

GUIDE TO FREE EVENTS IN WASHINGTON, DC | FEBRUARY 1 - 29, 2024

# Black History Month 2024



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 2024.  
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:

AZIZA CLAUDIA GIBSON-HUNTER, *POTENCHA #9*, 2018, MIXED MEDIA, 39 1/2 × 27 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 MARCH 30

### **Listen To WPFW During Black History Months**

Listen to WPFW online (streaming or on ARCHIVES via website: [www.wpfwfm.org](http://www.wpfwfm.org)) or on your old fashioned radio.

Special February Black History programs featured on many of the talk shows (weekdays: 8am-12pm; 1-3, 5-8pm)

as well as on music programs (Sat & Sun all day, weekdays 8pm - 8am).

[www.wpfwfm.org](http://www.wpfwfm.org)

### **MMTI Celebrates 40th Anniversary with the play "Zora"**

Friday 10:00am, Saturday 2:00pm & 7:00pm

Multi-Media Training Institute

5073 East Capitol Street SE

<https://mmtidc.org> | [mmti@mmtidc.org](mailto:mmti@mmtidc.org)

(202) 464-5020

## FEBRUARY 1

### **Blacks in Sci-fi, Anime, Comic Books & Graphic Novels**

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)

[Asalh.org/tv/](http://Asalh.org/tv/)

Contact: Louis Hicks at [lhicks@asalh.org](mailto:lhicks@asalh.org) | (202) 289-5010 | Virtual

## FEBRUARY 2

### **Exhibit: Through an African American Lens**

4:00pm - 8:00pm

Zenith Gallery, 1329 Iris Street NW

[art@zenithgallery.com](mailto:art@zenithgallery.com) | (202) 783-2963

### **Black History, Black Healing, Black Health**

6:00pm

Busboys & Poets, 2021 14th Street NW

<https://www.busboysandpoets.com> | (202) 387-7638

## **FEBRUARY 3**

### **DC Black History Celebration Kick-Off Program**

11:00am - 2:00pm

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street SW

<https://dcblackhistory.org> | [DCblackhistory@gmail.com](mailto:DCblackhistory@gmail.com)

### **Know Thyself Bookfair and Author's Talk**

12:00pm - 7:00pm

Thurgood Marshall Center for Service and Heritage, 1816 12th Street NW

<https://tmcsh.org> | (202) 462-8314

### **Exhibit: Through an African American Lens**

2:00pm - 6:00pm

Zenith Gallery, 1329 Iris Street NW

[art@zenithgallery.com](mailto:art@zenithgallery.com) | (202) 783-2963

## **FEBRUARY 4**

### **The GRIFT with Clay Cane**

5:00pm

Busboys & Poets, 2021 14th Street NW

<https://www.busboysandpoets.com> | (202) 387-7638

## **FEBRUARY 5**

### **HBCU Made: A Celebration of the Black College Experience**

7:00pm - 8:00pm

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G Street NW

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

## **FEBRUARY 6**

### **Bread for the Soul, Whitman-Walker, Max Robinson Center, Covenant Baptist-UCC, Bego Enterprises, REDBRICK, Councilmember Trayon White, Sr., Mayor Muriel Bowser**

Black History HIV-AIDS Awareness Panel Discussion & Reception

6:30pm - 8:30pm, 1201 Sycamore Dr SE

## **FEBRUARY 7**

### **DC Tech Meetup: Celebrating Black Innovators in DC Tech**

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G Street NW

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

## **FEBRUARY 8**

### **Street Art in Urban Communities**

6:00pm – 7:00pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)

[Asalh.org/tv/](http://Asalh.org/tv/)

Contact: Louis Hicks at [lhicks@asalh.org](mailto:lhicks@asalh.org)

(202) 289-5010 | Virtual

### **Historically Black Phrases Live! A Black Culture Game Show**

7:00pm – 8:30pm

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G Street NW

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

### **Culture Series: Creative AI - Threat or Opportunity**

7:00pm – 8:30pm

Busboys and Poets, 2021 14th Street NW

Contact: James “Jimmy” Watkins at [jwatkins@humanitiesdc.org](mailto:jwatkins@humanitiesdc.org)

