

2026

**AFRICAN AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH**
CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE



PRESENTED BY THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

2026

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE



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2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

HONORING

A CENTURY OF BLACK HISTORY COMMEMORATIONS

2026 NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH THEME

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Ernie Barnes, *The Drum Major*, Acrylic on canvas, 48" x 36", 2003

2026

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE



Karen Bass
MAYOR
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Dear Angeleno,

As we celebrate African American History Month across the country, we know that Black history is American history — every day of the year.

Throughout our city, the influence of Black Angelenos is evident in our neighborhoods, our art, our music, our food and our culture, dating back to the very founding of Los Angeles.

As the city's first Black woman mayor, honoring those who came before is especially meaningful. I take pride in joining Angelenos across the City in celebrating African American Heritage Month and recognizing the leadership, resilience, and achievements of Black Americans and Black Angelenos, past and present — including community leaders like the late Joy Atkinson, whose decades of civic leadership, service on city commissions, and mentorship of Black women in public service helped build a more inclusive and engaged Los Angeles.

May this month be a time of meaningful celebration, appreciation, and continued commitment to honoring Black contributions not only in February, but throughout the entire year.

In solidarity,

Karen Bass
MAYOR
CITY OF LOS ANGELES



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AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE



Marqueece Harris-Dawson

**PRESIDENT, LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL
COUNCILMEMBER, EIGHTH DISTRICT**

Friends and Neighbors,

One hundred years ago, Carter G. Woodson launched Negro History Week. He believed that if a nation understands its history, it can better understand itself. His effort reshaped how African American history is studied and valued. What we now call Black History Month challenges national doublespeak, erasure, and exclusion and broadens the narrative of our country. It asserts that Black achievement, creativity, and intellect are not footnotes, they are foundational chapters in the American story.

As this country approaches the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, telling this story is essential. Milestones invite reflection and revision.

That responsibility feels even heavier today, as democratic norms face unprecedented pressure. The nation is repeating patterns of subjugation that have deep roots in anti-Black law. Recent Supreme Court rulings allow authorities to detain, question, or arrest someone based on their language, appearance, or occupation. These patterns of surveillance are not accidental, it is the same playbook as the old Slave Code, a presumption that certain people are inherently suspicious and must continually prove their legitimacy or citizenship.

Public debate has placed our shared history on fragile ground. Remembering Woodson's vision offers grounding and direction in challenging times. Moreover, it underscores and understands that history is both a record and a safeguard.

When we invest in music, dance, visual, and literary narrative arts, we bring our shared history to life. We strengthen the fabric of democracy. We empower those around us to be courageous and creative. When we honor the truth of the past, we protect the integrity of the future.

This is how we honor Woodson's legacy and carry it forward.

With hope,

Marqueece Harris-Dawson

**PRESIDENT, LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL
COUNCILMEMBER, EIGHTH DISTRICT**



Jasimen Phillips, *Play As Life*, Acrylic on canvas, 11" x 14", 2025

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AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE



Daniel Tarica

GENERAL MANAGER
CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Dear Friends,

The Department of Cultural Affairs is proud to present the *2026 African American Heritage Month Calendar and Cultural Guide*, both honoring Los Angeles's vibrant Black community and marking a century of Black history that continues to shape our city, our culture, and our collective future. The 2026 National Black History Theme: **A Century of Black History Commemorations**, honors the origins of Black history observance and how it has influenced us today.

For nearly 100 years, Black communities across the nation—and here in Los Angeles—have organized, preserved, and celebrated Black history as an act of resilience, education, and self-determination. This powerful legacy is reflected in institutions such as **Our Author's Study Club**, whose 75 years of literary excellence, advocacy, and civic leadership exemplify the enduring power of Black scholarship and storytelling. The Club's commitment to amplifying Black voices has inspired generations and strengthened our city's cultural fabric.

This year's guide honors that continuum of Black excellence—serving as a bridge that recognizes the elders, organizers, artists, and visionaries who laid the groundwork, while uplifting today's artists, musicians, writers, and thinkers who continue to shape Black cultural expression. This calendar and guide uses arts and culture to center joy, truth, and lived experience, grounded in histories, traditions, and shared knowledge.

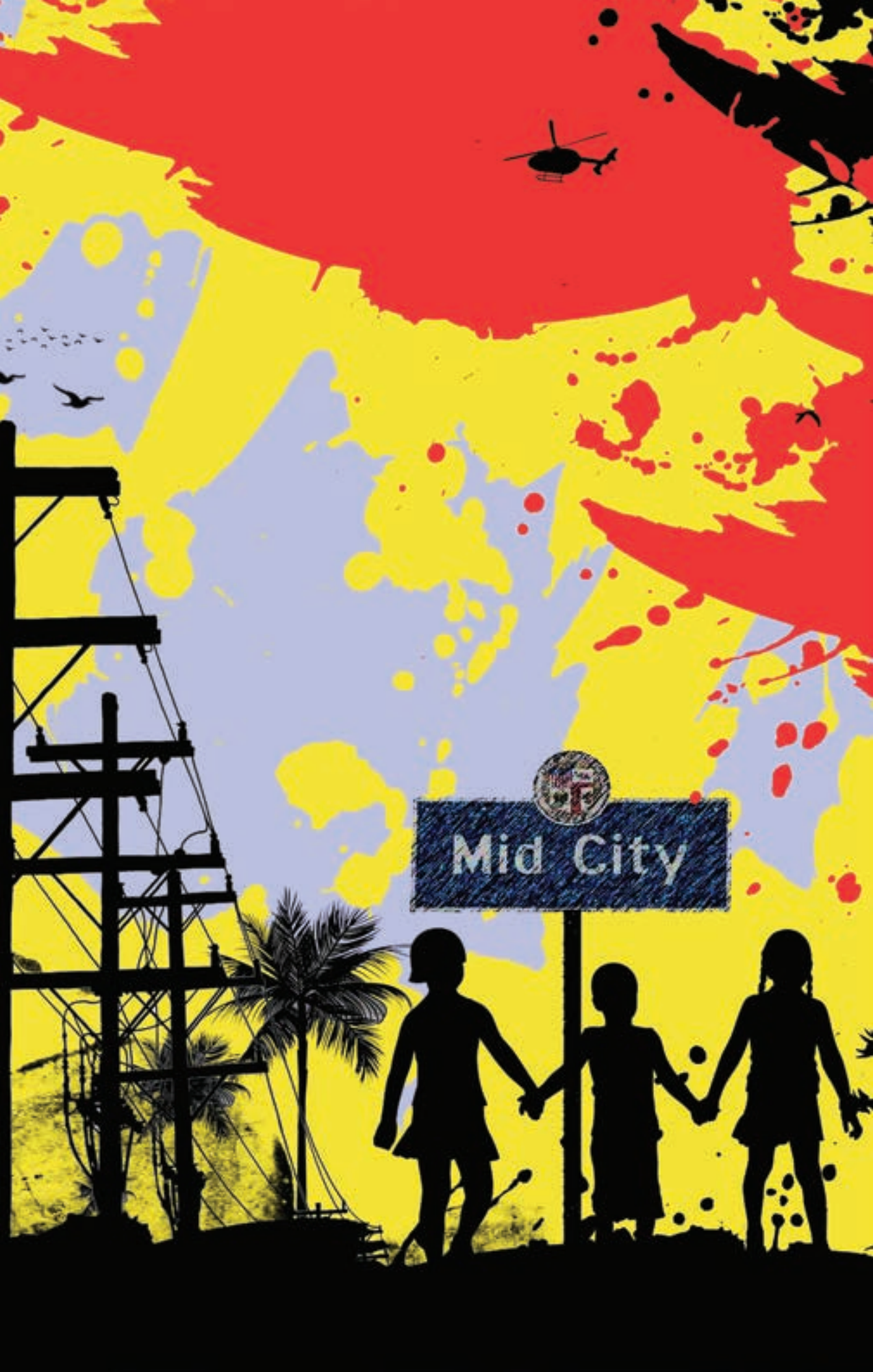
At a time when racial inequities and cultural erasure persist, these commemorations affirm the vital role of arts and culture in healing, understanding, and our collective wellbeing. We extend our sincere appreciation to the African American Heritage Month Committee, the Offices of the Mayor, City Attorney, Controller, and the City Council for their partnership in bringing this publication to life.

