



Introducing:

The Matthew and Celeste C. Sutton Film and Discussion Series

At Berkeley Arts Magnet
2015 Virginia Street, Berkeley, CA 94709

Opening a Dialogue about Race, Education and Berkeley

Open to all!!

February 25th, March 11th, April & May dates TBA

This film and discussion series, held in honor and memory of Matthew and Celeste C. Sutton, seeks to open a long overdue discussion about race, education and the subsequent impact on Berkeley citizens' health and welfare. Berkeley's achievement gap is among the highest in the state. This gap also directly correlates to citizens' health and mortality rates. Overall, children of color perform poorer in schools and die earlier than their white counterparts, even across class lines. The films in this series present a starting point to tease apart how concepts of race in America structure the ways people think, how we shape our lives, and influence the institutions we build. The following two presentations will highlight the consequences of these racial constructs within Berkeley schools and explore the unique history of the city's institutions and community ethos that, despite good intentions, have resulted in some of the educational, health and social issues we face today.

We open this discussion about race during February, coinciding with Black History month, with a film that explores one white family's journey to uncover its role in the U.S. slave trade. We use this time and framework to underscore that everyone has a place in discussions about race; also that everyone is racially identified. Whiteness, as a racial marker, is often overlooked as it defines the normative. Yet until whiteness is seen in its unique racial context, race politics can hardly move forward. This series also coincides with the opening of the Lawrence Hall of Science's newest exhibit, "Race: Are We So Different?" in which race is explained to young audiences as a human invention used to demarcate physical and cultural differences, often to establish power and privilege over others. We hope this series will provide a comfortable framework within which *everyone* can explore and discuss questions about race and their relationship to it, and then examine even further race implications for Berkeley schools and the city's future.

Each event in the series is adult participation only. A potluck supper and child care for children 3 and up will be provided. For all events, located in BAM's auditorium, the supper will begin at 6:00 p.m., and the films and discussions at 6:30 p.m. This is an RSVP event if you are interested in childcare. For further details and/or questions, contact Dru Howard (druhoward@yahoo.com) or Beth Gerstein (beth-gerstein@comcast.net). Please RSVP to Beth Gerstein at beth-gerstein@comcast.net, or by calling 510-548-2334.

Continued

Matthew and Celeste C. Sutton Film and Discussion Series Events:

Thursday, February 25th: *Movie and facilitated discussion*

Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North *by* Katrina Browne

In this documentary, filmmaker Katrina Browne discovers that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-traders in U.S. history. She and several cousins retrace the Triangle Trade and gain powerful new perspectives on race relations both internally and in the world at large.

Thursday, March 11th: *Movie and facilitated discussion*

The Color of Fear *by* Lee Mun Wah

In this documentary, eight American men of different races are gathered for a dialogue about the state of race relations in this country as seen through their own eyes. The exchanges are often heated, and bring to light the pain caused by racism in the U.S.

April Date and time TBA *Presentation and Open Forum*

The achievement gap and Berkeley's 2020 Vision *by* Nicole Sanchez, Berkeley Alliance
A data filled presentation showing specifics of the racial foundations of the achievement gap and health statistics within our district. Berkeley's 2020 Vision and strategies for dismantling this gap will also be discussed.

May Date and time TBA *Presentation and Open Forum*

Thinking Through our Past and into our Future: How Did We Get Here, and What Can We Learn From It? An Historical Perspective

A brief sketch of Berkeley's social, economic and political history that has brought us to the present. What insights may we gain from our past? Is there room for change?

All staff, families, district employees, district families, caregivers, friends and neighbors welcomed and encouraged to attend!

Sponsored by: African American Families United @ BAM, BAM PTA, BAM SGC; Berkeley Alliance; BAM Allstars



