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 2021

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)
BlackPower in Washington D.C.
The BlackPower in Washington D.C. website charts the rise, fall and resurgence of Black Power activism in the nation's preeminent Chocolate City between 1961 and 1998 using a web based map and approximately 50 historical photographs.

blackpowerindc.umbc.edu

Subversions Part Two: As An Enemy
6 - 9pm
CulturalDC
A multichannel video installation that creates space for the victims of police brutality. The exhibit will be projected onto the windows of CulturalDC's Source Theatre located at 1835 14th Street NW.
culturaldc.org

DC Black History Virtual Kick-Off
THE BLACK FAMILY: Saving Our Lives - The Fierce Urgency of Now!
7pm - 8pm
DC Black History Celebration Committee; African American Civil War Museum
Keynote Speaker - Dr. Reed Tuckson, Black Coalition Against Covid-19
MC - Aaron Holmes
Via Zoom: 826 9631 5087 PASSCODE: 372477

Announcement of the Black History Theme and Introduction of ASALH's Inaugural Virtual Black History Month Festival
6pm - 7pm
Association for the Study of African American Life and History
The opening program to announce the 2021 Black History theme and introduction of ASALH's Inaugural Virtual Black History Month Festival
youtube.com/asalhtv; asalh.org

Bishop Henry McNeal Turner Symposium
7pm
African American Civil War Museum; Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia
For much of the nineteenth century, Bishop Henry McNeal Turner was a voice for justice and humanity. He served as a minister, educator and U.S.C.T. veteran. On February 1, 2021 The African American Civil War Museum will present the Bishop Henry McNeal Turner symposium to discuss the life and legacy of this remarkable individual.
zoom.us/j/97350700071

Lou Fields 30th BHM Program: 7th Langton Hughes Book Fair
8pm - 10pm
Baltimore African American Tourism Council of MD, Inc.
Virtual Online Book Fair, family friendly event!
ZOOM Meeting ID 852 1781 7769. No password needed.

Teen Tuesday: Open Mic Night
4pm
DC Public Library
Poets between the ages of 13 - 19 are invited to perform works in celebration Black History Month. Sign up to perform live or submit a video.
dclibrary.org/node/67699

Black History Month Virtual Story Time
10:30AM
DC Public Library
Join the Library for a special story time celebrating Black History Month on the Library's Facebook page.
dclibrary.org/node/67717, facebook.com/dclibrary/
A Celebration of African American Life and History: Trailblazer
5pm - 6pm
Association for the Study of African American Life and History
Featuring an Author Talk with Mae Jemison.
youtube.com/asalhtv; asalh.org

**FEBRUARY 4**

Family Learning at the Library - Black History Month Events
4pm
DC Public Library
Tune in to DC Public Library’s Youtube every school day at 4 pm for a fun and educational after-school live events and videos! Who’s Kamala Harris? Take a fun quiz to learn more about the first female U.S. Vice President! February will have crafts, stories, book talks and more to celebrate Black History Month. These programs are recommended for school-aged children, teens and their families.
youtube.com/dcpl1

Chris Haley’s Reflections on Roots
7pm
African American Civil War Museum
“In 1977 the television adaptation of Roots debuted across American television screens, inviting Americans to remember the painful history of the slave trade. By examining the history of his own family, author Alex Haley was able to show the resiliency of African American families against the greatest of odds. Actor, Writer and Film Maker Chris Haley, (nephew of the famous writer) has carried on the tradition of storytelling that made his family one of the most famous in American history. Mr. Haley will reflect upon why 2020 was a reminder and a wake-up call for African American families and the nation.
zoom.us/j/93221836707

Kindred Spirits: Artists Hilda Wilkinson Brown and Lilian Thomas Burwell
9:30 & 10:30pm
PBS on WHUT
Kindred Spirits explores the unique relationship between a Black aunt and niece who rose above the inequities of segregation to become accomplished artists.
pbs.org/show/kindred-spirits-artists-hilda-wilkinson-brown-and-lilian-

**FEBRUARY 5**

Soulversations (Episode 1) Sy Smith with host Rus
6pm - 6:45pm
THEARC Theater
Indie artist Russell Taylor (https://www.russelltaylor.net/) takes us on a music journey through performances pre-recorded at THEARC Theater along with artist interviews featuring local and national Black artists.
bbardc.org/thearc-theater

**FEBRUARY 6**

From the Continent to the Americas: Foodways, Culture and Traditions in the African American Family
12pm - 2pm
Association for the Study of African American Life and History
A panel of authors, chefs and historians will share their work and discuss the important role food has played Black family life throughout the diaspora.
youtube.com/asalhtv; asalh.org

**FEBRUARY 7**

Manhattan Branch, Panel Discussion “How African American Families Have Been Portrayed in the Media”
4pm - 6pm
Association for the Study of African American Life and History
Exploring the 2021 theme, discussants will explore how African American families have been portrayed in the media.
youtube.com/asalhtv; asalh.org
FEBRUARY 8

Organizing Black Families: The Colored Conventions
7pm
African American Civil War Museum
In the nineteenth century the African Americans began to organize formal conventions around social, political and economic issues that were affecting them. The leader of the Colored Conventions Project is a digital humanities initiative that has brought the history of this important movement to a new generation of scholars.
zoom.us/j/98828596975

FEBRUARY 9

Art AfterWords: A Book Discussion
5:30pm - 7pm
National Portrait Gallery & DC Public Library
The National Portrait Gallery and the DC Public Library invite you to a virtual conversation about representation, kinship and storytelling. Join us as we analyze Bernard Gotfryd’s portrait of Alice Walker and discuss the related book “Training School for Negro Girls” by Camille Acker. DCPL cardholders can access the book online.
eventbrite.com/e/art-afterwords-a-book-discussion-tickets-133229734723, dclibrary.org/node/67638

FEBRUARY 10

Presentation of the Inaugural ASALH Book Prize
1:30PM
Association for the Study of African American Life and History
Presentation of the Inaugural ASALH Book Prize.
youtube.com/osalhtv; asalh.org

Mighty Justice: A Family Event About Civil Rights Lawyer Dovey Johnson Roundtree
4pm
DC Public Library
For those people not familiar with Dovey Johnson Roundtree’s name, you are invited to learn about a great woman who dedicated her life to service, justice, and lifting up the most oppressed among us. Raised in the Jim Crow South, Dovey Johnson Roundtree’s early life was shaped by the strength of her grandmother. Dovey faced every challenge possible. Through sheer will and determination, she became a Civil Rights lawyer who was pivotal in dismantling racially segregated interstate bus travel in the early 1950s. She took clients that other lawyers ignored, saying of those she helped, “I make my clients my children. I can see stars when there is nothing but clay.” Never letting herself be beaten down by racism, Dovey Johnson Roundtree was a proud American who believed in the power of public service.
dclibrary.org/mightyjustice

Our City, Our Stories: Author Talk with Camille Acker & Rion Amilcar Scott
6pm
DC Public Library
Join authors Camille Acker and Rion Amilcar Scott live on the Library’s Facebook page on Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. for a conversation on their writing about the Black family and the Washington, D.C. area. Acker is a native Washingtonian, a graduate of Howard University and the author of the collection of short stories, Training School for Negro Girls. Scott is from Silver Spring, MD, a graduate of Howard University and the author of two short story collections: Insurrections and PEN finalist The World Doesn’t Require You.
facebook.com/dclibrary
**FEBRUARY 11**

**Family Learning at the Library - Black History Month Events**

*4pm*

DC Public Library

Tune in to DC Public Library's Youtube every school day at 4 p.m. for fun and educational after-school live events and videos! To the Stars with Mae Jemison - Learn about the first black woman to travel to space, and engineer and former astronaut Leland Melvin. February will have crafts, stories, book talks and more to celebrate Black History Month. These programs are recommended for school-aged children, teens and their families.

[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/dcpubliclibrary)

**FEBRUARY 12**

**Family Learning at the Library - Black History Month Events**

*4pm*

DC Public Library

Tune in to DC Public Library's Youtube every school day at 4 p.m. for fun and educational after-school live events and videos! Dragons in a Bag - a book talk on this new fantasy series featuring a young black protagonist, and make a dragon. February will have crafts, stories, book talks and more to celebrate Black History Month. These programs are recommended for school-aged children, teens and their families.

