

***Unsung Heroes* in Historic Sistrunk — Research Profile**

This document compiles biographical and contextual information on influential figures connected to the Sistrunk neighborhood of Fort Lauderdale as part of the *Unsung Heroes* project in Little Lincoln Park.

Sylvia Hill Aldridge

Sylvia Hill Aldridge (early 1900s–mid-20th century) was one of Fort Lauderdale’s earliest Black female entrepreneurs. She founded Sylvia’s Employment Agency to connect Black domestic and hospitality workers with jobs and also operated a transportation service to ensure access to employment opportunities. Following a 1937 tragedy where a Black man was denied hospital care, she led grassroots fundraising that resulted in the 1938 founding of Provident Hospital — the first medical facility serving Black residents. Her legacy is memorialized today through developments like The Aldridge and recognition by the City during Women’s History Month.

Louis D. Benton Sr.

Louis D. Benton Sr. owned and operated Benton Funeral Home, for years the only Black-owned funeral home in Broward County. Located near Sistrunk Boulevard, his business served as both a vital service provider and a social anchor for the Black community during segregation. The funeral home provided dignity and local autonomy in end-of-life services, symbolizing community self-reliance and entrepreneurship.

Dr. William Alexander Morris

Dr. William A. Morris was a family physician who maintained a clinic along Sistrunk Boulevard, serving the Westside community for decades. Known for his dedication to underserved residents, Dr. Morris bridged gaps in access to primary care and public health. His death was deeply felt across Fort Lauderdale’s Black community, where he was remembered as a compassionate and committed neighborhood doctor.

Marjorie Davis

Marjorie Davis emerged as a leading voice for community development and neighborhood preservation. She organized the landmark 1987 Marjorie Davis Charrette, a comprehensive planning effort for the Northwest/Progresso/Flagler area. Earlier, in 1976, she helped found the Historic Dorsey River Bend Civic Association, advocating for fair zoning, beautification, and resident empowerment. Her activism laid groundwork for modern community planning processes that continue in the Sistrunk area today.

Carlton B. Moore

Commissioner Carlton B. Moore (1953–2014) served over two decades on the Fort Lauderdale City Commission and as president of the local NAACP. He championed equitable investment in underserved neighborhoods, the establishment of community health facilities, and the protection of local residents during redevelopment. Moore’s leadership helped shape Sistrunk’s transformation while maintaining its cultural integrity.

James O. Hill

James O. Hill founded the Sistrunk Parade & Festival in the mid-1970s, creating one of Fort Lauderdale's most significant celebrations of Black culture and community pride. The event, which continues today, draws thousands annually and stands as a living tribute to his vision of cultural unity, history, and economic vitality.

Dr. Calvin Hylton Shirley

Dr. Calvin Hylton Shirley (1921–2012) practiced medicine in Fort Lauderdale for more than fifty years and was among the earliest Black physicians in Broward County. Affiliated with Provident Hospital, he delivered thousands of babies and advocated for integration of healthcare services. He remains a symbol of compassion, excellence, and perseverance in medical history.

Cora E. Braynon

Cora E. Braynon (1935–2006) became Broward County's first Black public health nurse in 1960. She rose to executive leadership within the North Broward Hospital District and later joined its board of directors. The Cora E. Braynon Family Health Center on Sistrunk Boulevard bears her name, serving as a lasting tribute to her mission of accessible healthcare and community empowerment.

Mickey "Micky" Hinton

Mickey "Micky" Hinton (1938-2020) was a lifelong resident and community advocate in Fort Lauderdale's historic northwest neighborhoods. Known for his quiet strength and unwavering sense of justice, Hinton became a powerful voice for environmental equity and the health of his community. His perseverance helped bring long-overdue attention to issues that had affected residents for generations, leading to meaningful change and recognition for those whose voices had too often gone unheard. Though he never sought the spotlight, Mickey Hinton's legacy endures as one of Fort Lauderdale's true unsung heroes—a man whose courage and commitment inspired a community to stand together for what is right.