We invite you to engage with this guide not only throughout the month, but for years to come as a celebration, a resource, and a testament to Los Angeles's enduring Black heritage.

Sincerely,

Daniel Tarica

GENERAL MANAGER
CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS




Mid City

2026

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE



OFFICIAL EVENTS

Presenting this year's Official African American Heritage Month events for the City of Los Angeles's 76th Citywide Black History Month celebration in partnership with the City of Los Angeles Mayor **Karen Bass**; **Lura Daniels-Ball**, President, Our Authors Study Club, Inc. (OASC); Los Angeles City Council President, **Marqueece Harris-Dawson**, Councilmember, Eighth District; **Bob Blumenfield**, Councilmember, Third District; **Curren D. Price, Jr.**, Councilmember, Ninth District; **Heather Hutt**, Councilmember, Tenth District; **Tim McOsker**, Councilmember, Fifteenth District; Los Angeles City Councilmembers **Eunisses Hernandez**, First District; **Adrin Nazarian**, Second District; **Nithya Raman**, Fourth District; **Katy Yaroslavsky**, Fifth District; **Imelda Padilla**, Sixth District; **Monica Rodriguez**, Seventh District; **Traci Park**, Eleventh District; **John Lee**, Twelfth District; **Hugo Soto-Martínez**, Thirteenth District; **Ysabel J. Jurado**, Fourteenth District; **Daniel Tarica**, General Manager, City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and **Cookie Parker**, Chair, Yes2Jobs Honorary Chair 2026 Black History Committee.

Join us as we honor the history and culture of African Americans in Los Angeles and throughout the diaspora. In recognition of the 2026 National Black History Theme: **A Century of Black History Commemorations**. The events are free, and open to the public.

Please attend one or all of the many wonderful celebrations of 76 years of Black History Celebrations in partnership with the City of Los Angeles and Our Authors Study Club, and 100 years of Black History Commemorations that began in 1926 with the "Father" of Black History, Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Read the full executive summary of the 2026 national theme online at asalh.org.

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICIAL EVENTS

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH GALLERY EXHIBITION

Join Council President, Marqueece Harris-Dawson; Mayor Karen Bass; Councilmembers Curren D. Price Jr., Heather Hutt, and Tim McOsker; the Los Angeles City Council; and the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) to officially celebrate the opening of the African American Heritage Month Exhibit, *When Black Women Lead*. The exhibition is poised to be a powerful and inspiring showcase of the profound impact of Black women's leadership in Los Angeles. This landmark exhibit will feature a diverse array of Black women who have been, and continue to be, at the helm of some of the city's most influential and essential organizations. Spanning generations, the exhibition's narrative will highlight the ongoing legacy of these women who carve out spaces for community advancement and social justice, seamlessly connecting their history to the contemporary landscape.

WHEN: Exhibition: Sunday, February 1 through February 24
Ribbon Cutting: Wednesday, February 4, 9:00 am

SITE: Henry P. Rio Gallery at Los Angeles City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street, 3rd Floor, Los Angeles

COST: Free, open to the public

SPONSORS: The Office of Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Councilmember, Eighth District; Curren D. Price Jr., Councilmember, Ninth District; Heather Hutt, Councilmember, Tenth District; Tim McOsker, Councilmember, Fifteenth District

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH OPENING DAY CEREMONY AND COMMUNITY RECEPTION

A special program honoring the **2026 Living Legends Honorees: Denise Nicholas**, Actress and Author of *Fresh Water Road* and *Finding Home*, and **Charles Dickson**, Artist/Sculptor, *Wishing on a Star* and *Car Culture*; the **2026 Hall of Fame Honorees: Antwone Fisher**, *Finding Fish* Author/Founder, Glenville House Press and **DMA Anderson**, CEO Korgi and Tech Entrepreneur. OASC will present and celebrate the 2026 National Black History Month theme: **A Century of Black History Commemorations**. 2026 marks a century of national commemorations of Black history. [Read the full executive summary on the 2026 theme at asalh.org.]

WHEN: Wednesday, February 4, Council Presentation: 10:00 a.m., City Council Chambers, Community Reception: 12:00 noon, City Hall West Forecourt

SITE: Los Angeles City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles

COST: Free

RSVP: Online at oascla.org/RSVP

SPONSORS: Mayor Karen Bass; Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball, President, Our Authors Study Club, Inc.; Los Angeles City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Councilmember, Eighth District; Bob Blumenfield, Councilmember Third District; Curren D. Price, Jr., Councilmember, Ninth District; Heather Hutt, Councilmember, Tenth District; Councilmember Tim McOsker, Fifteenth District; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Cookie Parker, Our Authors Study Club 2026 African American Heritage Month General Chair, Our Authors Study Club 2026 African American Heritage Month Committee

INFO: 562.270.4881, oascla.org

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICIAL EVENTS



Mark7, *ROD Remembered*, Watercolor, 6" × 12", 2023

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON A CENTURY OF BLACK HISTORY COMMEMORATIONS AND NEW STUDENT POSTER RECEPTION

In recognition of the national theme, **A Century of Black History Commemorations**, this year's panel reflects on the enduring legacy of Dr. Carter G. Woodson and the founders of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, whose work institutionalized the study, teaching, and commemoration of Black history. From Negro History Week in 1926 to Black History Month 1976, these observances have shaped historical consciousness. Moderated by popular co-anchor of ABC7 Eyewitness News, Marc Brown, join local scholars: **Dr. Anthony Asadullah Samad**, Executive Director, Mervyn M. Dymally African American Political & Economic Institute (MDAAPEI), California State University, Dominguez Hills; **Dr. Francille Rousan Wilson**, associate Professor of American Studies, **Dr. Maulana Karenga**, Chair Africana Studies, California State University, Long Beach, Executive Director African American Cultural Center and Creator of Pan African Holiday Kwanzaa; **Dr. M. Keith Claybrook**, incoming Chair of Africana Studies at CSULB; **Dr. Marne Campbell**, Chair of African American Studies at Loyola Marymount University and **Dr. Donna J. Nicol**, Associate Dean of Personnel and Curriculum and professor of history, California State University Long Beach. Scholars, students, and community members are invited to attend, engage in dialogue, and participate in this meaningful exploration of Black history and its enduring impact.

WHEN: Tuesday, February 10, Poster Reception: 5:30 p.m., Round Table: 7:00 p.m.

