



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

THE FRICK PITTSBURGH PRESENTS

IN CONVERSATION: *DRIVING WHILE BLACK* WITH DR. GRETCHEN SORIN

Exciting new program offers insight into how the automobile fundamentally reshaped African American life

PITTSBURGH, PA, September 15, 2020 – The Frick Pittsburgh is pleased to present a virtual evening of conversation between Gretchen Sorin, Ph.D., distinguished professor and Director of Cooperstown Graduate Program in Museum Studies, and Elizabeth Barker, Ph.D., Executive Director of The Frick Pittsburgh covering Dr. Sorin’s new book, *Driving While Black: American Travel and the Road to Civil Rights* on Wednesday, September 23. *Driving While Black* examines how the car – the ultimate symbol of independence and possibility – has always held particular importance for African Americans, allowing black families to evade the many dangers presented by an entrenched racist society and to enjoy, to some measure, the freedom of the open road.

Driving While Black is also the basis for an upcoming feature-length documentary film, directed by Ric Burns, which will be broadcast on PBS stations nationwide, including Pittsburgh’s WQED, on October 13, 2020. As such, the Frick is delighted to welcome WQED as the media sponsor for this September virtual lecture.

In Conversation: *Driving While Black* with Dr. Gretchen Sorin will take place online via Zoom on September 23 beginning at 7:00 p.m. This program is free to Frick members and students, and \$10 for all

non-members and guests. Tickets can be reserved online at TheFrickPittsburgh.org, or over the phone by calling 412-371-0600. A Zoom link for the event will be distributed to all registered participants.

ABOUT DR. GRETCHEN SORIN

Gretchen Sorin is director and Distinguished Professor at the Cooperstown Graduate Program in Museum Studies in Cooperstown, NY. Dr. Sorin has more than 30 years of experience acting as an historian, exhibition curator, strategic and interpretive planner, and consultant in over 200 museums. Major exhibitions include: *Through the Eyes of Others: African Americans and Identity in American Art* for the Fenimore Art Museum, and *Bridges and Boundaries: African Americans and American Jews* for the Jewish Museum in New York. Dr. Sorin is the author of *Touring Historic Harlem: Four Walks in Northern Manhattan* with Andrew Dolkart, and *In the Spirit of Martin: The Living Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*, among others. She holds a B.A. from Rutgers University in American Studies, an M.A. from the Cooperstown Graduate Program, and a Ph.D. from Albany University in History.

ABOUT THE FRICK PITTSBURGH

Located on the Pittsburgh estate of late-19th-century industrialist Henry Clay Frick, The Frick Pittsburgh is the steward of collections left as a legacy to the people of Pittsburgh by Frick's daughter, Helen Clay Frick. The permanent collections include fine and decorative arts, cars, carriages, historic objects, and buildings. The Frick experience includes The Frick Art Museum, the Car and Carriage Museum, Clayton, the Frick family Gilded Age mansion, and six acres of beautifully landscaped lawns and gardens. Also included are an Education Center, the Frick children's playhouse (designed by renowned architects Alden & Harlow), a large working greenhouse (also designed by Alden & Harlow), The Café at the Frick, and the Grable Visitor Center, which houses the Frick Museum Store. Information about The Frick Pittsburgh is available online at TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

For additional information or images, please contact Kaitlyn Clem, Marketing and Communications Associate, at KClem@TheFrickPittsburgh.org or 412-342-4025.

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