



Submitted at Meeting  
Date: 9/23/24 Item: 7  
by Emmett Gates  
Slicktion Culture Productions

# UPSIDE DOWN

Paul Revere Williams in Las Vegas

Submitted 6/10/2024



# Slicktion Culture Productions



Slicktion Culture Productions is a Las Vegas based, minority run film production operation that seeks to challenge the traditional architecture of documentary filmmaking. Our company is committed to creating content that not only educates audiences but also entertains by use of unique storytelling devices, compelling visuals and dynamic sound design. Slicktion Culture is comprised of visual and audio artists which gives us a broad network of highly skilled creatives in the fields of special effects, motion graphics and sound design, giving us access to a visual language all our own.

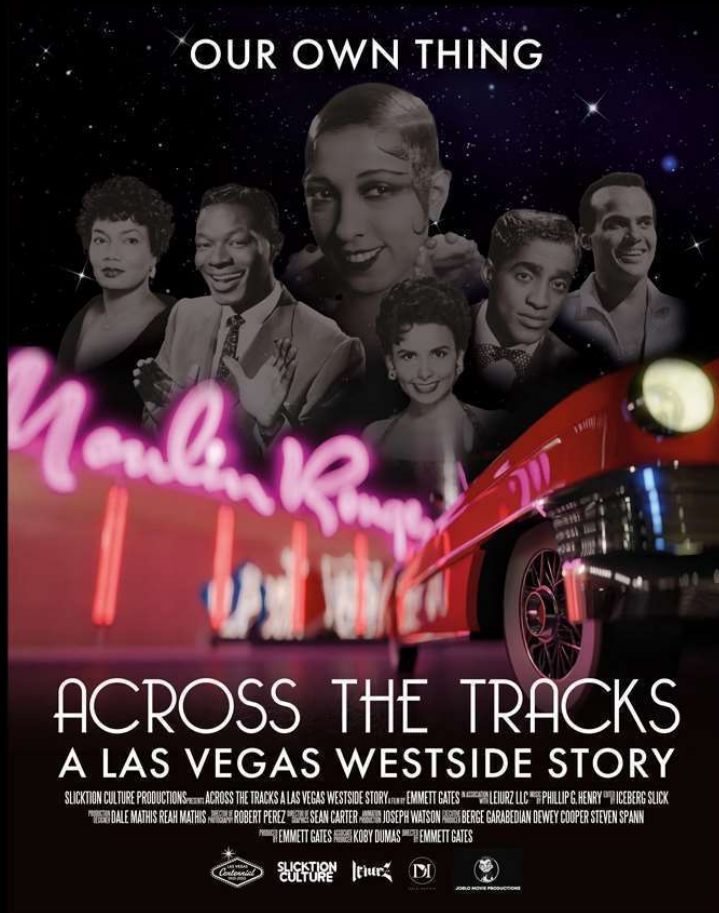


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**SLICKTION  
CULTURE**



# Past Centennial Grant



In 2023 Slicktion Culture Productions was awarded a grant from the Commission to produce “**Across the Tracks: A Las Vegas Westside Story**”, a documentary film exploring the entire 118 year history of Las Vegas’ Historic Westside neighborhood.

In January of 2024 we were given the opportunity to debut the film at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah where it generated a lot of interest from film fans from around the world, who’d never before considered that part of Las Vegas history.

In February, we hosted a premiere at The Plaza Hotel in time for Black History month. The event garnered a plethora of local media attention and drew a capacity crowd.

Interest in the film still remains high, with daily requests from across the country, asking when it will be available to view in their cities.

# Proposal Outline

**With the support of the Commission, Slicktion Culture Productions will produce a 70-90 minute documentary film detailing the life and architectural achievements of Paul Revere Williams, with a specific focus on his works in Las Vegas and how the city continues to preserve and honor his legacy.**

There is no shortage of documentary films about the legendary architect, Paul Revere Williams and why wouldn't there be? The man designed 3000 buildings, including banks, churches, hotels and celebrity homes for the likes of Frank Sinatra, Lon Chaney, Zha Zha Gabor and Lucille Ball & Desi Arnez to name just a few. During the 40's, 50's and 60's he was one of the most sought after architects in America, in a time when the opportunities for black Americans were very limited. He even learned to draw upside down because in those days, for many, it wasn't acceptable for a black man to sit directly next a white clients, even if he was designing their home or a multi-million dollar structure for their business.

While our objective is to give audiences a complete look into his life and accomplishments, this film will focus most on how the City of Las Vegas has continued to preserve his works and legacy. The visitors center at the Neon Museum, NPF's Home & History Tour and the architecture segments of Duck, Duck, Shed will be highlights of the film.