SITE: Afro City Marketplace, 3650 W Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Los Angeles (Crenshaw Mall 1st Floor)

COST: Free

RSVP: Online at oascla.org/RSVP

SPONSORS: Institutional Sponsor, Mervyn M. Dymally African American Political & Economic Institute (MDAAPEI), Mayor Karen Bass; Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball, President, Our Authors Study Club, Inc.; Heather Hutt, Councilmember, Tenth District; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Cookie Parker, Chair, Yes2Jobs, Honorary and General Chair, 2026 Black History Month Committee

INFO: 562.270.4881, oascla.org

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICIAL EVENTS

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH ORIGIN AWARDS: HONORING THE WORKS OF ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR, CHARLES BURNETT

In a tradition begun in 2023, this evening honors the twenty-six founding families of African American descent who, alongside other courageous founders, helped establish what is now El Pueblo de Los Angeles—by celebrating today’s Black trailblazers whose lives reflect enduring impact and achievement. Aligned with the national theme **A Century of Black History Commemorations**, friends and colleagues gather to honor a quiet, largely unsung treasure, hailed by *The New York Times* as “the nation’s least-known great filmmaker and most gifted Black director.” His works include *Killer of Sheep*, *My Brother’s Wedding*, *To Sleep with Anger*, *The Glass Shield*, and *Namibia: The Struggle for Liberation*. He has also directed several short films and documentary films. He is the recipient of a 2017 Academy Honorary Award for eloquently chronicling Black American life in his influential work.

- WHEN:** Thursday, February 19. 6:00 p.m.
SITE: El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument 125 Paseo de la Plaza, Los Angeles
COST: Free. RSVP required to attend
RSVP: Online at oascla.org/RSVP
INFO: oascla.org, elpueblo.lacity.org

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AN EVENING WITH AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS – FEATURING DENISE NICHOLAS AND ANTWONE FISHER

All are invited to attend an Evening with African American Authors: an intimate and inspiring literary and cultural gathering celebrating the power of Black storytelling across generations and mediums. In partnership with the African American Critics Association (AACA), this year’s evening spotlights the written works of Antwone Fisher (*Finding Fish*) and Denise Nicholas (*Fresh Water Road* and *Finding Home*), —two voices whose stories continue to shape conversations around identity, healing, artistry, and legacy. This special evening invites readers, thinkers, and culture-shapers into meaningful dialogue that bridges literature, film, and lived experience, honoring Black history not as a moment, but as a continuum. This exciting conversation will be led by the president and co-founder of AACA, Mr. Gil Robertson.

- WHEN:** Saturday, February 21, Reception: 5:00 p.m., Discussion: 6:00 p.m.,
Book Signing: 7:30 p.m.
SITE: Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica
STREAMING: YouTube @ourauthorsstudyclub
COST: Free
RSVP: Online at oascla.org/RSVP
SPONSORS: Mayor Karen Bass; Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball, President, Our Authors Study Club, Inc.;
Cookie Parker, Chair, Yes2Jobs, Our Authors Study Club 2026 Black History Month
General Chair, Our Authors Study Club 2026 Black History Month Committee
Co-presenters: Highways Performance Space, The Till Artists Collective,
Gil Robertson, President, African American Critics Association
INFO: 562.270.4881, oascla.org, tillartistscollective.org

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICIAL EVENTS



Candice Hunter, *Is It a Ship or Is It Earth – Xenogenesis*, Papers and oil on reclaimed Irish linen, 7' x 5', 2020

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CITY-WIDE WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us for **A Stand for Healing**, a Citywide Black History Month All-Faith Prayer Service—a sacred evening of remembrance, renewal, and praise. This service lifts up a century of Black History commemorations as both a landmark and a catalyst—reminding us that the story of Black America has been inseparable from the very growth and spirit of our nation over the past 250 years. Yet this moment also calls us into a deeper truth: as a community, we have not fully paused to grieve. We have not collectively named or mourned the immense loss of life we have endured—through the pandemic, through rising political and racial violence, through the quiet daily heartbreaks that never made the news. United across faiths, we stand together to reclaim our hope and to recommit ourselves to the kinder, gentler nation we have long envisioned—one shaped by justice, compassion, and the enduring strength of our collective memory. Through song, reflection, and sacred presence, we will transform grief into purpose, mourning into hope, and memory into renewed strength. United across faith traditions, we gather to celebrate resilience, lift one another in love, and recommit ourselves to a kinder, more just, and compassionate future

- WHEN:** Thursday, Feb. 26, 6:00 p.m.
SITE: Check website for details
COST: Free
RSVP: Online at oascla.org/RSVP
INFO: 562.270.4881, oascla.org



Adeola Davies-Aiyeloja, *Rhythm Of My Soul I*, Mixed acrylics, inks, lace textile, cabochon, beads & aquarelle, 72" x 48", 2025

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICIAL EVENTS

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY BUS TOUR

The tour follows the progress of the African American community in Los Angeles. It includes the Biddy Mason Wall, Sugar Hill, the Island, Central Avenue, Leimert Park and other locations throughout the city.

- WHEN:** Saturday, February 28, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** Consolidated Board of Realtists, 3725 Don Felipe Drive, Los Angeles
- COST:** Free, RSVP required in advance to attend
- RSVP:** Online at oascla.org/RSVP
- SPONSORS:** Mayor Karen Bass; Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball, President, Our Authors Study Club, Inc.; Los Angeles City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Councilmember, Curren D. Price, Jr., Councilmember, Ninth District; Heather Hutt, Councilmember, Tenth District; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Cookie Parker, Chair, Yes2Jobs, Our Authors Study Club 2026 Black History Month General Chair, Our Authors Study Club 2026 Black History Month Committee, Consolidated Board of Realtists
- INFO:** 562.270.4881, oascla.org

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH DR. CARTER G. WOODSON ORATORICAL CONTEST

Join the Our Authors Study Club 2026 African American Heritage Month Committee for the annual oratorical contest finals*. Using the annual Black History theme, high school students write and orate an original essay. The students are encouraged to think deeply and broadly about the subject, focusing on the impact of the theme on past, present and future Black society. The young people are offered coaching and support over the weeks leading up to the competition. This year's Association for the Study of African American Life and History national theme is A Century of Black History Commemorations. At this event, finalists present their orations in six minutes to a panel of judges. They are scored on content, presentation and persuasion. Students receive cash and other prizes.

- WHEN:** Saturday, March 14, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon
- SITE:** Please check website for details
- COST:** Free
- SPONSORS:** Mayor Karen Bass; Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball, President, Our Authors Study Club, Inc.; The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Cookie Parker, Chair, Yes2Jobs, Our Authors Study Club 2026 Black History Month General Chair, Our Authors Study Club 2026 Black History Month Committee
- INFO:** 562.270.4881, oascla.org

* Read the full executive summary on the 2026 theme **A Century of Black History Commemorations**, online at asalh.org.



2026

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE



HONOREES

This year's honorees, presented by the Our Authors Study Club, Inc., in partnership with the Office of Mayor Karen Bass, the Los Angeles City Council, and the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), celebrate the rich diversity, legacy, and excellence of African Americans in Los Angeles and throughout the diaspora.

