

Black History Month 2026



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES
& DC BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

The DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities
and the DC Black History Celebration Committee
are proud to present this guide to events for
Black History Month 2026.
All in-person events are located in Washington, DC

BEFORE ATTENDING AN EVENT

Check with the event organizers for the latest updates regarding admission requirements, postponements, and/or cancellations. Neither the DC Arts Commission or the DC Black History Celebration Committee will be able to provide this information, except for Celebration Committee events.

ON THE COVER:

MARILYN GATES-DAVIS, *BREAKTHROUGH*, 2023, ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 24 × 36 IN.
ART BANK COLLECTION

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

As a Harvard-trained historian, Carter G. Woodson, like W. E. B. Du Bois before him, believed that truth could not be denied, and that reason would prevail over prejudice. His hopes to raise awareness of African American's contributions to civilization was realized when he and the organization he founded, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), conceived and announced Negro History Week in 1925. The event was first celebrated during a week in February 1926 that encompassed the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The response was overwhelming: Black history clubs sprang up; teachers demanded materials to instruct their pupils; and progressive whites, not simply white scholars and philanthropists, stepped forward to endorse the effort.

By the time of Woodson's death in 1950, Negro History Week had become a central part of African American life and substantial progress had been made in bringing more Americans to appreciate the celebration. At mid-century, mayors of cities nationwide issued proclamations noting Negro History Week. The Black Awakening of the 1960s dramatically expanded the consciousness of African Americans about the importance of Black history, and the Civil Rights movement focused Americans of all color on the subject of the contributions of African Americans to our history and culture.

The celebration was expanded to a month in 1976, the nation's bicentennial. President Gerald R. Ford urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." That year, fifty years after the first celebration, the association held the first African American History Month. By this time, the entire nation had come to recognize the importance of Black history in the drama of the American story. Since then, each American president has issued African American History Month proclamations. And the association—now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)—continues to promote the study of Black history all year.

(Excerpt from an essay by Daryl Michael Scott, Howard University, for the Association for the Study of African American Life and History)

THROUGH FEBURARY 28

Zenith Gallery

Black History Month Art Exhibit - January 23 - February 28, 2026

12:00pm - 6:00pm | Wednesday - Saturday, 1429 Iris Str NW, Washington, DC

<https://zenithgallery.com/exhibits/black-history-month/>

Contact: Margery wGoldberg | art@zenithgallery.com

A Century of Black History Commemorations

Black History Month Display - February 3 - February 28, 2026

10:00am - 5:00pm | Library of Congress, Thomas Jefferson Building Great Hall, 2nd Floor (LJ200-E), 10 First St SE, Washington, DC 20540

<https://www.loc.gov/item/event-419934/a-century-of-black-history-commemorations/2026-02-13/>

THROUGH MARCH 1

The African Wholistic Health Association

POST BLACK HISTORY MONTH SYMPOSIUM

"Celebrating Our Hero's and Sheros"

To register email: Wpkokayi1@yahoo.com

Children's Legacy Theatre Inc.

Akhnaton by Agatha Christie (Remixed) - February 27 - March 1, 2026

6:30pm | Bard High School Early College, 1351 Alabama Ave SE, Washington, DC

Contact: Jackie Carter. (202) 710-7819

THROUGH MARCH 30

Listen To WPFW During Black History Months

Listen to WPFW online (streaming or on ARCHIVES via website: www.wpfwm.org) or on your old fashioned radio. Special February Black History programs featured on talk shows (weekdays: 8am-12pm; 1-3, 5-8pm), and music programs (Sat & Sun all day, weekdays 8pm - 8am) | www.wpfwm.org

Salute to the Golden Years of Hip Hop

50 Years of Hip-Hop with JabariDC, John Lamkin and More

6:30pm | The Collective - Encore, 10221 Wincopin Circle, Columbia, MD

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lamkin3-presents-a-salute-to-the-golden-years-of-hip-hop-tickets-1975051694786>

