



News Release  
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Berkeley, California

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**Digital Stories and Panel Discussion on the  
1960's Desegregation of the Berkeley Schools  
At Berkeley Public's Central Library**

Please join us for a screening of fascinating Digital Stories/Movies made by the participants in Workshops focused on the *1960's Desegregation of the Berkeley Public Schools*. The showing will take place **Saturday, November 6, 2010, 2-4pm, in Berkeley Public Central Library's 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Community Meeting Room** and will be followed by a panel discussion. The Berkeley Public Library, in partnership with local educational and historical nonprofits, developed a virtual exhibit of digital stories created and told by participants in the school desegregation. These thirteen first-person video narratives—short digital movies comprised of archival images, music, and the voice of the participant—powerfully convey the often painful issues of race, social justice, and equality that are still vitally important and as yet unresolved. The 20<sup>th</sup> century was an era marked by many milestones in America's long struggle with race and civil rights. The efforts to end racially segregated schools, spurred on by the landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education*, were one of the most pivotal areas of progress. Not long after the historic ruling, parents and educators in Berkeley, California, fostered a homegrown plan to desegregate the public school system, and in so doing became the first city of its size to voluntarily integrate its schools. All Workshop participants were students, parents, teachers, or librarians in the Berkeley Schools during that period. Movies can be previewed at our YouTube Channel, [youtube.com/user/berkeleypublic](http://youtube.com/user/berkeleypublic).

The videos were created in a workshop setting, capturing stories from culturally diverse perspectives from multiple generations about Berkeley's watershed civic event, using images as well as oral narratives and accessible to individuals of all ages. The Library's outreach efforts, and the foregrounding of the videos on the Library's web site, have created a community-wide discussion of the painful desegregation process, something rarely spoken about in forty years. This project demonstrates that what happened locally reflected the desegregation struggle taking place nationally—itsself a key element of America's Civil Rights Movement.

Following the showing of the movies, there will be a panel discussion moderated by the Chair of Social Sciences and Professor of History, Chuck Wollenberg, Berkeley City College. Three movie-makers, all students at the time of the desegregation, will be on the panel: Loreeta Earl, LR Altman, and Fundisha Adero. Also participating on the panel will be John Selawsky, Director, Berkeley Unified School District, and Andrea Spagat, Northern California/Pacific Northwest Region Director, Center for Digital Storytelling ([storycenter.org/](http://storycenter.org/)), the Library's partner agency that taught the participants how to make digital movies/stories. This public program is a part of a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) *TRANSFORMING LIFE AFTER 50* Grant from the California State Library, <http://tla50resource.ning.com/>.

Other Berkeley Public Library partners for the project, besides the Center for Digital Storytelling (CDS), included: the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD), Berkeley City College (BCC), the Berkeley Historical Society (BHS), and the University of California Berkeley, Bancroft Library Regional Oral History Office (ROHO).

For more information, call 510-981-6107 or 510-548-1240 (TTY), [www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org](http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org).

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