INTERSECTING BLACKDOM, NEW MEXICO
AN EVENING WITH DR. TIMOTHY E. NELSON
with special guest Gregory Waits
Friday, March 29 • 6:00 - 8:00 PM • $10 / $5 CCA Members
Center for Contemporary Arts, Tank Garage Gallery • 1050 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87505

Santa Fe, NM—The history of Blackdom, New Mexico—the state’s first all-Black settlement founded at the turn of the century—plays a major role in understanding modern New Mexico. At the turn of the 20th Century, Southern New Mexico was one of the fastest growing regions in the world with grand irrigation projects and the influx of railroads. Black non-Hispanic peoples, from various parts of Texas and the South, understood the opportunity in the New Mexico Territory. Black migrants saw the opportunity in the space between the racism of New Mexico and with no Jim Crow laws to completely rig government systems against them.

Racial illusions have fractured our collective conscience. Molding a new future from the broken pieces of Racism must begin with a new conversation. Intersectionality has become the panacea for a community cohesion after the perversion of diversity. However, intersectionality is only as productive as the intersection. Dr. Nelson’s The Blackdom Thesis is a new frontier thesis that inspires new conversations that have the capacity to explore the full spectrum of community dialogue, a continuation of a century plus of academics problematizing of Frederick Jackson Turner’s Frontier Thesis.

Race in the Borderlands has been fluid since the idea of race was imported to Mexico. What became New Mexico has been under a significant racialization process propagated by European descendants seeking to dominate the territorial space. This on-going conflict and contestation of indigenous lands is our inheritance. This lecture series lead by Dr. Nelson is to reopen the dialogue to rightfully include Black peoples in the enchantment of New Mexico.

Dr. Timothy E. Nelson was born in South Central Los Angeles, raised in Compton California during the early 1990’s and went to Santa Monica Community College in the wake of race and class-based conflict with the Los Angeles Police Department. After graduating from Compton High School, he played football at Compton and Santa Monica Junior Colleges before transferring to New Mexico State University where he was awarded a scholarship. He graduated from New Mexico State University with a Bachelor’s degree in U.S. History. During his time earning a Master’s degree in black history at the University of Northern Iowa, he also earned a commission as an Officer in the U.S. Army. Dr. Nelson earned his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at El Paso. He was the Racial Justice Director at the YWCA El Paso del Norte Region—the largest YWCA in the United States. He is also a proud charter member of his chapter of Phi Beta Sigma, Inc.

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Historical photos courtesy of the Historical Society for Southeast New Mexico

For request for interview, please contact Marissa R. Roybal, Dr. Timothy Nelson’s Business Representative, marissa@blackdomthesis.com

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