



Brian Lanker Research Award Fundraising Campaign

About Brian Lanker

Brian Lanker was a prominent photographer, photojournalist, and documentary filmmaker. He won the Pulitzer Prize at age 25 for his groundbreaking photo series on women and natural childbirth in 1973. He honed his craft working for *The Topeka Capital-Journal* in Topeka, Kansas, then became head of graphics for *The Register-Guard* in Eugene, Oregon. Among his many accomplishments, some notable ones you may have seen include *I Dream a World*, a series of portraits of Black women who changed America, featuring women such as Maya Angelou, Rosa Parks, and Lena Horne; *They Drew Fire*, a documentary commissioned by PBS about World War II combat artists and their art; and iconic photos of Steve Prefontaine.

About the Collection

The University of Oregon Library's Special Collections has acquired the complete archive of Brian Lanker's life's work from Lynda Lanker and her family. It's a large collection, spanning 40 bankers boxes (75 linear feet in archival terms). Its many varied contents include:

- Unedited negatives and slides
- Analog and digital photos
- Interviews with 75 subjects from *I Dream a World*
- Film reels of the PBS film *They Drew Fire*
- Correspondence between Brian and his subjects
- Items from *Sports Illustrated*, *Life*, and *National Geographic*
- Archives from his tenure at *The Register-Guard*
- Materials from all types of athletic events such as UO track and field, the Olympics, and the Super Bowl
- Items from photo shoots of famous figures such as Muhammad Ali, David Bowie, and Tina Turner

About the Campaign

We aim to make these important historical documents available to the world by raising \$100,000 to create a permanent endowment, which will provide annual funding for a Brian Lanker Research Award. The UO will advertise this award through various national societies, attracting scholars from many disciplines, promoting the study of Brian's amazing body of work and inspiring new creations. We have until December 2027 to raise these funds, but hope to reach our goal much sooner than that.

Types of gifts that count towards our goal:

- Outright gifts
- Multi-year pledges (all pledge payments must be received by December 2027)
- Stock gifts
- Qualified charitable distribution from an IRA (traditional or Roth), or required minimum distribution from a traditional IRA

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