FEBRUARY 1

Author Talk: Bibb Country with Lonnae O’Neal

3:00pm - 4:30pm

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G St NW, Washington, DC 20001

<https://www.dclibrary.org> | (202) 727-0321

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

OPENING PROGRAM - The Fierce Urgency of Now: One Hundred Years of Black History Commemorations - Kickoff to Black History Month

6:00pm - 9:00pm (EST)

Virtual: <https://www.youtube.com/asalhtv>

Contact: Louis Hicks | lhicks@asalh.org | (202) 289-5910

FEBRUARY 2

WOL-AM 1450

Black History Month - Dr. V address various aspects of healthcare as a civil rights issue.

10:00am - 10:30am (EST) | <https://woldcnews.com/schedule/ask-dr-v/>

FEBRUARY 3

Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts

Jocko, the Little Soldier: A Story of Courage and Hope

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G Street NW, Washington, DC, 20005

<https://epiphanydc.org/> | (301) 839-1444

WPFW Jazz & Justice Radio in Washington at 89.3 FM!

“Our History Through Music” with Brother Jamil on the “Yardbird Sweets” edition of The Morning Brew.

5:00am - 8:00am (EST) | www.wpfwfm.org

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

Justice and Reconciliation: From Henry Highland Garnet to Harvey Johnson

6:00pm - 7:00pm | Virtual: <https://www.youtube.com/asalhtv>

Contact: Lopez Matthews, Jr. | lmatthews@asalh.org

FEBRUARY 3

Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens

A'Lelia Walker: Joy Goddess of the Harlem Renaissance

6:30pm - 7:30pm | Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens, 4155 Linnaean St. NW, Washington, DC 20016

<https://hillwoodmuseum.org/events/alelia-walker-joy-goddess-harlem-renaissance>

FEBRUARY 4

Historically Black Phrases Live! - Live Gameshow in celebration of Black History Month

7:00pm - 9:00pm | Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20001 | [\(202\) 727-0321](https://www.dclibrary.org)

FEBRUARY 5

Black History Month Display

10:00am - 5:00pm

Library of Congress, Thomas Jefferson Building Great Hall, 2nd Floor (LJ200-E)
10 First Street SE, Washington, DC 20540

<https://www.loc.gov/item/event-419934/a-century-of-black-history-commemorations/2026-02-13/>

FEBRUARY 6

United for Human Rights, Youth for Human Rights DC and Art Impact International

First Friday: Art Walk Dupont - United for Human Rights Art Exhibition -100 Years of Black History

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Church of Scientology National Affairs Office, Fraser Mansion, 1701 20th St. NW, Washington, DC 20009

Contact: Beth Akiyama | bethakiyama@churchofscientology.net

Ford's Theatre

Written Then, Spoken Now: *Remaking the Republic*

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Ford's Theatre, 511 10th St. NW, Washington, DC 20004

<https://fords.org/event/written-then-spoken-now-remaking-the-republic/>

FEBRUARY 6 & 7

Drifting Teenagers Performing Arts Foundation, INC

Live Jazz Showcase Of New Jazz Artists And New Jazz Bands First Show
Dedicated To The Memory Of Velma Middleton Who Died In Freetown Sierra Leone In 1961

6:00pm - 10:00pm | Dovis Best Restaurant in Briggs Chaney Marketplace, 13843 Outlet Dr. Silver Spring, MD | Contact: Yaya Fanusie
Songhai2020digitaldv@gmail.com

Drifting Teenagers Performing Arts Foundation, INC

Colors of Comedy Showcase - Open Mic
10:00pm | Dovis Best Restaurant in Briggs Chaney Marketplace, 13843 Outlet Dr. Silver Spring, MD 20904
Contact: Yaya Fanusie | Songhai2020digitaldv@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 7

Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee

Regina's Black Artifacts Popup Museum
9:00am - 4:00pm
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, room 201 and 202
blackhistoryandculturergb@gmail.com

Faithandgrace.co and Kookiekakes dmv

9:00am - 4:00pm
Eastern Market, 225 7th St SE, Washington, DC 20003
<https://easternmarket-dc.org/>

Matthews Memorial Baptist Church

Black Men To Determine Our Collective Impact on 2026 Elections and Our Future
10:00am - 2:00pm | Matthews Memorial Baptist Church
2616 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20020
mmv.eventbrite.com

Black Wall Street Renaissance

Time: 12pm - 6pm
ELife Restaurant, 9033 Central Avenue, Capitol Heights, MD 20743
(301) 324-6900

FEBRUARY 7

Zenith Gallery

Black History Month Art Exhibit - Artist Talks: Ram Brisueno, Buzz Duncan, Cheryl Edwards

2:00pm | Zenith Gallery, 1429 Iris Street NW, Washington, DC 20012

Contact: Margery Goldberg | art@zenithgallery.com

The Friends of Lamond-Riggs Library

Mrs. Lavonda Broadnax discusses the writings of African American Women during the Civil War Era.

3:00pm | Lamond-Riggs Library, Conference Room 1

5401 South Dakota Ave NE, Washington

FEBRUARY 8

Jazz Soul Brunch

11:00am - 2:00pm

Busboys & Poets, 2004 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20020

Contact: Keith Killgo | kkillgo@gmail.com

Washington Jazz Arts Institute

The History of Blues Music - Nothing but the Blues

2:00pm - 3:30pm

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G St. NW, Washington, DC 20001

<https://www.dclibrary.org> | (202) 727-0321

FEBRUARY 9

WOL-AM 1450

Black History Month - Dr. V address various aspects of healthcare as a civil rights issue

10:00am - 10:30am (EST)

<https://woldcnews.com/schedule/ask-dr-v/>

FEBRUARY 10

WPFW Jazz & Justice Radio in Washington at 89.3 FM!

Our History Through Music with Brother Jamil on the "Yardbird Sweets" edition of The Morning Brew

5:00am - 8:00am (EST) | www.wpfwfm.org

FEBRUARY 10

Prince George's Publick Playhouse

George Washington Carver & Friends (for Grades K-5)

10:00am and 11:15am (45 min. show)

Prince George's Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD 20784

www.pgparks.com/PublickPlayhouse

The Friends of Lamond-Riggs Library

Mr. Hans Charles - Cinematographer

5:00pm | Lamond-Riggs Library, Conference Room 1

5401 South Dakota Ave NE, Washington

FEBRUARY 11

Greenbelt Golden Age Club

To Follow The Path of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle of Blacks in England and the Americas During the War for Independence.

Presentation by: Dr. C.R. Gibbs, historian

11:00am - 12:00pm | Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, room 201
blackhistoryandculturergb@gmail.com

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

A Labor of Freedom, Then and Now with the Movement History Initiative

6:00pm - 7:00pm | Virtual: <https://www.youtube.com/asalhtv>

Contact: Lopez Matthews, Jr. | lmatthews@asalh.org

FEBRUARY 12

Black History Month Display

10:00am - 5:00pm

Library of Congress, Thomas Jefferson Building Great Hall, 2nd Floor (LJ200-E)

10 First Street SE, Washington, DC 20540

<https://www.loc.gov/item/event-419934/a-century-of-black-history-commemorations/2026-02-13/>

That Said With Michael Zeldin

Ronald K. L. Collins | Tragedy on Trial, The Story of the Infamous Emmett Till Murder Trial

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/ronald-k-l-collins-tragedy-on-trial-the-story/id1548483720?i=1000678925788>

FEBRUARY 13

PEW/African American Holiday Association (AAHA)

Black Love Day

Contact: Ayo Handy-Kendi | ayomeansjoy@yahoo.com

<https://www.positivenergyworks.com/>

Racial Justice Ministry

Black History Program

7:00pm - 9:00pm | <https://www.saintjn.org/>

St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston, VA 20191

FEBRUARY 14

Zenith Gallery

Black History Month Art Exhibit - Artist Talks: Carolyn Goodridge, Hubert Jackson, Ashley- Joi

2:00pm

Zenith Gallery, 1429 Iris Street NW, Washington, DC 20012

Contact: Margery Goldberg | art@zenithgallery.com

FEBRUARY 15

Greater St. Paul Baptist Church

St. Paul Black History Program

Meal: 1:00pm - 2:30pm, Service: 3:00pm

5720 New Hampshire Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20011

<https://www.greaterstpauldc.com/>

The Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival

Charles Rahmat Woods flute/saxophonist on the Jam Stage

6:30pm | Midatlanticjazzfestival.org

FEBRUARY 16

WOL-AM 1450

Black History Month - Dr. V address various aspects of healthcare as a civil rights issue

10:00am - 10:30am (EST)

<https://woldcnews.com/schedule/ask-dr-v/>

FEBRUARY 17

WPFW Jazz & Justice Radio in Washington at 89.3 FM!

Our History Through Music with Brother Jamil on the *Yardbird Sweets* edition of The Morning Brew
5:00am - 8:00am (EST)
www.wpfwfm.org

The Friends of Lamond-Riggs Library

DC Office of Planning - Commemoration of Sterling A. Brown
3:00pm | Lamond-Riggs Library, Conference Room 1
5401 South Dakota Ave NE, Washington

Follow The Path of Liberty: The Battle for Freedom in Great Britain's 13 North American colonies

6:00pm | Presentation by: Dr. C.R. Gibbs, historian
Woodridge Neighborhood Library, 1801 Hamilton St. NE, Washington, DC 20011
<https://www.dclibrary.org> | woodridgelibrary@dc.gov | (202) 541-6226

FEBRUARY 18

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

State of African American Historical and Cultural Preservation: Charting a Collective Defense
6:00pm - 7:00pm
Virtual: <https://www.youtube.com/asalhtv>
Contact: Lopez Matthews, Jr. | lmatthews@asalh.org

FEBRUARY 19

Prince George's Publick Playhouse

FILM SCREENING: *Becoming Thurgood: America's Social Architect* (for ages 60 & Better)
11:00am (60 min. runtime)
Prince George's Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD 20784
www.pgparks.com/PublickPlayhouse

FEBRUARY 20

DC Black History Film Festival

5:00pm – 12:00M

Lincoln Theatre, 1215 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20001

Contact: Richard Campbell | richardcampbell2010@gmail.com

www.BlackHistoryFilmFestival.com

FEBRUARY 21

Historic Change: Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Althea Gibson

11:00am – 1:00pm

National Museum of African American History and Culture (Heritage Hall, L3)

1400 Constitution Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20560

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/events/historic-change-celebrating-life-and-legacy-althea-gibson>

Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee

Interactive Historical Re-enactments (from the civil war to Vietnam) and

Greenbelt Middle School Student Essay Contest Winners Awards

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, first floor gym

blackhistoryandculturegb@gmail.com

Zenith Gallery

Black History Month Art Exhibit – Artist Talks: Sabiyha Prince, Qrcky, Curtis Woody

2:00pm | Zenith Gallery, 1429 Iris St NW, Washington, DC 20012

Contact: Margery Goldberg | art@zenithgallery.com

James Weldon Johnson Community School of the Arts

2026 Black Composers Concert®

3:00pm – 4:30pm | Jerusalem Baptist Church, 2600 P St NW, Washington, DC

<https://bit.ly/2026BCC>

DC Target Boycott Coalition

“Our History. Our Humanity”

2:00pm - 5:00pm | plymouthcongregational@yahoo.com

Plymouth Congregational UCC, 5301 North Capitol St NE, Washington, DC

FEBRUARY 21

DC Black History Celebration Committee Program

Keynote address by Pastor Nuttall/New Bethel Baptist Church
Dcblackhistory.org

Caucus of African American Leaders

The Caucus of African American Leaders will announce that a memorial will be built in the City of Annapolis in honor of Malcolm X.
<https://mlkjrm.org/>