## **FEBRUARY 10**

### **Black History Month Crafting**

10:30am – 3:30pm

Library of Congress, Thomas Jefferson Building Great Hall, 2nd Floor

10 First Street SE

[Loc.gov/item/event-411675/black-history-month-crafting/2024-02-10/](https://loc.gov/item/event-411675/black-history-month-crafting/2024-02-10/)

### **Curator Talk: Currents of Emancipation:**

#### **Learn the role Black American sailors played during the Civil War**

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Southwest Neighborhood Library, 900 Wesley Place SW

<https://www.dclibrary.org> | [southwestlibrary@dc.gov](mailto:southwestlibrary@dc.gov)

## **FEBRUARY 10**

### **Awareness: Artist Talk: Sheryll Cashin and Bernie Houston**

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Zenith Gallery, 1329 Iris Street NW

art@zenithgallery.com | (202) 783-2963

### **World Music Collective Celebrates Black History Month with Dwayne-Lawson Brown**

7:00pm - 8:00pm

St. Thomas' Parish, 1517 18th Street NW

<https://www.worldmusiccollective.org>

## **FEBRUARY 11**

### **Carnival Celebration**

10:30am - 5:30pm

St. Thomas' Parish, 1517 18th Street NW

<https://www.worldmusiccollective.org>

### **American Fruits with African Roots**

1:30pm

Woodridge Neighborhood Library

1801 Hamilton Street NE

<https://www.dclibrary.org> | [woodridgelibrary@dc.gov](mailto:woodridgelibrary@dc.gov) | (202) 541-6226

## **FEBRUARY 12**

### **In High Heels on a Ladder**

6:00pm

Busboys & Poets, 2021 14th Street NW

<https://www.busboysandpoets.com>

(202) 387-7638

## **FEBRUARY 13**

### **Black Love Virtual Summit**

Contact: Ayo Handi-Kendi at [ayomeansjoy@yahoo.com](mailto:ayomeansjoy@yahoo.com)

<https://www.positiveenergyworks.com> | Virtual

## **FEBRUARY 13**

### **Afro-Centrism and American Kinship: A Visual Exploration**

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Association for the Study of African America Life and History (ASALH)

[Asalh.org/tv/](http://Asalh.org/tv/)

Contact: Louis Hicks at [lhicks@asalh.org](mailto:lhicks@asalh.org)

(202) 289-5010

Virtual

## **FEBRUARY 15**

### **African American Digital Resources**

1:30pm - 3:30pm

Dorothy I. Height/Benning Neighborhood Library

3935 Benning Road NE

[benninglibrary@dc.gov](mailto:benninglibrary@dc.gov) | (202) 281-2583

### **Live at the Library: Reverend Robert B. Jones, Sr.**

7:00pm - 8:00pm

Library of Congress, Thomas Jefferson Building Coolidge Auditorium

10 First Street SE

[loc.gov/item/event-411333/live-at-the-library-rev-robert-b-jones-sr/2024-02-15/](http://loc.gov/item/event-411333/live-at-the-library-rev-robert-b-jones-sr/2024-02-15/)

Event is free but tickets are required

### **Iconic Looks: Muse: Cicely Tyson and Me: A Relationship Forged in Fashion**

7:00pm - 8:00pm

National Museum of African American History and Culture

1400 Constitution Ave, NW

[nmaahc.si.edu/events/iconic-looks-muse-cicely-tyson-and-me-relationship-forged-fashion](http://nmaahc.si.edu/events/iconic-looks-muse-cicely-tyson-and-me-relationship-forged-fashion)

Event is free but registration is required

### **The History, Art and Culture of the Gullah Geechee People**

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)

[Asalh.org/tv/](http://Asalh.org/tv/)

Contact: Louis Hicks at [lhicks@asalh.org](mailto:lhicks@asalh.org) | (202) 289-5010

