

GUIDE TO FREE EVENTS IN WASHINGTON, DC | FEBRUARY 1 - 28, 2023

# Black History Month 2023



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 2023  
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:

Percy Martin, *Bushman Beginning a Dreamwalk*, 2007, Giclee, 51 × 40 in.  
Wilson Building Art 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)

## **DC Walk of Fame**

Visit anytime Mount Vernon Square Park is open!

Mount Vernon Square Park (Mount Vernon Place, NW Washington, DC 20001)

801 K St NW, Washington DC

[dchalloffame.org](http://dchalloffame.org)

## **FEBRUARY 1**

### **Comrade Sisters: Women of the Black Panther Party Panel Discussion and Book Signing**

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Howard University

2400 6th St NW, Washington DC | [sankofa.com](http://sankofa.com)

### **Opening Session "Exploring Aspects of Black Resistance"**

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) | [asalh.org](http://asalh.org)

### **Part II- Panel Discussion "Exploring Aspects of Black Resistance"**

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History | [asalh.org](http://asalh.org)

### **Author Talk: His Name is George Floyd**

7:00 - 8:00 pm

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library - Central Library

901 G St. NW, Washington DC | [dclibrary.org/mlk](http://dclibrary.org/mlk)

## **FEBRUARY 2**

### **The Public Square with Brittany Packnett Cunningham**

7:00 - 8:00 pm

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library - Central Library

901 G St. NW, Washington DC | [dclibrary.org/mlk](http://dclibrary.org/mlk)

## **FEBRUARY 3 & 4**

### **Honoring The Black in US: Opening Reception to meet the Artists**

Friday 4:00 - 6:00 pm | Saturday 2:00 - 6:00 pm

Zenith Gallery

1429 Iris St NW, Washington DC | [zenithgallery.com](http://zenithgallery.com)

## **FEBRUARY 3**

### **To Haiku'm it May Concern**

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Sankofa Video Books & Cafe

2714 Georgia Ave NW, Washington DC | [sankofa.com](http://sankofa.com)

## **FEBRUARY 4**

### **Honoring The Black in US**

Gallery open Wednesday - Saturday 12:00 - 6:00 pm

Zenith Gallery

1429 Iris St NW, Washington DC | [zenithgallery.com](http://zenithgallery.com)

### **D.C. Black History Celebration Committee Kick-Off**

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Westminster Presbyterian Church

400 I St SW, Washington DC | [dcbblackhistory.org/](http://dcbblackhistory.org/)

### **Black Landowners and Farmer: Reclaiming Land and Civil Rights**

12:00 - 1:30 pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History | [asalh.org](http://asalh.org)

### **Film Screening for Barry Farm: Community, Land & Justice in Washington, DC**

2:00 - 4:00 pm

Mt. Pleasant Branch Library

3160 16th St NW, Washington DC | [asalh.org](http://asalh.org)

### **Women of Spirit Share Rituals Divine**

7:00 - 9:30 pm

Sankofa Video Books & Cafe

2714 Georgia Ave NW, Washington DC | [sankofa.com](http://sankofa.com)

## **FEBRUARY 5**

### ***Warrior Queen Nzingha***

5:30 - 7:30 pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History | [asalh.org](http://asalh.org)

## FEBRUARY 7

### **34th Annual Black Film Festival**

3:00 - 8:00 pm

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library - Central Library

901 G St. NW, Washington DC | [dclibrary.org/mlk](http://dclibrary.org/mlk)

### **Black Lives Matter and Music: Protest, Intervention, Reflection**

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History | [asalh.org](http://asalh.org)

### **Akata: The Saga of an American Girl Finding Her Roots: Book Signing and Discussion with Victoria Carlos**

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Sankofa Video Books & Cafe

2714 Georgia Ave NW, Washington DC | [sankofa.com](http://sankofa.com)

## FEBRUARY 8

### **Reader's Theatre *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters***

4:00 - 5:00 pm

West End Neighborhood Library

2301 L St NW, Washington DC | [dclibrary.org/westend](http://dclibrary.org/westend)

### **Black History Celebration: Expressions of Black History and Human Rights through Art**

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Church of Scientology, National Affairs Office Fraser Mansion

1701 20th St NW, Washington DC | [facebook.com/YHRDC](https://facebook.com/YHRDC)

### **Virtual Author Talk: Deborah Douglass The Civil Rights Trail**

7:00 - 8:00 pm

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library - Central Library

virtual only | [dclibrary.org/mlk](http://dclibrary.org/mlk)

### **For The Culture: A Genealogy Book For The Cool Kids by Aungelic Nelson 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**

Sankofa Video Books & Cafe

2714 Georgia Ave NW, Washington DC | [sankofa.com/events/for-the-culture-book-discussion](http://sankofa.com/events/for-the-culture-book-discussion)

## **FEBRUARY 9**

### **Black History Jeopardy**

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Woodridge Neighborhood Library

1801 Hamlin Street NE, Washington DC | [dclibrary.libnet.info/event/7757366](http://dclibrary.libnet.info/event/7757366)

### **Call and Response: Liberation Theology, Resistance and the Black Church**

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History | [asalh.org](http://asalh.org)

## **FEBRUARY 11 - 13**

### **Black Love Day 30th Anniversary with 3rd Virtual Black Love Summit & Official Relationship Ceremony**

12:00 - 9:00 pm | [africanamericanholidays.org/](http://africanamericanholidays.org/)

## **FEBRUARY 11**

### **Frederick Douglass Birthday**

12:30 - 4:00 pm

National Park Service, Frederick Douglass National Historic Site: Capitol

Turnaround (DC Former Trolley Car House)