*Saint Viator's Guardian Angel Shrine*

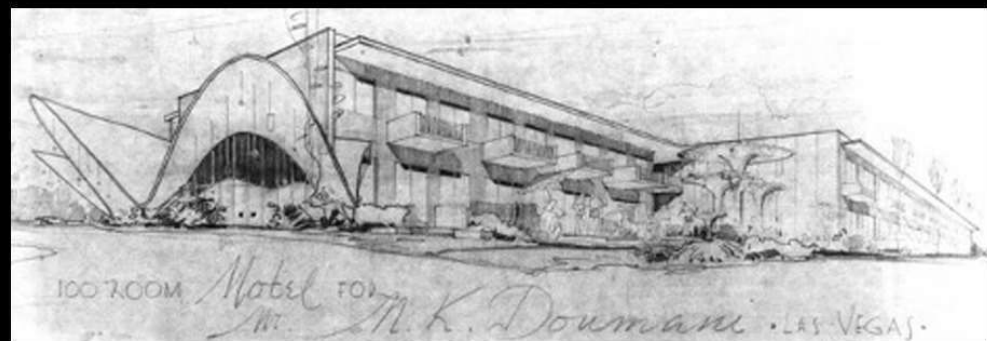


## Bringing buildings back to life

In our film “Across the Tracks” we used state of the art CGI technology to resurrect hyper realistic recreations of iconic Las Vegas buildings that are no longer in existence, adding an extra layer to the telling of history.



We intend to resurrect the Las Vegas works of Paul R. Williams as they were at the time of their completion.



## Soundtrack

Music is a very important part of Slicktion Culture Productions. An original score gives each film an identity of it's own. For this project we are collaborating with local musician, Phillip G. Henry.

Born in Jamaica and raised in the UK, Phillip G. Henry has spent his entire life dedicated to music.

*"I play 40 different instruments and have been a musician all my life. From 14 years I started to sing music and record songs."*

*-Phillip Henry*

Phillip specializes in blues, jazz, rock, reggae and R&B. He composed the original music score for "Across the Tracks: A Las Vegas Westside Story".





# Concerns & Challenges

\*One of the biggest challenges when creating historic documentaries is getting the history correct. Rumors and urban legends connected to famous people and events often take on a life of their own. This does a great disservice, not only to the viewers looking to learn, but to history itself. To remedy this we will rely only on the accounts of official biographers, surviving family members or colleagues as well as Las Vegas architecture and history professionals. We will also research newspapers and magazine articles of the time and any personal writings of Williams himself.

\*Young people hate documentaries. It is important to us that our films are able to breakthrough to the “Tik Tok generation” as well as fans of history. We take this into consideration when writing the script, constructing the imagery and selecting the music. We are confident we can keep a jr. high school class as engaged as any college architecture class.

\*One of the biggest challenges when documenting history is securing the proper photos and footage to illustrate the desired narrative. To remedy this we will produce high quality animations as well as realistic CGI recreations of Williams’ long gone marvels.



# Keeping the history intact!

To ensure the historic timeline and details are accurate we have assembled a reliable team of both accredited and passionate local historians as well as preservation and architecture leaders.



**Aaron Berger**

Executive Director, Neon Museum



**Amy Raymer**

NPF board vice president



**Dr. Paige Figanbaum**

Executive Director, NPF



**Tani Bennet-White**

Program Consultant, NPF



**Janna Ireland**

Photographer/Author of *"Regarding Paul R. Williams"*



**Claytee White**

Director of Oral History, UNLV



**Tyler D. Parry Ph.D**

Associate Professor of African American Studies, UNLV



## Premiere Partnership with the Neon Museum



We are excited to have the support of The Neon Museum on this project and plan to collaborate on the premiere event celebration in August of 2025.

# Deliverables

We intend to keep the commission fully informed on our progress throughout the duration of production. Progress updates will be delivered monthly. Commission members are always welcome to attend any production meetings and are always invited to attend interviews or production shoots.

*Progress updates will include:*

*\*Budget Activity*

*\*Past & Upcoming interviews*

*\*Prompt response to any questions or concerns.*

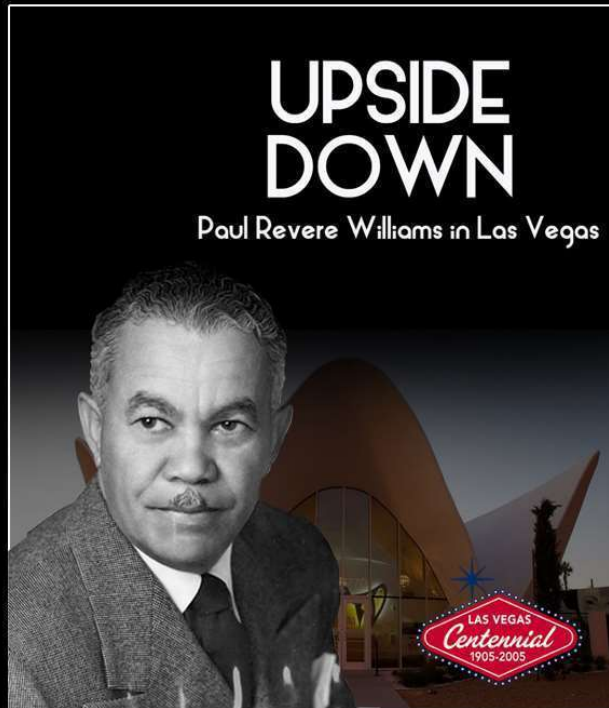
## Centennial Commission Recognition

This will be 100% a Centennial Commission project. The commission will be recognized in name and logo in both beginning and end of the film as well as all promotional materials.