The **2026 OASC Pillar Awards** will honor Living Legends **Denise Nicholas**, trailblazing actress, author, and cultural icon, and **Charles Dickson**, visionary artist and master sculptor. The **2026 Inspiration Awards** will be presented to Hall of Fame honorees **DMA Anderson**, innovative tech entrepreneur and CEO of KORGI, and **Antwone Fisher**, acclaimed author, screenwriter, and literary founder. These distinguished honorees will receive their awards at the Opening Ceremony in the City Hall Council Chambers on February 4.

The **2026 Origin Award** will be bestowed upon **Charles Burnett**, legendary filmmaker, cultural storyteller, and Honorary Oscar® recipient, at a special reception on Thursday, February 19, at the historic Pico House, honoring the African-descended *pobladores* whose legacy helped found Los Angeles.

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES HONOREES

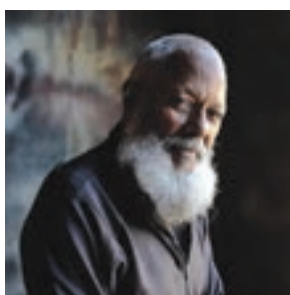


2026 LIVING LEGENDS AWARD

Denise Nicholas

ACTRESS AND AUTHOR

Denise Nicholas is an actress, writer, and activist whose career embodies the spirit of a Living Legend. A founding member of the Free Southern Theatre and the Negro Ensemble Company, she has long united art with social justice. Nicholas is celebrated for her groundbreaking television roles on *Room 222* and *In the Heat of the Night*, earning multiple Golden Globe nominations, NAACP Image Awards, and Los Angeles Emmys. She is also the acclaimed author of *Freshwater Road*, inspired by the 1964 Freedom Summer. Her newly released memoir, *Finding Home*, further cements her legacy as a powerful voice preserving Civil Rights history, cultural memory, and artistic excellence.



2026 LIVING LEGENDS AWARD

Charles Dickson

ARTIST/SCULPTOR

Charles Dickson is a Los Angeles–artist/sculptor and designer widely regarded as a living legend for his more than six decades of artistic impact. Dickson’s work reflects the cultural, spiritual, and artistic evolution of Black America. Born and raised in South Central Los Angeles, he is entirely self-taught and known for a multi-material practice rooted in reuse, symbolism, and African diasporic traditions.

Emerging during the Black Arts Movement, Dickson helped establish Los Angeles as a center of Black artistic innovation. His public art commissions—including the Metro Green Line Mariposa Station, *Wishing on a Star* at the California African American Museum and Destination Crenshaw’s *Car Culture*—transforms civic spaces into sites of history, pride, and collective memory. Charles Dickson has sustained a lifelong practice grounded in art as truth, community as legacy, and Black culture as an ever-evolving force shaping the future of America.

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES HONOREES



2026 HALL OF FAME AWARD

DMA Anderson

TECH ENTREPRENEUR

CEO/FOUNDER, KORGI

DMA Anderson is a veteran technology entrepreneur with more than twenty years of experience building software that expands access to information, opportunity, and achievement across entertainment, education, and civic engagement. The platforms simplify complex systems, promote inclusion, and enable participation at scale—from production financials and college-access technology to talent acquisition and voter engagement tools.

She is the creator of Korgi, a groundbreaking productivity and collaboration platform unifying leading workplace apps in a single secure workspace, recognized as a Top 5 Product of the Day on Product Hunt and Google CASA Tier 3 certified. Anderson holds three patents, is a Stanford University graduate with distinction, and a career member of the Television Academy, Producers Guild of America, and American Mensa.



2026 HALL OF FAME AWARD

Antwone Fisher

AUTHOR AND SCREENWRITER

FOUNDER, GLENVILLE HOUSE PRESS

Antwone Fisher is an author, screenwriter, speaker, and founder of Glenville House Press whose work bridges lived experience, cultural memory, and reflection. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, and raised in the Glenville neighborhood, his early life in foster care profoundly shaped his voice and purpose. After serving in the United States Navy, Fisher turned to writing as a way to understand identity, forgiveness, and belonging. His memoir *Finding Fish* became a *New York Times* bestseller and was adapted into the acclaimed film *Antwone Fisher*, directed by Denzel Washington. Now based in Los Angeles, he remains deeply connected to Cleveland through his storytelling and publishing work. His upcoming book, *Reflections Beneath the Buckeye Trees: Notes from a Life* (April 2026), offers personal reflections that explore Black history as lived through family, place, resilience, and grace.

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES HONOREES



2026 ORIGIN AWARD

Charles Burnett

AWARD-WINNING FILM DIRECTOR

Charles Burnett is an award-winning filmmaker and Honorary Oscar® recipient whose work stands among the most vital achievements in American cinema.

Born in Vicksburg, Mississippi, and raised in Los Angeles, he emerged as a central figure of the LA Rebellion movement, creating films rooted in community, dignity, and social truth. His landmark debut *Killer of Sheep*, made as his UCLA MFA thesis, is regarded as one of the greatest American films ever made and was inducted into the National Film Registry. Burnett's acclaimed body of work—including *To Sleep with Anger*, *My Brother's Wedding*, *The Glass Shield*, and *Nightjohn*—explores Black life with poetic restraint and moral clarity. A Guggenheim Fellow, educator, and mentor, Burnett uses cinema as cultural memory, social witness, and an enduring instrument of justice.



Brandon Barry Brown, *Black American Princesses*, Oil paint on glass tennis racket, 9" x 27", 2025



Riea Owens, *After The Fire*, Acrylic on canvas, 24"x 36", 2025



AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2026

OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

**LOS ANGELES BRANCH OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE
STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY**

HONORING A CENTURY OF BLACK HISTORY COMMEMORATIONS

2026 NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH THEME

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Maude Johnson
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Gregory Blake
Lauren Blake
Lori Blake
Brent Burton
Adrienne Byers*
London Carter Barzell
Maesoa Darton
Gwendolyn Goodman*
Vanessa Hawkins
Charmaine Jefferson
Bea Jones
Arnetta Mack*
Maryam Morris
Beverly Munir

Christine Nelson
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Ethel Shapiro
Joel Shapiro
Brenda Tyson*

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Susan Hall Comrie*
Marcia Lynne Johnson*
Stephene Johnson
Cynthia Williams*
Myra Williams

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Susan Hall Comrie*
Marcia Lynne Johnson*
Stephene Johnson
Cynthia Williams*
Myra Williams

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Sandra J. Evers-Manly
Diana Kotzin

*2026 citywide planning
committee at time of printing



OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

LOS ANGELES BRANCH OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE
STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY



2026 HONORARY AND GENERAL CHAIR

Cookie D. Parker

CHAIR/COFOUNDER

YES2JOBS

It is an honor to serve as an honorary chair for this year's celebration with Our Authors Study Club, Inc., especially at a moment that marks a century of Black history commemorations.

This theme asks us to pause and reflect on something easy to take for granted: Black history did not enter American consciousness naturally. It was institutionalized—deliberately and strategically—because Dr. Carter G. Woodson understood that knowledge is power, and that a people stripped of their history can be more easily stripped of their future. When he and his colleagues founded what would become the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, they were not simply creating an organization—they were building a counterforce to erasure.

But national institutions alone do not sustain movements. Local guardians do. And in Los Angeles, that responsibility was carried forward by Vassie D. Wright, whose founding of Our Authors Study Club, Inc. in 1945 created a space where Black history could be studied seriously, discussed rigorously, and passed down intentionally—long before it was widely welcomed in schools.