Virtual



## **FEBRUARY 17**

### **Awareness; Artist Talk: Buzz Duncan and Curtis Woody**

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Zenith Gallery, 1329 Iris Street NW

art@zenithgallery.com | (202) 783-2963

### **Black History in Lafayette Park**

2:00pm

Washington Walks

Contact: Carolyn Crouch at info@washingtonwalks.com

## **FEBRUARY 21**

### **U.S. Minister to Liberia Henry Highland Garnet**

12:15pm - 1:00pm

National Museum of American Diplomacy - Harry S. Truman Building

330 21st Street NW

Contact: Emma Guyette at GuyetteE@state.gov | <https://diplomacy.state.gov>

### **Commemorating the Life and Legacy of Brother Malcolm X**

Black Folks in Action

Sankofa Video, Books & Café, 2714 Georgia Avenue NW

Contact: Dr. Sharon Conn at Sconn4200@verizon.net

### **Black History Month Trivia Night**

6:30pm - 8:00pm

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G Street NW

East Storefront A & B

Adultservices.dcpl@dc.gov

## **FEBRUARY 22**

### **Humanities DC Community Showcase**

6:00pm - 8:30pm

Anacostia Arts Center, 1231 Marion Barry Ave. SE

Contact: James "Jimmy" Watkins at [jwatkins@humanitiesdc.org](mailto:jwatkins@humanitiesdc.org)

<https://humanitiesdc.org/>

## **FEBRUARY 23**

### **Black History Month: Celebrating Duke Ellington**

4:00pm - 5:00pm

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G Street NW

World Music Collective

<https://www.worldmusiccollective.org/performances/black-history-month-celebrating-duke-ellington>

### **International Spy Museum: James A. Lafayette, Revolutionary War Spy**

4:00pm - 5:30pm

Southwest Neighborhood Library, 900 Wesley Place SW

[southwestlibrary@dc.gov](mailto:southwestlibrary@dc.gov)

### **Home Rule Music Festival Launch Party & Concert**

7:30pm - 11:00pm

Songbyrd Music House, 540 Penn Street NE

Contact: Charvis Campbell at [charvis@hrmfdc.org](mailto:charvis@hrmfdc.org)

Songbyrd Music House ([songbyrddc.com](http://songbyrddc.com))

## **FEBRUARY 24**

### **Awareness Artist Talk: Cheryl Edwards, Francie Haskins, Julee Dickerson-Thompson**

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Zenith Gallery, 1429 Iris Street NW

[art@zenithgallery.com](mailto:art@zenithgallery.com) | (202) 783-2963

## **FEBRUARY 25**

### **Struggle and Triumph: Black History Along Pennsylvania Avenue**

10:00am

Washington Walks. Contact: Carolyn Crouch at [info@washingtonwalks.com](mailto:info@washingtonwalks.com)

### **The Black History Program with Mayor Lisa Hicks Gilbert of Elaine, Arkansas**

3:00pm - 4:00pm

Woodridge Neighborhood Library, 1801 Hamilton Street NE

Bethel Dukes Brach of ASALH | Contact: Sybil Williams at [sotempleman@aol](mailto:sotempleman@aol)

## **FEBRUARY 26**

### **Holding Sacred Space as Sanctuary. Connecting Through the Spirituality of Sound**

5:00pm - 7:00pm

Dahlgren Chapel of the Sacred Heart, Georgetown University Campus  
Old N Way (37th & O Streets) NW

Woodshed Center for Art, Thought, and Culture at the Georgetown Racial Justice  
Institute (RJI) and Campus Ministries

Contact: Mia Massimino, at Mm4923@gerogetown.edu | (301) 661-3678

### **SWNA Annual Black History Month Program**

7:00pm

Arena Stage - Molly Smith Library, 1101 6th Street SW

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly

Contact: Thelma D. Jones & Donna Purchase at Thelma.d.jones@outlook.com

<https://swana.org/>

## **FEBRUARY 28**

### **African American Civil War History: Why Does it Matter Now More Than Ever**

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Fraser Mansion, 1701 20th Street NW

Contact: Beth Akiyama at Bethakiyama@churchofscientology.net

## **FEBRUARY 29**

### **South Africa: Democracy and Arts Activism**

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Riggs Library, Healy Hall, 3rd Floor, Georgetown University Campus

Contact: Mia Massimino at Mm4923@gerogetown.edu

(301) 661-3678

### **Sito: An American Teenager and the City that Failed Him**

Author Talk: Laurence Ralph

7:00pm - 8:00pm

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G Street NW, East Storefront A & B  
adultservices.dcpl@dc.gov

For more information and event updates, visit:

[dcblackhistory.com](http://dcblackhistory.com)  
[facebook.com/dc.black.history](https://facebook.com/dc.black.history)



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