[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/dcpubliclibrary)

**FEBRUARY 13**

"Looking Backwards, Moving Forward"

*10am - 2pm*

AAHGS

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society's Maryland and Washington, DC Chapters, the Laurel (MD) and Washington, DC Family History Centers, as well as the African American Special Interest Group sponsor a Black History Month Conference on Saturday, February 13, 2021, Virtual via Zoom, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The theme of the conference is "Looking Backwards, Moving Forward".

[wdcfhc.org/AAHGS-Conf/](https://wdcfhc.org/AAHGS-Conf/)

**FEBRUARY 14**

**Frederick Douglass and Maryland’s Underground Railroad - Livestream Tour**

*4pm - 6pm*

Washington DC History & Culture

Join us for an online/virtual tour of the Frederick Douglass heritage sites in Maryland and Washington, D.C., as well a discussion on how how Frederick successfully escaped from slavery and then was an active conductor on the Underground Railroad until the eve of the Civil War. Learn about his connections to John Brown, Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Tubman and others!

Our program will focus on Frederick Douglass’ inspirational life and feature many of the sites within the Washington, D.C. and Baltimore metropolitan area associated with his life. We’ll include an overview of
the Eastern Shore, Baltimore City, Old Anacostia, as well as Harper's Ferry in West Virginia.

eventbrite.com/e/frederick-douglass-and-marylands-underground-railroad-livestream-tour-tickets-138117596449?aff=erelpanelorg

**FEBRUARY 15**

**Black History Month Virtual Story Time**

**10:30AM**

DC Public Library

Join the Library for a special story time celebrating Black History Month on the Library’s Facebook page.

facebook.com/dclibrary/

**FEBRUARY 17**

**Family Learning at the Library - Black History Month Events**

**4pm**

DC Public Library

Tune in to DC Public Library’s Youtube every school day at 4 p.m. for fun and educational after-school live events and videos! Mancala - Learn the history, create a DIY board and play this game. February will have crafts, stories, book talks and more to celebrate Black History Month. These programs are recommended for school-aged children, teens and their families.

youtube.com/dcpubliclibrary

**FEBRUARY 19**

**Family Learning at the Library - Black History Month Events**

**4pm**

DC Public Library

Tune in to DC Public Library’s Youtube every school day at 4 p.m. for fun and educational after-school live events and videos! Ella Baker and DC Public Library’s African American studies database. February will have crafts, stories, book talks and more to celebrate Black History Month. These programs are recommended for school-aged children, teens and their families.

youtube.com/dcpubliclibrary

**Howard University Gospel Choir presents….Let Freedom Sing: A Tribute to MLK**

**6pm - 7pm**

THEARC Theater

Back by popular demand! The Howard Gospel Choir presents its annual musical tribute to the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin L. King Jr.

bbardc.org/thearc-theater

**Harriet Tubman & Maryland’s Underground Railroad Sites - Livestream History Tour**

**7pm - 8:30pm**

Washington DC History & Culture

Join us for an online/virtual tour of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad sites in Maryland. Learn how Harriet successfully escaped from slavery and how she then heroically led others to freedom. Our program will focus on Harriet Tubman's inspirational life and feature many of the Underground Railroad sites in Maryland associated with her. We'll include an overview of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Park in Church Creek, Maryland, and other historic sites along the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway. This is a livestream version of the full-day Underground Railroad bus tours we take participants on. Therefore, this program will be a combined history talk and travel presentation.

eventbrite.com/o/washington-dc-history-amp-culture-8043634040

**A Stage Reading of Live from the Whitelaw Hotel**

**8pm - 10pm**

THEARC Theater & Restoration Stage

Restoration Stage returns with Steven A. Butler’s new ‘30’s era musical love letter to a forgotten Washington, DC historic landmark.

bbardc.org/thearc-theater
**FEBRUARY 24**

**Young, Gifted & Black: THEARC Theater Podcast**
12pm - 1pm
THEARC Theater
THEARC Theater team podcast explores the journey and stories of the staff, local artist, programming and productions, community advocacy and arts workforce rooted in the Black experience.

[bbardc.org/thearc-theater](http://bbardc.org/thearc-theater)

**Family Learning at the Library - Black History Month Events**
4pm
DC Public Library
Tune in to DC Public Library’s Youtube every school day at 4 p.m. for fun and educational after-school live events and videos! A story about Katherine Johnson - a black mathematician, and create an origami rocket. February will have crafts, stories, book talks and more to celebrate Black History Month. These programs are recommended for school-aged children, teens and their families.

