

REP Education Sheet: The Return of Bruce's Beach



Bruce's Beach is the second historically Black beach in the United States now owned by African-Americans. A landmark law signed by Governor Gavin Newsom has authorized Los Angeles County to return the three-acre property to the Bruce family after nearly a century



- Willa and Charles Bruce purchased the property in 1912 as a haven for African-Americans barred from swimming at or enjoying seashores delegated to whites only. In its heyday, the property included a resort called Bruce's Beach Lodge, with a hotel, beach house, restaurant, and dance hall
- The dispute over Bruce's Beach dates to February 1924, in which the Manhattan Beach Board of Trustees illegally condemned the Bruce family property and that of four other Black residents under the guise of creating a public park
- Kavon Ward, pictured above, helped lead the fight on behalf of the Bruce family and has co-founded a group called *Where Is My Land* to help others gain back what was unjustly taken due to racist practices

Sources:

- <https://whereismyland.org/>

- <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/whats-next-for-california-historically-black-bruces-beach>

- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/12/06/return-black-owned-land-movement/>