



STATE OF MICHIGAN

CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION

ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN,  
I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim

June 2023

**CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, 2023 marks the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first National Caribbean American Heritage Month; and,

**WHEREAS**, Caribbean American Heritage Month was first recognized by the White House in 1999 with the introduction of a bill to establish the holiday; the first proclamation marking the date was issued in 2006 by President George Bush; and,

**WHEREAS**, immigrants from the Caribbean region have been settling in Michigan since the 1800s, including in the established Black Bottom neighborhood of Detroit's Lower East Side; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 1925, thirteen leaders of the Black community founded Detroit Memorial Park as a response to the segregation of Caribbean Americans at local cemeteries, including Joseph Gomez from Trinidad, James M. Gregory from Jamaica, and Vollington Bristol from Barbados; and,

**WHEREAS**, the State of Michigan affirms the importance of promoting awareness and understanding of the roles Caribbean-Americans have played in Michigan and applaud their efforts to contribute to the growth and development of Michigan; and,

**WHEREAS**, This year's theme for National Caribbean American Heritage Month is "Our Shared History, Our Shared Future," and we should all join the global conversation on inclusion and diversity;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim June 2023 as Caribbean American Heritage Month in Michigan.



Garlin Gilchrist II  
Lieutenant Governor



Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor

