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MEDIA ADVISORY

Celebrate Black History Month with the exclusive red-carpet event for “Across the Tracks – A Las Vegas Westside Story” on Feb. 24

LAS VEGAS – An exclusive red-carpet event for the premiere of the documentary “Across the Tracks: A Las Vegas Westside Story” will be held on Saturday, Feb. 24 at the Plaza Hotel & Casino. The event will begin with an invite-only cocktail hour at 5 p.m. followed by brief remarks and the viewing of an edited version of the film inside the Plaza’s vintage showroom.

First debuting during the Sundance Film Festival, the documentary produced and directed by Emmett Gates of [Slicktion Culture](http://SlicktionCulture.com) explores black history in America and Las Vegas’ unique role within it. From the Jim Crow laws that denied Vegas performers like Nat King Cole, Lena Horne, Harry Belafonte, Sammy Davis Jr., and others from staying in Las Vegas hotels to the development of the city’s segregated historic Westside neighborhood, the film delves into the rich and untold stories of the historic Westside, offering an in-depth look at a history that often gets overlooked.



WHAT: Exclusive film premiere of “Across the Tracks: A Las Vegas Westside Story”

WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 24, cocktail hour at 5 p.m., remarks and film viewing at 6 p.m.

WHERE: The Plaza Hotel & Casino, 1 Main Street, Las Vegas, Nev., 89101

WHO: Las Vegas City Councilman Cedric Crear, Clark County Commissioner William McCurdy II as well as other elected officials, community leaders, and distinguished guests. Media wanting to cover the red-carpet and premiere event should RSVP to amy@twgpr.com.

Through in-depth interviews with residents, community leaders, historians, celebrities, and archival footage, “Across the Tracks” paints a vivid portrait of a community that flourished against all odds. The film chronicles the Westside’s 118-year history, beginning with the early days when it was predominantly inhabited by black Americans and served as a safe haven during an era of racial discrimination to the current-day efforts of city leaders and dedicated residents who are leading the charge for a renaissance.

The full version of “Across the Tracks” will be available to the public to watch in Las Vegas on March 6.

Gates, a Las Vegas native, joins Claytee White, inaugural director of the Oral History Research Center for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Libraries, to narrate the documentary, which is funded by a grant from the Commission for the Las Vegas Centennial. Notable interviews in the film include:

- Tyler D. Parry P.h.D, Professor of African American Studies, UNLV

- Michael Green P.h.D, Professor of History, UNLV
- Bob Stoldal, Las Vegas historian and longtime journalist and media executive
- U.S. Congressman Steven Horsford
- Clark County Commissioner William McCurdy II
- Las Vegas City Councilman Cedric Crear
- Sonny Charles of The Checkmates
- Skip Trenier of The Fabulous Treniers
- Anna Bailey, an original performer at the Moulin Rouge
- Norma Tolbert, an original performer at the Moulin Rouge (her first ever on-camera interview)

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