An Evening with
NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES
The Charlotta Bass Media Trailblazer Speaker Series
Tuesday, February 21, 2023
Bovard Auditorium, University of Southern California

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO
- Nikole Hannah-Jones is an award-winning investigative reporter and the creator of The 1619 Project.
- Dr. Allissa Richardson is the award-winning author of Bearing Witness While Black: African Americans, Smartphones, and the New Protest Journalism.
- Check out this Black History Month pre-event playlist created by USC Annenberg professor and interim dean of the Thornton School of Music, Josh Kun (Spotify login required): bit.ly/VVPreEventPlaylist-NHJ

NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES
Nikole Hannah-Jones is an investigative reporter who covers civil rights and racial injustice for The New York Times Magazine. She is the creator of The 1619 Project.

Prior to joining The New York Times, Hannah-Jones worked as an investigative reporter with the nonprofit news organization ProPublica. Before that, she reported for The Oregonian and The News & Observer in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is the inaugural Knight Chair in Race and Journalism at the Howard University School of Communications and the founder of the Center for Journalism and Democracy at Howard.

Hannah-Jones’s many awards and honors include a MacArthur fellowship, a Pulitzer Prize, multiple National Magazine Awards, a Peabody Award, membership in the Academy of Arts and Sciences, being named one of Time’s Most Influential People, an honorary doctorate from Morehouse College, and multiple awards from the NAACP. She has served on the boards of the Prison Journalism Project, the Brooklyn Public Library, the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting, the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, the Spencer Foundation, and the Teacher Project.

Hannah-Jones was born in Iowa and has also lived in Indiana, Georgia, North Carolina, and Oregon. Hannah-Jones is now based in Brooklyn.

I see my work as forcing us to confront our hypocrisy, forcing us to confront the truth that we would rather ignore.
—Nikole Hannah-Jones
**THE 1619 PROJECT**

In 2019, upon the 400th anniversary of the arrival of enslaved Africans in what is now the United States, Nikole Hannah-Jones produced a special issue of *The New York Times Magazine* called *The 1619 Project*. Stating, “No aspect of the country that would be formed here has been untouched by the years of slavery that followed,” *The 1619 Project* “aims to reframe the country’s history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans at the very center of our national narrative.” The ongoing project now also includes the books *The 1619 Project* and *Born on the Water*, an illustrated book in verse, as well as a docuseries on Hulu.

We’ve only had multiracial democracy in this country for fewer than 60 years, meaning we’ve only had democracy in the US for fewer than 60 years.

—Nikole Hannah-Jones on Twitter, October 24, 2022 (@nhannahjones)

**NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES’S REPORTER HEROES**

On her website, Nikole Hannah-Jones names as heroes Ida B. Wells, Ethel Payne, Simeon Booker, and Claude Sitton, “whose fearless coverage helped move this nation closer to its promise.”

*Ida B. Wells* (1862–1931) was a muckraking journalist who documented and fought against lynching in the U.S.

*Ethel Payne* (1911–1991) was known as the “First Lady of the Black Press”; she covered the Korean War, the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, and more, and was the first Black woman included in the White House Press Corps.

*Simeon Booker* (1918–2017) covered the civil rights movement for *Jet* and *Ebony*; was the first full-time Black reporter at *The Washington Post*; and brought national attention to the murder of Emmett Till.


While history is what happened, it is also, just as important, how we think about what happened and what we unearth and choose to remember about what happened.

—Nikole Hannah-Jones in *The 1619 Project*
THE IDA B. WELLS SOCIETY FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

The Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting is dedicated to increasing and retaining reporters and editors of color in the field of investigative reporting. Open to journalists of all races and backgrounds who support the mission and work of the organization, the Society partners with high-school English and journalism teachers to train the next generation of journalists, and plans to offer mentorship and low-cost regional trainings for both novice and veteran journalists.

The Society was founded by journalists Nikole Hannah-Jones, Ron Nixon, Corey Johnson, and Topher Sanders.

THE CENTER FOR JOURNALISM AND DEMOCRACY AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Founded by Nikole Hannah-Jones, the Center for Journalism and Democracy at Howard University is a first-of-its-kind academic center committed to strengthening historically informed, pro-democracy journalism. The Center “seeks to honor and disseminate the traditions of the Black press by training journalists across the diaspora of HBCUs”; will train and support budding investigative journalists; and aims to push the journalism field toward pro-democracy journalism based on “the understanding that there can be no free press without a free society where those in power govern with the consent of the governed.”