[youtube.com/dcpubliclibrary](http://youtube.com/dcpubliclibrary)

**Wind Down Wednesday: Good Trouble**
5pm - 6pm
National Portrait Gallery
In February, we celebrate African Americans’ contributions to U.S. culture and history – but this important recognition should not be limited to 28 days of the year. As the late congressman, leader and activist John Lewis would remark, the work we need to do often involves making “good trouble.” In honor of his activist spirit, we will discuss the museum’s newly acquired portrait of Lewis and pay homage to his quest for civil rights. Learn about Lewis’s organized efforts to lead the nation toward racial equality and the good trouble he made. This conversation about civic awareness, empowerment and community will help you discover how to activate your voice and increase your civic involvement – all year long. Invited guests include Mixin’ Mimi, who will craft a mocktail and cocktail to get us into the spirit.

[instagram.com/smithsoniannpg/channel/?hl=en](https://instagram.com/smithsoniannpg/channel/?hl=en)

**Diving with a Purpose: Recovering and Reexamining Our Roots**
6:30pm - 8pm
Association for the Study of African American Life and History
A panel discussion featuring divers who seek to preserve the heritage of Black people through discovering and investigating wrecks of slave ships and salvaging artifacts.

[youtube.com/asalhtv; asalh.org](http://youtube.com/asalhtv; asalh.org)

**FEBRUARY 25**

**Enslaved in Georgetown**
7pm
African American Civil War Museum
Enslaved at the Georgetown Hotel tells the story of three generations of one family enslaved by the owner of the hotel, Eleanor Lang, and explains the process of their emancipation in 1862 under the D.C. Compensated Emancipation Act. The Georgetown Hotel was located in what is now known as The City Tavern. The site, a national landmark, is in one of the oldest Federal-style buildings in D.C.

[zoom.us/j/92601579646](http://zoom.us/j/92601579646)

**FEBRUARY 26**

**Family Learning at the Library - Black History Month Events**
4pm
DC Public Library
Tune in to DC Public Library’s Youtube every school day at 4 p.m. for fun and educational after-school live events and videos! A social history of Double Dutch - learn about Double Dutch in DC and hear Jayla Jumps in, a story by DC Public Library’s own Joy Jones. February will have crafts, stories, book talks and more to celebrate Black History Month. These programs are recommended for school-aged children, teens and their families.

[youtube.com/dcpubliclibrary](http://youtube.com/dcpubliclibrary)
Campaign 72’
8pm - 10pm
DC Black Theatre & Arts Festival; THEARC Theater
An inspiring bio-play about the Shirley Chisholm who was the 1st African American woman to run for president and wrote the book on what it means to persist.
bbardc.org/thearc-theater

FEBRUARY 28
The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity
12pm - 2pm
ASALH’s Prince George’s County Truth Branch and Maple Springs Baptist Church Cultural Education Experience Ministry (CEEM)
Prince George’s County Truth Branch and Maple Springs Baptist Church Cultural Education Experience Ministry (CEEM) hosts a program featuring keynote speaker Dr. Charlene Mickens Dukes.
youtube.com/asalhtv; asalh.org

Artistic Director’s Coalition for Ballet in America Pilot Project for African American Inclusion
2pm - 4pm
The Washington Ballet
The companies in the Artistic Director’s Coalition for Ballet in America have agreed to participate in this initial pilot program by creating an opportunity specifically for young and aspiring African American and dancers of color to feel welcomed into our organizations with a #BalletOpenHouse.
washingtonballet.org/open-house/

Little Ethiopia DC Wreath Laying Ceremony
4pm - 5pm
Commemorating the sister-cities relationship between Addis Ababa and the District of Columbia, the Addis Ababa Massacre on February 19,1937, the Pan-African Victory of the Battle of Adwa on the March 1, 1896, and Black History Month.
littleethiopiadc.com

ASALH and PBS Books Present: A Conversation with Ngugi Wa Thiong’o, Sundiata Cha-Jua, and Nubia Kai
7pm - 8pm
Association for the Study of African American Life and History & PBS Two noted scholar-activists explore The Perfect Nine and the Black Family against the context of today’s struggle for social justice, gender equity and other topics.
youtube.com/asalhtv; asalh.org

For more information and event updates:
dcblackhistory.com
facebook.com/dc.black.history