

Recommended reading: White Sands/Black Beach, by Gregory Bush; Black Miami, by Marvin Dunn; South of the South: Jewish Activists and the Civil Rights Movement in Miami, 1945-1960, by Raymond Mohl.



Program 3: The Hispanic History of Miami Beach

Summary: Miami and Miami Beach have long been connected to the history of Latin America and the Caribbean, especially in the case of Cuban history. Miami Beach was a hub of Cuban exile activity in 1933, when a former Cuban president, Mario Garcia Menocal, lived in a mansion on Lincoln Road. In the Great Depression, many unemployed Cubans came to Miami to work in the hotels and restaurants on Miami Beach.



Although there have been many successive waves of Cubans coming, there have been immigrants from the rest of Latin America as well. Many of the adults had to “start over,” doing low-wage jobs until they were well-established. The Hispanic population prospered along with Miami Beach. Now the Beach is an international city with the sounds and flavors of many Spanish-speaking countries.

Review questions:

Q: Political turmoil in Cuba began with the War of Independence from Spain. How long ago was that? (150 years ago)

Q: The two biggest surges of Cuban immigration to Miami and Miami Beach came in 1960 and 1980, twenty years apart. What prompted those surges? (The Cuba’s communist revolution of 1959 and the Mariel Exodus of 1980).

Q: There was an airlift of 14,048 Cuban children who were sent alone by their parents to Miami. If they had no relatives in Miami, they were sent to other parts of Florida and the country. What was this program called? (Operation Pedro Pan)

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Q: What was the impact on Miami Beach of the Mariel Exodus from Cuba? (An unprecedented wave of violent crimes committed by the criminals among the otherwise law-abiding refugees. The sharp rise in criminal activity making national news scared off the tourists.)

Q: In 2007, Mattie Herrera Bower was elected Mayor of Miami Beach. What was the significance of her election? (First Hispanic and first woman to serve as mayor of Miami Beach.)

Discussion questions:

Q: What is your culture of origin? Is it important to you?

Q: What evidence do you see of Hispanic influence on Miami Beach? (food, music, entertainment, place names like Espanola Way, stores, Hispanics in political office)

Q: Do you feel that Miami Beach is an inclusive city where no one is excluded because of their country of origin?

Websites/videos:

www.miamibeachvisualmemoirs.com (interviews with Luis Garcia, Mattie Bower, Herb Sosa, Michel Hausmann, Marcus Kerbel)

Recommended reading

Defining Moments: A Cuban Exiles 'Story, by José Ramirez.

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Program 4: The LGBTQ History of Miami Beach



Summary: Most Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) people on Miami Beach were not open about their sexual orientation and gender identities until they came under attack by Anita Bryant in 1976. She was a

national figure, having been a finalist in the Miss America beauty pageant, a popular singer, and the spokesperson for the Florida Citrus Commission, promoting Florida orange juice in commercials run nationally. She campaigned to rescind a pro-gay rights ordinance passed by the Miami-Dade County Commission. In one year, she succeeded, enlisting churches in Miami-Dade County. Her accusations against gays and her labeling them as “human garbage” caused what could be called an “uprising” of LGBTQ people in Miami and Miami Beach.

Bryant’s crusade provoked outrage and brought the subject of sexuality into a national conversation about gay rights. This led to reforms in the law and de-stigmatizing of LGBTQ people, who played a significant role in the cultural and economic development of Miami Beach.

Review questions:

Q: What prominent national celebrity living on Miami Beach launched a homophobic campaign which made many gay people declare their sexual orientation publicly in defending themselves? (Anita Bryant)

Q: What caused Anita Bryant to start her anti-gay campaign? (Passage of a Miami-Dade County human right ordinance which

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protected gays and lesbians from discrimination in employment and housing.)

Q: Who was Harvey Milk and why is he important? (First openly gay mayor of San Francisco who was murdered in his office by a former commissioner)

Q: What happened to Anita Bryant? (She lost credibility and became the subject of ridicule for her outrageous remarks and lost her job with the Florida Citrus Commission and her ability to make a living.)

Q: Who was Leonard Horowitz? (A designer and artist who teamed with Barbara Capitman to save the Art Deco district of South Beach. He used pastel colors to repaint the Deco buildings to highlight their Deco features causing a reassessment of their value.)

General discussion:

Q: Why was it so hard to reveal being gay in the days before the Anita Bryant campaign? (Society generally didn't accept gay people and there was open discrimination in the job and housing market. You could lose your job, your home, and even your family's acceptance.)

Q: How have attitudes changed regarding homosexuality compared to what you witnessed in the program? (More openness now that many people have family members and people they know who are openly gay. The stigma is a lot less.)

Q: Is there still prejudice against LGBTQ people that you have witnessed?

Websites/films: The Day It Snowed in Miami, a film by Joe Cardona. Tells the story of the Anita Bryant campaign in Miami-Dade. Highly recommended.

www.stonewall-museum.org; www.miamibeachvisualmemoirs.com
(Steve Adkins, Gaylord Cull, George Neary, Herb Sosa, Barbara's Crusade (a video))

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glsen.org, save.lgbt, EQFL.org (Equality Florida)

Related Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Social Studies (Senior High School)

SS.912.A.1.1: Describe the importance of historiography, which includes how historical knowledge is obtained and transmitted when interpreting events in history

SS.912.A.1.2: Utilize a variety of primary and secondary sources to identify author, historical significance, audience, and authenticity to understand a historical period.

SS.912.A.1.3: Utilize timelines to identify the time sequence of historical data.

SS.912.A.1.4: Analyze how images, symbols, objects, cartoons, graphs, charts, maps, and artwork may be used to interpret the significant of time periods and events from the past.

SS.912.A.1.5: Evaluate the validity, reliability, bias, and authenticity of current events and Internet resources.

SS.912.A.1.6: Use case studies to explore social, political, legal, and economic relations in history.

SS.912.A.1.7: Describe various socio-cultural aspects of American life including arts, artifacts, literature, education, and publications.