LARRY LESTER - LarryLester42@gmail.com
Keynote Speaker | Author | Historian | Film Consultant & Museum Curator

Larry Lester is a dynamic and engaging keynote speaker, renowned for his transformative storytelling on the vital contributions of Black Americans to American society. With over 60 years of experience in sports and Black history Lester has inspired audiences at corporate events, academic conferences, and leadership symposiums, empowering leaders, teams, and organizations to connect with the rich history of Black achievement, particularly in the ever-evolving world of sports.

As the co-founder and treasurer of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in 1990, he created its business plan. Served as authenticator of its lucrative licensing program and curator of its original static and traveling exhibits. Lester's advocacy for reparations led to securing retroactive Major League Baseball pensions for more than 90 Negro League veterans in 1997. He served on the curatorial staff at the National Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum in Cooperstown, NY, for its 2024 ***The Souls of the Game: Voices of Black Baseball*** exhibit.

Notably, following six decades of reconstructing box scores from microfilmed newspapers, Lester became the principal catalyst for Major League Baseball's 2024 statistical renaissance, culminating in the inclusion of Negro League stats into its official record books.

The author of *Black Baseball's National Showcase: The East-West All-Star Game, The Negro Leagues Book* (Encyclopedia volumes 1 and 2), *Caged Champions: Colorful Firsts in U.S. Sports* and over a half-dozen more titles is a widely recognized authority on sports history. His résumé includes research contributions to more than 250 published books and blessed with requests to write six forewords, along with appearances in award-winning documentaries ***Never Drop the Ball*** and ***The League*** plus numerous podcasts. Lester offers a deep reservoir of insight, built from over 8,000 recorded minutes of firsthand conversations with legendary athletes.

Additionally, he is co-founder of the 100 Black Men of Greater Kansas City and president of the Greater Kansas City Black History Study, a branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH).

Lester's passion for history shines through his non-sport traveling exhibits — *Beyond the Help: The Role of the* ***African American Maid*** *on the Silver Screen*; and *A Laughing Matter:* ***Black Sitcoms*** *in Review, 1950–2000*; and *The Currency of Change: The African American Experience in* ***Coins and Currency***.

Known for his ability to captivate diverse audiences, Lester combines compelling facts with humor and heart. Whether addressing museums, universities, libraries, or grassroots initiatives, he is committed and passionate about sharing knowledge with everyone. Outside of speaking, the award-winning researcher serves as President/CEO at NoirTech Research, Inc., an internet-based company that provides sports scholarship to the news media, professional sports teams, educational institutions, museums, corporations, libraries and churches.

More information can be found at: www.larrylester42.com

His mantra is "*We are drowning in information . . . but starving for knowledge*."