770 M St SE, Washington DC | [nps.gov/frdo](http://nps.gov/frdo)

### **MLK's Beloved Community and the DC Art Bank**

1:00 - 4:00 pm

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library | 901 G Street Northwest Washington, DC

## **FEBRUARY 12**

### **Black History Month - Open community class, by donation**

12:30 - 1:45 pm

Bhakti Yoga DC

928 5th St NW, Washington DC | [bhaktiyogadc.com](http://bhaktiyogadc.com)

## **FEBRUARY 14**

### **34th Annual Black Film Festival**

3:00 - 9:00 pm

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library - Central Library

901 G St NW, Washington DC | [dclibrary.org/mlk](http://dclibrary.org/mlk)

## **FEBRUARY 15**

### **Poetry - Fighting with Words: Then and Now**

12:00 - 1:30 pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History | [asalh.org](http://asalh.org)

### **Black Like Me Artist Reception**

4:00 - 8:00 pm

Zenith Gallery

1111 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington DC | [zenithgallery.com](http://zenithgallery.com)

### **Social Justice Reading Room: *Black Resistance***

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History | [asalh.org](http://asalh.org)

## **FEBRUARY 16**

### **Arts Club Pride Poetry Workshop: Malik Thompson will lead *Of Wild Trees and Lightning: The Poetics of Bewilderment*.**

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Arts Club of Washington

2017 St NW, Washington DC | [artsclubofwashington.org/events/](http://artsclubofwashington.org/events/)

### **The Carter G. Woodson Home Grand Re-Opening Preview**

6:30 - 8:15 pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History | [asalh.org](http://asalh.org)

## **FEBRUARY 18**

### **Walk with Woodson: A Walking Tour of the Historic Shaw Neighborhood with the Father of Black History**

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

National Park Service, Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site

Historic Shaw Neighborhood, Washington DC

## **FEBRUARY 19**

### **Preserving the Black Resistance**

5:00 - 6:15 pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History | [asalh.org](http://asalh.org)

## FEBRUARY 21

### **34th Annual Black Film Festival**

3:00 - 9:00 pm

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library - Central Library  
901 G St NW, Washington DC | [dclibrary.org/mlk](http://dclibrary.org/mlk)

### **The State of the Legal Profession & Its Impact on Black America**

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Reed Smith  
1301 K St NW #1100E, Washington DC

### **ASALH 2023 Book Prize**

6:30 - 7:30 pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History | [asalh.org](http://asalh.org)

## FEBRUARY 22

### **Book Talk with Barbara S. Dunn about *The Mis-Education of the Negro* by Carter G. Woodson**

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Woodridge Public Library  
1801 Hamlin Street NE, Washington DC

### **Black History: Revealing the Little-Known Driving Force Behind Centuries of “Scientific Racism” in America**

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Fraser Mansion 1701 20th St NW, Washington DC | [facebook.com/CCHRDC/](https://facebook.com/CCHRDC/)

### **Film: *Fat Boy: The Billy Stewart Story***

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Francis A. Gregory Neighborhood Library  
3660 Alabama Ave SE, Washington DC | [dclibrary.org/francis](http://dclibrary.org/francis)

### **Thrive Black Boy: Nurturing the Mental Health of Black Male Adolescents**

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Sankofa Video Books & Cafe  
2714 Georgia Ave NW Washington DC | [www.sankofa.com](http://www.sankofa.com)

## **FEBRUARY 23**

### **Satsang, Philosophy Discussion Night**

6:45 - 8:00 pm

Bhakti Yoga DC

928 5th St NW, Washington DC | [bhaktiyogadc.com](http://bhaktiyogadc.com)

### **Resistance and the Black Press**

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History | [asalh.org](http://asalh.org)

## **FEBRUARY 25**

### **An Unlikely Alliance: The Friendship of Mary McLeod Bethune and Eleanor Roosevelt**

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

National Park Service, Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site  
1318 Vermont Ave NW, Washington DC | [nps.gov/mamc](http://nps.gov/mamc)

### **Author Talk: Books N Bros with Sidney Keys III**

1:00 - 2:00 pm Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library - Central Library

901 G St NW, Washington DC | [dclibrary.libnet.info/event/7798114](http://dclibrary.libnet.info/event/7798114)

## **FEBRUARY 26**

### **Book Talk with Lela Williams about her book, *We Who Believe in Freedom - the Life and Times of Ella Baker***

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Woodridge Public Library, 1801 Hamlin Street NE, Washington DC

## **FEBRUARY 27**

### **PBS Documentary: Happy Birthday Marian Anderson**

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Southwest Neighborhood Library

900 Wesley Pl SW, Washington DC | [dclibrary.libnet.info/event/7606045](http://dclibrary.libnet.info/event/7606045)

### **ASALH Author Book Talks**

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History | [asalh.org](http://asalh.org)

## **FEBRUARY 28**

### **34th Annual Black Film Festival**

3:00 - 9:00 pm

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library - Central Library  
901 G St NW, Washington DC | [dclibrary.org/mlk](http://dclibrary.org/mlk)

### **Strengthening African & African-Americans Relationships**

6:00 - 8:30 pm Woodridge Public Library

801 Hamlin Street NE, Washington DC | [dclibrary.libnet.info/event/7816362](http://dclibrary.libnet.info/event/7816362)

### **Black History Continues - Voices Of The Movement**

6:30 - 8:00 pm

D.C. Black History Celebration Committee | [dcblackhistory.org/](http://dcblackhistory.org/)

### **ASALH Closing Session: Exploring Aspects of Black Resistance**

6:30 - 7:30 pm

Association for the Study of African American Life and History | [asalh.org](http://asalh.org)

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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