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Black History Month Recognized with Special Documentary **HOLLYWOOD’S ARCHITECT: THE PAUL R. WILLIAMS STORY** Premiering on PBS SoCal Feb. 6, 2020

One-Hour Special Explores the Journey of Iconic Los Angeles Architect



(Pictured: Paul R. Williams. Courtesy of PBS SoCal.)

www.pbsocal.org/hollywoodsarchitect

Burbank, Calif. – Jan. 13, 2020 – PBS SoCal, Southern California's home for the premieres of new PBS programs, announced today the debut of a new documentary *Hollywood’s Architect: The Paul R. Williams Story*. The special tells the story of African American architect **Paul R. Williams** as he defied the odds to become one of the most notable architects in history. His fortitude, talent and determination led him to design iconic homes and buildings across the country for movie stars and moguls, in spite of personal tragedy and racial prejudice. The film premieres **Thurs., Feb. 6, 2020 at 8 p.m. on PBS SoCal** (in conjunction with Black History Month) and will also air on WORLD Channel and other PBS stations nationwide, check local listings. Following the broadcast, the film will stream at pbsocal.org/hollywoodsarchitect and on the free PBS Video app (available on Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, the App Store and Google Play).

From the early 1920s until his retirement 50 years later, Williams was one of the most prolific architects in America. His list of celebrity clients included **Frank Sinatra, Cary Grant, Barbara Stanwyck, William Holden, Lucille Ball** and **Desi Arnaz**. He is noted for his mastery of various iconic architectural styles that include the Beverly Hills Hotel, the original MCA Headquarters Building and he was part of the team that designed and built LAX Airport. Because of his race, Paul Williams wasn’t always welcome in the restaurants and hotels he designed, or the neighborhoods where he built homes, even at the height of his career. *Hollywood’s Architect: The Paul R. Williams Story* explores how he used his skills, persistence and charisma to overcome discrimination and create a portfolio of work that can be found nationwide.

A co-production of PBS SoCal and RKR Media, the film is narrated by Tony and Emmy® award-winning actor **Courtney B. Vance**. Interviewees include grandchildren of Paul R. Williams **Karen Hudson** and **Paul Hudson**, family friend **Quincy Jones** as well as Paul R. Williams homeowners **Robert Iger, Pauletta Washington, Steve Tisch** and more. Notable interviews from the architectural world include Smithsonian Institution’s **Dr. Lonnie Bunch**, LA Conservancy’s **Linda**

Dishman, the City of Los Angeles's Chief Design Officer **Christopher Hawthorne** and architectural historian **Dr. Wesley Henderson**.

For a full schedule of Black History Month programming, please visit pbsocal.org and kcet.org.

ABOUT PBS SOCAL

PBS SoCal is a donor-supported community institution that is a part of Public Media Group of Southern California, the flagship PBS station for 19 million diverse people across California formed by the merger of PBS SoCal and KCETLink Media Group. PBS SoCal delivers content and experiences that inspire, inform and entertain – over the air, online, in the community and in the classroom. We offer the full slate of beloved PBS programs including MASTERPIECE, NOVA, PBS NewsHour, Frontline, Independent Lens, a broad library of documentary films including works from Ken Burns; and educational PBS KIDS programs including Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood and Curious George. Our programs are accessible for free through four broadcast channels, and available for streaming at pbsocal.org, on the PBS mobile apps, and via connected TV services Android TV, Roku, Apple TV and Amazon Fire TV.