I know personally what it means when that history is missing. As an undergraduate student, there were no courses in Black history available to me. Not one. It was not until 1967–1968, in graduate school, that I encountered formal study of our history. And when I moved back to Hawai'i after graduating from college, I was asked to teach a Black history seminar on a U.S. Army base—an opportunity that reflected a very specific moment in time, and one that likely would not exist today.

That reality makes this centennial moment especially meaningful—and especially urgent.

As the 2026 theme reminds us, Black history commemorations have never been passive celebrations. They have been tools of transformation—shaping how Black people see themselves and how the world understands their contributions. Today, when forces seek to narrow history through bans, omissions, and distortions, that mission matters more than ever.

I will continue to support the work of organizations like Our Authors Study Club that understand this truth: Black history is not an accessory to American history. It is foundational. And it must be preserved, taught, and defended—not just for this centennial year, but for the century to come.

Cookie Parker is a visionary executive and technology entrepreneur with more than 55 years of leadership in innovation and enterprise strategy. She is the founder and former President of KMS Software Company, an international HR technology firm acquired by SAP, where she pioneered the first US paperless HR onboarding platform serving global clients including Citigroup, GE, BP, and KPMG.

Parker began her career at IBM, becoming the top-performing Systems Engineering and Marketing Manager in the Western Region, and later held senior executive roles at CGS, NCS, and CPR. She currently serves on the corporate board of Vive Concierge and multiple nonprofit boards advancing democracy, youth opportunity, and civic engagement. Appointed by Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, she is Vice Chair of the Entertainment Industry Council, focused on retaining film production and building a diverse workforce.

A co-founder of Yes2Jobs, Parker champions economic mobility for under-resourced youth. She holds BA and MA degrees from NYU and is a proud mother and grandmother.



OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

LOS ANGELES BRANCH OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE
STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY



2026 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball

PRESIDENT

OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

In 2026, two anniversaries converge: the 100th year of national Black History commemorations and the 250th anniversary of the United States. One was born from a demand for truth; the other from revolution and contradiction. Together, they mark a moment that is not ceremonial, but consequential.

As president of the Our Authors Study Club, Inc. (OASC)—an organization rooted in the legacy of Dr. Carter G. Woodson and founded by Los Angeles cultural leader Vassie D. Wright—I see this centennial not simply as a celebration, but as a warning. History reminds us that progress is fragile, and recognition is often followed by resistance.

When Woodson launched Negro History Week in 1926, Black history was excluded from classrooms and public memory. Today, the threat is deliberate. Across the country, Black history is restricted, distorted, or erased through book bans, curriculum rollbacks, and institutional retreat. What was once neglect has become fear—fear of truth, complexity, and honest reckoning. No region is immune.

These efforts aim to make Black history optional rather than essential, denying young people access to the struggles that shaped their lives and sanitizing America's story until Black presence appears incidental rather than foundational. This is not simply an educational dispute; it is an existential one. A nation unwilling to confront its history cannot mature, and a people denied their history are denied the tools to shape their future.

Black history has never survived by accident. It has endured through deliberate, community-led action. For more than eight decades, OASC has carried forward Woodson's belief that history must be studied rigorously and shared widely—not as mythology, but as truth.

As the nation approaches its 250th anniversary, we must ask what it means to celebrate a founding while suppressing the histories that reveal its contradictions and expand its promise. Black history is not a footnote; it is the throughline of a nation still defining its ideals.

This centennial must be more than remembrance. It must be a call to defend what Woodson began and generations sustained. Educators must teach boldly. Institutions must stand firm. Communities must support the organizations that preserve truth. Attend programs, invest in scholarship, and speak out when history is challenged.

Black history endures because our people endure. From Wright and Woodson's vision to the ongoing work of the Our Authors Study Club, each generation has refused to let truth disappear. As we enter this centennial year, the next chapter will not be defined by what is taken from us, but by what we choose to protect, build, and pass forward—with purpose, confidence, and hope.

Lura Daniels-Ball is a renaissance woman whose influence spans business, the arts, and community service. She serves as President of the Our Author Study Club, Inc. (OASC), advancing the legacy of Vassie D. Wright and Dr. Carter G. Woodson by preserving Black history in Los Angeles. A pioneer in diverse consumer marketing, she helped resolve the Coors Brewing Company boycott and later led impactful corporate giving across 14 Western states. At USC, she revitalized the Black Alumni Association and established multiple endowments and signature programs, including the Trojan Welcome Ceremony she created. A classically trained vocalist, she continues shaping futures through Heartsung PR, Lura's Kitchen, and music and education scholarships honoring her family.



ASALH

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF
AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY



THE FATHER OF BLACK HISTORY

Dr. Carter G. Woodson

FOUNDER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY
OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY, INC.

The story of Black History Month begins not with a calendar, but with a conviction. In the summer of 1915, historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson traveled from Washington, D.C. to Chicago to attend a national celebration marking fifty years since emancipation. Thousands of African Americans gathered to witness exhibits that documented their progress since slavery—evidence of achievement in education, business, culture, and civic life. Fresh from earning his doctorate at Harvard, Woodson contributed a Black history exhibit of his own. The response was overwhelming. Crowds so large they spilled outside the Coliseum waited hours for a chance to see the displays. In that moment, Woodson saw clearly what the nation lacked: not Black history, but knowledge of it.

Before leaving Chicago, Woodson resolved to act. On September 9, 1915, he met with colleagues at the Wabash YMCA and founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). His goal was both scholarly and revolutionary—to promote the rigorous study of Black life and to ensure that this knowledge reached the public. The following year, he launched *The Journal of Negro History*, believing that research alone was not enough; it had to be shared, taught, and celebrated.

By the early 1920s, Woodson was urging schools, churches, and civic organizations to uplift the historical discoveries being made. He challenged fraternities, educators, and community leaders to participate. Though early efforts like Negro Achievement Week helped spread awareness, Woodson wanted something broader and more intentional. In 1926, the Association announced the first Negro History Week, choosing February to build upon existing traditions honoring Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Woodson was not creating a new observance—he was expanding one, inviting the public to move beyond individual heroes toward a deeper understanding of a people's collective contributions.

Woodson's vision extended further still. He believed history was made by the masses, not just great men, and that Black history was the story of laborers, artists, soldiers, teachers, and families whose lives had shaped civilization itself. Negro History Week, in his mind, was a tool—never the destination. Its purpose was to inspire year-round study, racial pride, and intellectual rigor.

The response was immediate and widespread. Across the country, schools organized programs, teachers requested materials, and history clubs formed. The movement aligned with the energy of the New Negro era, as Black Americans migrated to cities, built a growing middle class, and consumed Black literature and culture in unprecedented ways. To meet demand, ASNLH developed themes, lesson plans, plays, and publications. Branches spread nationwide, and in 1937, the *Negro History Bulletin* was created to guide educators and communities.



ASALH
THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF
AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY



At left, Dr. Woodson in his home and at right, the front door of /his home in Washington. D.C. His home is a District of Columbia National Historic Site. It is currently under renovation, and is temporarily closed to the public.

With popularity came challenges. Woodson warned against commercialization, misinformation, and superficial celebrations. He remained a reformer to the end, insisting that Black history be treated with seriousness and respect. Long before his death in 1950, he predicted that a single week—or even a month—would eventually give way to continuous study. History, he believed, was too important to be confined.

