

# **THE INTERSECTION OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND PUBLIC HISTORY**

**Dr. Eric Williams,  
the Smithsonian Institution**

**Monday, March 14, 2022**



**COLLEGE OF  
Education**

# LECTURE SCHEDULE

- 6 p.m. .... **Opening Remarks**  
Dr. David Childs
  
- 6:05 p.m..... **Introductory Remarks**  
Dr. Ginni Fair
  
- 6:07 p.m..... Dr. Eric Jackson
  
- 6:10 p.m..... **Keynote Address**  
Dr. Eric Williams
  
- 6:50 p.m..... **Panel Discussion**  
Chris Miller- Underground Railroad Freedom Center  
Briocca Green- Black and Brown Educators of Excellence, NKU  
Dr. Niesha Wiley- Assistant Professor of Social Work, NKU
  
- 7:10 p.m..... **Questions for Speaker and Panel**
  
- 7:25 p.m..... **Wrap-Up/Homework**  
Dr. David Childs

**MC: MeKaisha Tresenwriter (NKU, Black and Brown Educators of Excellence)**

## MEET OUR SPEAKERS



### **Dr. Eric Williams**

A native of Rockford, Illinois, Eric Lewis Williams holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications and Sociology from the University of Illinois at Chicago, a Master of Arts degree in Theological Studies from the McCormick Theological Seminary, the Master of Divinity degree from Duke University and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Religious Studies from the University of Edinburgh in the United Kingdom. Williams has taught religion, history and African American Studies at several institutions including: Western

Theological Seminary, Ashland Theological Seminary (Detroit), Iowa State University, Shaw University, Virginia Union University, Boston College and Harvard University. Williams currently serves as the Curator of Religion for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington, D.C. Williams' current research examines the meaning of religion within African American history and culture, and the role and influences of African religions within the Atlantic world. Williams is a co-editor of the T&T Clark Handbook of African American Theology and is currently completing a manuscript which explores theological significations in African American religious thought. Williams' research and studies have taken him to the continents of Africa, South America, Europe, extensively throughout the continental United States, Mexico and to several islands of the Caribbean. Williams considers himself a transatlantic commuter, a collector of words and an emergent jazz-man in the world of ideas.



### **MeKaisha Tresenwriter**

MeKaisha Tresenwriter is a Christian, wife, mother, college student, among many other titles. MeKaisha currently pursues a dual Special Education/ Middle Grades Education degree at Northern Kentucky University with a minor in English. She is a member of the Black and Brown Educators of Excellence. MeKaisha aspires to advocate for youth, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of people, among all people.



### **Briocca Green**

Briocca Green is a junior at Northern Kentucky University majoring in middle grades education. Briocca is involved in several organizations such as NKU R.O.C.K.S, Anointed Voices Gospel choir, Black and Brown Educators of Excellence, E.N.V.I. and is a SHEP mentor.



## **Christopher Miller**

Christopher Miller is an accomplished museum professional and public historian with more than 17 years of experience. Miller is the senior director of Education & Community Engagement at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati. Regularly appearing on local and regional media as a contributor, Miller aptly shares his breadth of knowledge to address topics from race relations to historical milestones, cultural concerns and the integration of innovative approaches to teaching social studies. Miller earned his M.A. in Public History and his B.A. in English from Northern Kentucky University and a former fellow with the Institute for Freedom Studies, where he served as a research assistant decoding antebellum runaway slave ads.



## **Dr. Niesha Wiley**

Dr. Niesha Wiley earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Cincinnati's School of Social Work. In 2020, she graduated from Northern Kentucky University's Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership program. She is a licensed social worker in Ohio. She has worked in the field of social work for over 20 years ranging from addictions, severe mental health, teens, maternal health, children with disabilities, foster youth, young adults, first-generation college students and adult learners. Dr. Wiley's research interests include attrition in the field of social work, women and self-care, equity and access for underrepresented populations in higher education. She loves football and is a BIG Cincinnati Bengals and University of Cincinnati Bearcats fan!