FEBRUARY 22

Bethel Dukes Branch, ASALH

The Voting Rights Act, Democracy and the Franchise

2:30pm - 4:00pm

Woodridge Branch, DCPL 18th and Rhode Island Avenue, NE

In Person: 1801 Hamlin Street, NE Washington, DC 20018

Virtual: email betheldukes1915@gmail.com for Zoom credentials

Contact: Ida Jones | betheldukes1915@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 23

WOL-AM 1450

Black History Month - Dr. V address various aspects of healthcare as a civil rights issue
10:00am - 10:30am EST)

<https://woldcnews.com/schedule/ask-dr-v/>

County Executive Steuart Pittman and the Caucus of African American Leaders

8th Annual Black History Program, "Few of the Many"

6:00pm |

Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, 801 Chase Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact: Carl Snowden | (443) 871-5656

FEBRUARY 24

WPFW Jazz & Justice Radio in Washington at 89.3 FM!

Our History Through Music with Brother Jamil on the *Yardbird Sweets* edition of The Morning Brew.

5:00am - 8:00am (EST) | www.wpfwfm.org

FEBRUARY 24

Prince George's Publick Playhouse

Going the Distance (for Grades 1-6)

10:00am and 11:15am (45 min. show)

Prince George's Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD

www.pgparks.com/PublickPlayhouse

FEBRUARY 25

UMD Jazz Jam

DC-based saxophonist Elijah Jamal Balbed to perform and lead a community-wide jam!

7:30pm

Busboys & Poets, 5331 Baltimore Ave, Hyattsville, Maryland, 20781

<https://www.busboysandpoets.com>

FEBRUARY 26

Mosaic Theater Company, Howard University, State of DC Black Theatre

A Celebration of DC Black Theater

7:00pm - 9:00pm

www.MosaicTheater.org/young-john-lewis

Contact: Reginald Douglas | reg@mosaictheater.org

FEBRUARY 27

Children's Legacy Theatre Inc.

Akhnaton by Agatha Christie (Remixed)

6:30pm

Bard High School Early College, 1351 Alabama Ave SE, Washington, DC 20032

Contact: Jackie Carter | (202) 710-7819

FEBRUARY 28

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

10:00am - 12:00pm | Featured Authors' Book Signing

J.W. Marriott, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

Contact: Louis Hicks | lhicks@asalh.org | (202) 289-5910

FEBRUARY 28

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

12:00pm - 3:00pm | The 100th Annual ASALH Black History Luncheon

J.W. Marriott, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

Contact: Louis Hicks | lhicks@asalh.org | (202) 289-5910

DC Fire & EMS

Health & Wellness at The Vision Christian Store

12:00pm - 4:00pm

Vision Christian Store, 10398 Piscataway Road, Clinton, MD 20735

visionchristianstore2@gmail.com

Zenith Gallery

Black History Month Art Exhibit - Closing Receptions to Meet the Artists

12:00pm - 6:00pm

Zenith Gallery, 1429 Iris Street NW, Washington, DC 20012

Contact: Margery Goldberg | art@zenithgallery.com

Children's Legacy Theatre Inc.

Akhnaton by Agatha Christie (Remixed)

6:30pm |

Bard High School Early College, 1351 Alabama Ave SE, Washington, DC 20032

Contact: Jackie Carter | (202) 710-7819

Prince George's Publick Playhouse

Tribute to Frankie Beverly

8:00pm (90 min. show)

Prince George's Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD 20784

www.pgpublickplayhouse.com

National Million Women March

"Call To Action", Teach In/Speak Out, and Public Forum will focus on abuse of

Black Women and Girls

To register email: nationalmwm@aol.com

For more information and event updates, visit:

dcblackhistory.com
facebook.com/dc.black.history



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