That belief carried forward. During the Civil Rights Movement, Black history became a tool of resistance and empowerment, taught in Freedom Schools and embraced by a new generation. By the late 1960s, Negro History Week evolved into Black History Month, a shift formalized nationally in 1976. Today, the celebration stands as a living legacy of Woodson’s original purpose—not simply to remember the past, but to understand it, honor it, and use it to shape the future.

Read more about Dr. Carter G. Woodson at asalh.org.



OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

LOS ANGELES BRANCH OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE
STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY

BLACK LOS ANGELES, 1926–2026: A CENTURY OF MEMORY, MAKING, AND MEANING

In 1926, when historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson launched Negro History Week, he offered a corrective to a nation that had long ignored the intellectual, cultural, and civic contributions of Black people. That same year in Los Angeles, Black Angelenos were already building institutions, businesses, and communities rooted in dignity and self-determination. Over the next century, Black Los Angeles would emerge as a living testament to resilience, creativity, and progress forged against the odds.

By the late 1920s, Central Avenue had become the cultural and economic heartbeat of Black Los Angeles—a West Coast Black Wall Street where entrepreneurs thrived and artists transformed American culture. Landmarks such as the Lincoln Theater and the Dunbar Hotel, built by African Americans in an era of segregation, stood as symbols of excellence and refuge. These spaces hosted jazz legends, writers, and civil rights leaders, serving as incubators for ideas that reshaped both the city and the nation.

Postwar migration expanded Black communities across South Central, Watts, Compton, Santa Monica and beyond, bringing opportunity alongside entrenched discrimination. Restrictive housing covenants and employment barriers spurred collective organizing and sharpened political consciousness. In 1945, educator and cultural visionary Vassie D. Wright responded by founding the Our Authors Study Club (OASC) in Los Angeles. Rooted in scholarship and cultural pride, OASC became stewards of Black history—studying Black authors, and history, preserving legacy, educating students and the public. In 1950, OASC led Los Angeles' first official citywide celebration of Negro History Week, in partnership with and proclaimed by Mayor Fletcher Bowron, firmly embedding Black History into the civic life of the city. In 1970, OASC launched its annual Black History Bus Tours, further expanding public education and historical awareness. During the City of Los Angeles Bicentennial in 1981, Vassie D. Wright played a key role as a member of the State Commission for the El Pueblo de Monumento, ensuring that research completed by Miriam Matthews resulted in the permanent placement of a plaque listing the names of each of the founding families of El Pueblo de Los Angeles.

Black Angelenos confronted segregation, unequal schools, and over-policing, while building institutions, advocating for equity, and shaping global culture through music, architecture, literature, and public service. Moments of civil unrest revealed deep structural wounds yet also underscored an unyielding demand for justice and visibility. Preservation and renewal followed—festivals revived Central Avenue's legacy, historic sites like the Dunbar were reclaimed, and Black homeownership grew in communities such as Altadena and Compton.

In the 21st century, remembrance and future-building converge. Cultural corridors like the Crenshaw District reflect renewed investment in Black art and history, while initiatives such as Destination Crenshaw transform public space into living archives. In 2025, OASC marked 75 years of continuous Black history advocacy, carrying forward Woodson's original vision through civic ceremonies, educational tours, and cultural programming that link generations.

As Los Angeles marks a century of Black history—from the prophetic scholarship of Dr. Woodson to the steadfast vision of Vassie D. Wright and the enduring work of the Our Authors Study Club—we are reminded that history lives only when we choose to carry it forward. OASC has long stood as a keeper of memory and a builder of possibility, anchoring Black presence within the cultural and civic life of this city. Now, the future calls for shared responsibility: support OASC, partner with its mission, and invest in its work. Attend, contribute, and advocate so that Black history in Los Angeles is not left to chance, but intentionally preserved, powerfully told, and passed on—fully, faithfully, and forever.



OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

LOS ANGELES BRANCH OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE
STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY



Mrs. Vassie D. Wright

FOUNDER

OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

Some heroes build monuments, others build bridges, but Vassie Davis Wright (1899–1983) built something even more enduring—pathways to knowledge that transformed Los Angeles’s understanding of its own history. In 1945, while much of the nation focused on the end of World War II, Wright launched a quiet revolution from a meeting with postal workers, reshaping how the city would come to understand its African American heritage.

Born in Paola, Kansas, and educated at Western University with graduate studies at the University of Kansas, Wright brought the rigor of a teacher and the foresight of a cultural architect to Los Angeles. She founded Our Authors Study Club, Inc. (OASC) not simply as a literary circle, but as a vehicle for historical preservation and intellectual empowerment. Under her leadership, the organization became the Los Angeles branch of Dr. Carter G. Woodson’s Association for the Study of African Life and History (ASALH), chartered by Woodson himself.

Wright pioneered the first Black History curriculum in Los Angeles adult schools, established lending libraries in community centers, and organized the city’s first Negro History Week celebration in 1948—a tradition that continues today through an annual citywide observance co-hosted by OASC and every Los Angeles mayor since 1950.

As Chair of the Recognition and Awards Committee for the El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historical Monument Commission, Wright worked alongside historian Miriam Matthews and civic leaders to unveil a landmark plaque affirming that 26 of the 44 original founders of Los Angeles were of African descent, restoring a foundational truth long excluded from the city’s public narrative.

Following her passing in 1983, the Jefferson Library Branch was renamed the Jefferson–Vassie D. Wright Library, honoring a woman whose life’s work helped Los Angeles better understand itself. As Our Authors Study Club celebrates its 81st anniversary on February 14, 2026, Wright’s legacy endures—in classrooms, libraries, and civic spaces—guided by her enduring belief that history must be told fully and without omission.

BLACK LOS ANGELES 1926-2026: RESOURCES FOR FURTHER READING

- Mayor Karen Bass and Our Authors Study Club Salute Black History Month at LA City Hall, Honoring 75 Years of Celebrations in the City of Los Angeles, *Los Angeles Sentinel*
lasentinel.net/mayor-karen-bass-and-our-authors-study-club-salute-black-history-month-at-l-a-city-hall.html
- Los Angeles’ Central Avenue: A Forgotten Black Wall Street
historicblackwallstreet.com/los-angeles-central-avenue-a-forgotten-black-wall-street/?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- The Dunbar Hotel — beloved landmark of LA’s African American heritage has reclaimed its rightful place as a vibrant community resource.
laconservancy.org/learn/historic-places/dunbar-hotel/?utm_source=chatgpt.com



OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

**LOS ANGELES BRANCH OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE
STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY**

HOW TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Explore Black history.

Learn about Black history by exploring your local community, reading books by Black authors, and visiting Black or African-American history museums.

Read books or stories written by Black authors.

Explore a captivating collection of books by talented Black writers on ASALH's Author's, in local libraries, bookstores Malik's, Lore, Reparation Sisters. Discover unique perspectives and rich narratives reflecting diverse experiences and cultural histories.

Support Black-owned businesses.

By choosing to shop from Black-owned businesses, you contribute to greater diversity in the marketplace and help create opportunities for underrepresented communities. Consider exploring local shops, restaurants, and services to uplift these valuable businesses.

Learn about Black leaders.

