AMST 3950
The Economics of Greenwood

Course Description
This course examines the history and evolution of Tulsa’s Greenwood District coined “Black Wall Street” by educator and historian Booker T. Washington. “Black Wall Street” was the most economically vibrant Black community in the United States for over fifteen years, and proceeded Harlem, New York in that status. There were many significant factors that contributed to its economic success in the face of Jim Crow laws, including entrepreneurship, community lending practices, and more. Greenwood’s economic height was in 1941, twenty years after the Tulsa Race Massacre destroyed its original vibrancy. Today, the District is a ghost of its former self, in terms of land and home ownership, as well as economic independence.

M, 4:30PM - 6:10 PM
Class Building: TBD & Virtual Option
Start Date: 01/10/2022
End Date: 05/02/2022

Professor Lansana
Quraysh Ali Lansana is author of twenty books in poetry, nonfiction, and children’s literature. Lansana is currently a Tulsa Artist Fellow and serves as Director of the Center for Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation at Oklahoma State University-Tulsa, where he is also Lecturer in Africana Studies and English. Lansana is Creator and Executive Producer of KOSU/NPR’s Focus: Black Oklahoma monthly radio program. A former faculty member of both the Writing Program of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the Drama Division of The Juilliard School, Lansana served as Director of the Gwendolyn Brooks Center for Black Literature and Creative Writing at Chicago State University from 2002-2012, and was Associate Professor of English/Creative Writing there until 2014. His work Our Difficult Sunlight: A Guide to Poetry, Literacy & Social Justice in Classroom & Community was published in March 2011 by the Teachers & Writers Collaborative and was a 2012 NAACP Image Award nominee. His most recent books include Opal’s Greenwood Oasis, the skin of dreams: new and collected poems, 1995-2018, The Whiskey of Our Discontent: Gwendolyn Brooks as Conscience & Change Agent) and The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip Hop. Lansana’s work appears in Best American Poetry 2019, and his forthcoming titles include Those Who Stayed: Life in 1921 Tulsa After the Massacre. He is a founding member of Tri-City Collective and serves on the Board of Directors of the Philbrook Museum of Art as well as a Curatorial Scholar for The Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art.