DR. ALLISSA V. RICHARDSON


Informed by her award-winning work as an instructor and journalist, Dr. Richardson is considered a pioneer in mobile journalism (MOJO), having launched the first smartphone-only college newsroom in 2010. The MOJO Lab, based on the campus of Morgan State University in Baltimore, was the only American college to boast such a program at the time. Dr. Richardson expanded the MOJO Lab curriculum throughout the continent of Africa, creating classes for allied nonprofit organizations in Morocco and South Africa. NABJ recognized her as its 2012 Journalism Educator of the Year for her international work. Apple, Inc. inducted Dr. Richardson into its elite Distinguished Educator program for her innovative uses of its products the following year.

Dr. Richardson is the recipient of three prestigious Harvard University posts: The Carr Center’s Visiting Fellowship, Nieman
Foundation’s Visiting Journalism Fellowship, and the Law School’s Berkman Center for Internet & Society Fellowship. She has lectured to diverse and wide-ranging audiences around the world—from SXSW to SnapChat, Microsoft, and the NFL.

Dr. Richardson’s expertise in mobile media activism has made her a frequent commentator for news outlets such as ABC, BBC, CBC, The Columbia Journalism Review, The Los Angeles Times, MSNBC, The New York Times, NPR, Teen Vogue, The Washington Post, and Vox. She also appeared most recently on Dr. Henry Louis Gates’s new PBS docuseries, Making Black America: Through the Grapevine.

Dr. Richardson holds a Ph.D. in Journalism Studies from the University of Maryland, College Park; a master’s degree in Magazine Publishing from Northwestern University’s Medill School; and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Xavier University of Louisiana, where she was named a “Top 40 Under 40” alumna.

THE CHARLOTTA BASS JOURNALISM AND JUSTICE LAB AT USC ANNENBERG

Dr. Allissa V. Richardson founded the Charlotta Bass Journalism and Justice Lab at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism to preserve Black media and amplify Black media makers, activists, and social changemakers.

The Charlotta Bass Lab, which is USC’s first Black media studies center, is named in honor of Charlotta Spears Bass, the first Black woman to own and operate a newspaper on the West Coast. The California Eagle debuted in 1912 and is credited with sparking a mass migration of Black people from the American South and Midwest who sought promise and opportunity in California. Bass was also the first Black woman to be nominated as vice president for a major political party in America. Her life’s work aimed to uplift marginalized communities by promoting political advocacy and civic engagement.

In this spirit of melding journalism with activism, the Bass Lab’s mission is to save, study, and share Black media that changed the world. The Charlotta Bass Lab launched during Black History Month this year with three signature initiatives: The debut of a pioneering AI-powered oral history archive, titled Voices of a Movement: The Second Draft Project; a forma City Council proclamation naming Charlotta Bass’s birthday, February 14, a citywide holiday in Los Angeles; and the premiere of the Charlotta Bass Media Trailblazer speaker series featuring a conversation with Dr. Richardson and Nikole Hannah-Jones.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

* Nikole Hannah-Jones has said, “All journalism is activism. No more, no less.” What do you think she means by this? What does this mean to you?
* The 1619 Project presents “a new American origin story.” How is it different from other origin stories? Why is a new origin story important?
* Dr. Allissa V. Richardson has written that it is important for marginalized groups to “bear witness” to injustice, using any medium or technology they can access. How does bearing witness advance democracy?
IF YOU LIKED THIS EVENT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT:

- The 1619 Project—Interactive Website | nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/1619-america-slavery.html
- The 1619 Project Educational Resources | 1619books.com
- The 1619 Project Docuseries | Available on Hulu
- The Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting | idabwellssociety.org
- The Charlotte Bass Journalism and Justice Lab at USC Annenberg | thecharlottabasslab.com
- Upcoming Visions and Voices events, including:
  - 3/8 Birds of No Nation: Live Art Session by Shamsia Hassani
  - 3/8 Birds of No Nation: Creative Workshop with Gazelle Samizay
  - 3/8 Birds of No Nation: Afghan Women on Art, Gender, Freedom, and Exile
  - 3/23 Rewriting War: A Conversation with Refugee Writers

DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES

Kelsey Vukic of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about this event. Electronic resources are accessible through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at libraries.usc.edu but may require the user to log in using their USC credentials.

BOOKS

DATABASES

- Access World News (NewsBank)
- Ethnic NewsWatch
- Communication Source
- Factiva

JOURNALS

- Black Star News
- Journalism & Mass Communication Educator
- Digital Journalism

STREAMING VIDEO