Learn about influential Black leaders who have shaped history and continue to inspire. Follow Black Media online and in print; on social media that highlights the legacies of Black leaders through its Black Facts posts, which celebrate the achievements and impact of these pivotal figures.

Watch films and documentaries created by Black filmmakers.

Explore an array of films and documentaries by talented Black filmmakers on BHERCTV Discover diverse narratives that celebrate the rich experiences, cultures, and histories of the Black community. Be sure to check out highlights from previous [BHERC.org](https://www.bherc.org) Film Festivals, showcasing powerful stories and perspectives.

Organize educational events.

Plan interactive history lessons, social activism projects, and other activities. Social Justice at ASALH focuses on the community, bringing practical knowledge and theories learned through the lived experience of activists and oppressed groups that are often overlooked or discounted inside the academy.

Commit to beyond February.

Make a strategic commitment to Black History Month, and don't limit your efforts to just February. Consider making a monthly donation to [oascla.org](https://www.oascla.org).



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Nahshon Dion, *Altadena's New Landscape*, Digital photography, 4080 x 3072 px, 2025

OASC CULTURAL LEGACY RECOVERY INITIATIVE SUPPORTING ARTISTS AND COLLECTORS IMPACTED BY THE FIRES

The 2025 firestorms caused devastating cultural loss across Altadena and the Pacific Palisades—destroying artworks, rare books, archives, and personal collections that carry generations of creative legacy. Our Authors is opening space on its' website to help artists, collectors, and cultural stewards reconnect, recover, and preserve what remains. This hub is a shared resource for documentation, restoration, community support, and direct action. Join us in protecting cultural legacy and supporting those rebuilding after loss. Log on to oascla.org for more information.

For Artists & Collectors

- Submit listings for lost, damaged, or missing artworks and collections
- Share documentation, photos, or descriptions to aid recovery
- Access restoration, preservation
- Connect with others affected by the fires

For Supporters & Allies

- Purchase artwork or limited-edition prints from impacted artists
- Donate directly to artists or cultural recovery initiatives
- Help identify or report found artworks and rare books
- Share community stories to preserve cultural memory

For Professionals & Institutions

- Offer restoration, conservation, or archival services
- Share grants, emergency funding, or recovery programs
- Partner with us on preservation, exhibitions, or education
- Volunteer expertise or resources

For the Community

- Contribute stories, images, and memories to the cultural archive
- Participate in healing circles, events, and support groups
- Stay informed and amplify calls to action



Kadir Nelson, *Art Connoisseurs*, Oil on canvas, 30" x 40", 2019

2026

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Please enjoy the many and diverse in-person and online African American Heritage Month celebrations, events, resources, and activities collected here to engage, educate, and entertain!

This publication's events are produced by the Los Angeles region's diverse arts, events, and cultural organizations. The Department of Cultural Affairs assumes no responsibility or liability for postponed or canceled events or programming published in this Guide. Please contact the event organizer or venue prior to attending.

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

THE 44TH ANNUAL BLACK DOLL SHOW

Celebrate Black folklore, imagination, and storytelling through handmade dolls and mixed-media works. Artists draw from oral traditions, cultural memory, and fantasy to explore identity and heritage. The show continues a decades-long tradition rooted in community and cultural affirmation.

WHEN: Through February 15, Tuesday – Friday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Saturday 12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m., Tuesdays – Saturdays, 12 noon – 5:00 p.m.

SITE: William Grant Still Arts Center, 2520 S. West View St., Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Department of Cultural Affairs

INFO: 323.734.1165, wgsac.wordpress.com/the-45th-annual-black-doll-show

MAKE AND PLAY FOR KIDS: BLOXELS VIDEO GAME BUILDER

Create your own character, design levels, and share your story with the Bloxels online game builder. We have 10 spots available each week on a first-come, first-served basis. Please check with the Hyde Park branch library for any exceptions to the program schedule. This program is recommended for children aged 8 and older.

WHEN: February 2, 9, 23, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

SITE: Hyde Park Miriam Matthews Library, 2205 W. Florence Ave., Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Hyde Park Miriam Matthews Library

INFO: 323.750.7241, lapl.org/whats-on/events/make-and-play-kids-bloxels-video-game-builder

AFRICAN AMERICAN & BLACK HISTORY MONTH: HISTORY OF THE BLUES

Explore the origins of the blues, and the lasting influences the style has on music today and meet some of the legendary artists who pioneered the genre. For ages 5-12.

WHEN: February 3, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

SITE: Lawndale Library, 14615 Burin Ave., Lawndale

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Lawndale Library

INFO: 310.676.0177, visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/15422837

LEGO® CLUB

Join in on the LEGO® fun! We provide the Legos, you provide the creativity. Kids can choose to attempt the Build Challenge, or they can free build.

WHEN: February 4, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

SITE: Wilshire Branch Library, 149 N. St. Andrews Pl., Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Wilshire Branch Library

INFO: 323.957.4550, lapl.org/whats-on/events/lego-club-12



Amina AmXn, *Bag Lady: African Diasporic Travel*, Digital photography, 16" x 20", 2023

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Sadie Barnette, *How To Fly (detail)*, Mixed media, 2025

THE ART OF CHARLES MCGEE

Come to the Carson library to learn about Charles McGee, an artist renowned for his distinctive style of sculpture, assemblage, and painting. For ages 5 - 11.

- WHEN:** February 4, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
SITE: Carson Library, 151 E Carson St, Carson
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Carson Library
INFO: 310.830.0901, visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/15316334

MAKMO: CODING THE TRAFFIC LIGHT

We take the safety and ease of traffic lights for granted, but how did they come to be? Celebrate Garrett Morgan's contributions and find out how to create your own traffic light! For ages 13-18.

- WHEN:** February 5, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
SITE: Angelo M. Iacoboni Library, 4990 Clark Ave., Lakewood
COST: Free, Registration required at website
SPONSOR: Angelo M. Iacoboni Library
INFO: 562.866.1777, visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/15292662



2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Jasimen Phillips, *Who Will Cross*, Acrylic on canvas, 30" x 40", 2025

TALKING DRUMS WITH INA, THE SUNSHINE STORYTELLER

An afternoon of storytime with Ina as she performs “Talking Drums”, a participatory collection of Afro-centric folktales and songs to celebrate Black History Month. For ages 3-12 with parent or caregiver.

- WHEN:** February 5, 3:00 – 4:00 pm
SITE: Masao W. Satow Library, 14433 Crenshaw Blvd., Gardena
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Masao W. Satow Library
INFO: 310.679.0638, visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/15423456

BUILD AND EXPLORE: WILLIAMS' WORKSHOP

Join us for a hands-on STEM adventure exploring architect Paul R. Williams and the LAX Theme Building. Kids will learn about its futuristic design and create their own mini “flying saucer” models using creative materials. For ages 5 - 12.

- WHEN:** February 5, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
SITE: View Park Bebe Moore Campbell Library, 3854 W 54th St., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: View Park Bebe Moore Campbell Library
INFO: visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/15423601

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS

TEEN BOOK CLUB - DEAR MARTIN

Celebrate African American and Black History Month by joining a book discussion. We will talk about Nic Stone's powerful debut novel, *Dear Martin*, which tackles racism and police brutality through the story of a Black honor student's journey. For ages 13 - 17.

