



Black Legacy Our Past, Present and Future.



From Slave to Real Estate Tycoon!

PAST

Bridget "Biddy" Mason
Born: August 15, 1818
Contribution: Business

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Biddy Mason was born in Mississippi as a slave on a plantation. Her owners decided to move to California not realizing that slavery was forbidden there. Soon after moving, Mason petitioned the court and in 1856 won freedom for herself and for her daughters. She moved to Los Angeles and found employment as a nurse and midwife. Hard work and her nursing skills allowed her to become economically independent. Mason was also very frugal and only ten years after gaining her freedom, she bought a site on Spring Street for \$250. She instructed her children never to abandon this site. Mason was one of the first black women to own land in Los Angeles. This site is now in the center of the commercial district in the heart of Los Angeles. In 1884, she sold a parcel of the land for \$1500 and built a commercial building with spaces for rental on the remaining land. **She continued making wise decisions in her investing efforts and acquired a fortune of almost \$300,000.** Her grandson, Robert Curry Owens, a real estate developer and politician, was the richest African-American in Los Angeles at one time. In 1872 she and her son-in-law, Charles Owens, founded and financed the Los Angeles branch of the First African Methodist Episcopal church, L.A.'s first black church.



From NBA to CEO!

PRESENT

Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Jr
Born: August 14, 1959
Contribution: Business

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Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Jr. was born in Lansing, Michigan and was first made famous as an American basketball player. His professional career consisted of 13 seasons with the LA Lakers, with whom he won five NBA championships, was named to the NBA All-Star team 12 times, was league MVP three times, and NBA Finals MVP three times. He was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2002, and was voted to the NBA's 50th Anniversary All-Time Team in 1996. In 1991 he became one of the first sports celebrities to announce having HIV, and has continually worked to educate and raise awareness of the disease. Currently Johnson is CEO of his own business, Magic Johnson Enterprises (MJE) and has a net worth of roughly \$800 Million dollars. His ventures include: Magic Johnson Movie Theatres, several Starbucks franchises, numerous TGI Friday's franchises, 24 Hour Fitness Magic Johnson Sport franchises, a private lending bank that specializes in giving micro loans to urban start-ups, he has a joint venture with Sodexo (SodexoMagic) which provides catering services, Johnson also entered into a \$1 billion plan to build a hotel and condominium development in Atlanta's midtown area as well as a \$120 million plan to develop office space and housing in Miami's Little Havana area and also his own Magic Johnson Foundation, which raises funds for research and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

What Will You Contribute To The Legacy?