# Promotion



In addition to local P.R. we will be creating interactive postcards for distribution throughout the valley wherever applicable. The cards will have a brief description of the film and a QR code that will take viewers directly to the Youtube link on the City of Las Vegas Youtube channel. The aim is to guarantee a steady flow of viewership to the documentary from locals and tourists alike.

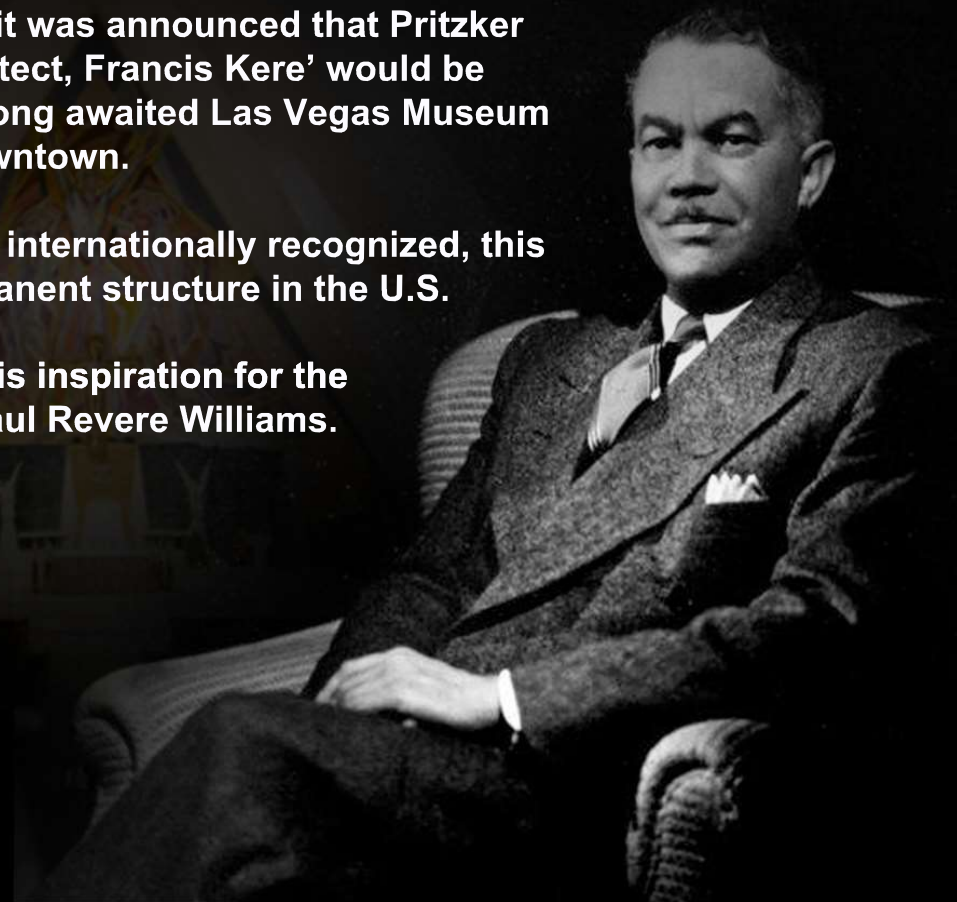


## The Legacy Continues

In September, 2024, it was announced that Pritzker Award winning architect, Francis Kere' would be the architect of the long awaited Las Vegas Museum of Art, located in downtown.

While Kere's work is internationally recognized, this will be his first permanent structure in the U.S.

When asked about his inspiration for the design, he named Paul Revere Williams.





# Production Timeline



**October 1, 2024** - research team is briefed on needed information. Research begins immediately.

**November 3** - initial meeting between researchers, production staff, director, writers and historic consultants.

**November 16 - October 30** - interviewee selection, pre-interviews, historic benchmarks explored, photo and footage search begins.

**December 10** - Treatment/outline complete.

**December 20 - January 20** - Subjects interviewed.

**January 3 - February 3** - Narration Script written. Film score composition selection begins.

**February 4** - Trailer/teaser presented at the Pan African Film festival in L.A.

**March 7** - Narration Script revisions identified.

Trailer/teaser and press releases distributed locally in celebration of black history month.

**March - 17** - Narration Script complete.

# Production Timeline

**March 25** - Script approved.

**April 3** - Film score is selected.

**April 7 - 28** - Narration recording. Audio edits.

**April 30** - historic CGI renderings begin.

**May 1** - archival footage/ music licenses secured.

**May 5 - June 5** - editing, animations, CGI, sound design complete.

**June 16 - 23** - local press promotional run for Juneteenth.

**June 19** - first cut reviewed by production team.

**June 27** - producers make final edits. Picture locked.

**July 2 - 20** - color grading, audio design and mixing.

**July 1** - film is complete and shared with select members of the local press.  
Film is turned over to Dr. Siebrandt.

**July 16** - press and marketing blitz

**August 2** - Film premiere event.



# Thank you for your consideration



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