WHEN: February 6, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
SITE: Bell Express Library, 4411 Gage Ave., Bell
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Bell Express Library
INFO: 323.560.2149, [visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/15208160](https://www.lacountylibrary.org/event/15208160)

CHESS CLUB

Do you play chess? Are you interested in learning? Then join Stephen and Avi every Friday afternoon to learn and play chess with others.

WHEN: February 6 - March 27, on Fridays, 3:00 p.m.
SITE: Memorial Branch Library, 4625 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Memorial Branch Library
INFO: 323.938.2732, [lapl.org/whats-on/events/chess-club](https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/chess-club)

MOVIE AT THE LIBRARY: THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG

Join us at Lawndale Library for a viewing of *The Princess and the Frog*, in which a prince is transformed into a frog and accidentally curses a beautiful princess with an amphibious form. For ages 5 - 12.

WHEN: February 7, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
SITE: Lawndale Library, 14615 Burin Ave., Lawndale
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Lawndale Library
INFO: 310.676.0177, [visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/15422848](https://www.lacountylibrary.org/event/15422848)

THE ART OF SAM GILLIAM

Celebrate African American Heritage Month by exploring the artwork of Sam Gilliam and be inspired to create your own work of art.

WHEN: February 10, 3:00 p.m.
SITE: Alma Reaves Woods - Watts Branch Library, 10205 Compton Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Alma Reaves Woods - Watts Branch Library
INFO: 323.789.2850, [lapl.org/whats-on/events/art-sam-gilliam](https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/art-sam-gilliam)



2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS

CELEBRATE AFRICAN SONG, RHYTHM, AND DANCE WITH QUEEN TERESA

Celebrate African American and Black History Month with us by joining dancer Teresa Smith (Queen Teresa) as she presents an engaging experience rooted in African folklore, dance, rhythms, and song! For ages 5 - 12 with parent or caregiver.

WHEN: February 10, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
SITE: Willowbrook Library, 11838 Wilmington Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Willowbrook Library
INFO: 323.564.5698, [visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/15421523](https://www.lacountylibrary.org/event/15421523)

AFRICAN AMERICAN AND BLACK HISTORY MONTH: TACTILE ARTIST KARA WALKER

Learn about Kara Walker's art through guided discussion and creative expression. Teens create artwork inspired by her silhouette style while examining themes of race and history. The program emphasizes cultural awareness through art.

WHEN: February 11, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
SITE: Willowbrook Library, 11838 Wilmington Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles County Library
INFO: 323.564.5698, [visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/15189002](https://www.lacountylibrary.org/event/15189002)

LITTLE SCIENTISTS PLAY WITH CLAY

Join Taty, a Zapotec-American artist, as Taty teaches ways to play's with clay, creating textures with objects like leaves, flowers, maize, stamps, and more!

WHEN: February 11, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
SITE: Vermont Square Branch Library, 1201 W. 48th St., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Vermont Square Branch Library
INFO: 323.290.7405, [lapl.org/whats-on/events/little-scientists-play-clay-7](https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/little-scientists-play-clay-7)

DRUM CIRCLE & SING ALONG WITH DIANA WALLACE / URTH RHYTHMS

A special program where we will experience becoming one through rhythm and music, play, and song!

WHEN: February 12, 3:30 – 4:15 p.m.
SITE: Woodland Hills Branch Library, 22200 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Woodland Hills Branch Library, Library Foundation of Los Angeles.
INFO: 818.226.0017, [lapl.org/whats-on/events/drum-circle-sing-along-diana-wallace-urth-rhythms-0](https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/drum-circle-sing-along-diana-wallace-urth-rhythms-0)

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS

ALFREDO RODRIGUEZ AND PEDRITO MARTINEZ: SCHOOL MATINEE PERFORMANCE FOR GRADES 6-12

Discover the explosive rhythms and world-class musicianship of Grammy-nominated Alfredo Rodriguez and Pedrito Martinez. What begins as a duo of piano, percussion, and voice quickly transforms into a high-octane performance, full of energy, improvisation, and irresistible grooves. This student matinee performance is free to any Los Angeles area public school.

- WHEN:** February 13, 10:45 a.m.
SITE: The Nimoy, 1262 Westwood Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Free, Contact dfs@cap.ucla.edu for more information
SPONSOR: Center for the Art of Performance, UCLA
INFO: cap.ucla.edu/event/design-sharing-alfredo-rodriguez-and-pedrito-martinez

FOLK ARTIST CLEMENTINE HUNTER

Create vibrant oil pastel art inspired by Clementine Hunter, a self-taught artist known for her vivid depictions of Southern life and culture. For teens ages 12 – 18.

- WHEN:** February 21, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
SITE: Pico Rivera Library, 9001 Mines Ave., Pico Rivera
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Pico Rivera Library
INFO: 562.942.7394, visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/14971986

PAINT LIKE ALMA THOMAS

The workshop will introduce participants to the abstract paintings of Alma Thomas and conclude with a guided art activity inspired by her work. Attendees will create their own pieces using color and pattern. Supplies are provided while available.

- WHEN:** February 21, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
SITE: San Gabriel Library, 500 S. Del Mar Ave., San Gabriel
COST: Free, Registration required
SPONSOR: Los Angeles County Library
INFO: 626.287.0761, visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/15223139

CIRQUE KALABANTÉ

A performance that blends contemporary circus with traditional West African music and movement. Acrobats perform gravity-defying feats accompanied by live percussion and choreography rooted in African cultural expression.

- WHEN:** February 21, 7:30 p.m.
SITE: The Luckman, 5151 State University Dr., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: The Luckman Fine Arts Complex
INFO: theluckman.org/past-events/cirque-kalabante

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Sr. Betty. A Harbison, SSS, *Blue Flowers*, Acrylic, 9" x 12", 2025

TELESCOPE NIGHT UNDER THE STARS WITH NASA

Participants observe the moon and planets through telescopes guided by a NASA JPL engineer and ambassador. The program introduces astronomy through hands-on viewing and discussion. All ages are welcome to explore the night sky.

WHEN: February 23, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

SITE: Sylmar Branch Library, 14561 Polk St., Sylmar

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library

INFO: 818.367.6102, lapl.org/whats-on/events/telescope-night-under-stars-nasa-3

EVERYBODY WINS!

Step right up for a magical game show where fun, learning, and laughter take center stage. Christopher T. Magician blends magic, comedy, and excitement into a celebration of popular children's books.

WHEN: February 24, 3:00 p.m.

SITE: Alma Reaves Woods - Watts Branch Library, 10205 Compton Ave., Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Alma Reaves Woods - Watts Branch Library

INFO: 323.789.2850, lapl.org/whats-on/events/everybody-wins

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Djibril Dramé, *Sur le Dos de Maman*, Digital photography, 25" x 17", 2009

BE INTERNET AWESOME

The program teaches children how to be safe, smart, and kind online through interactive activities. Participants learn about digital citizenship using games and videos. The session supports family learning around technology use.

- WHEN:** February 25, 3:30 p.m.
SITE: Angeles Mesa Branch Library, 2700 W. 52nd St., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: 323.292.4328, lapl.org/whats-on/events/be-internet-awesome

AFRICAN AMERICAN AND BLACK HISTORY MONTH: JEWELRY WORKSHOP

Learn about the origins and significance of African trade beads while creating your own jewelry piece under the guidance of local artist Danli Bayne. For ages 5 - 12.

- WHEN:** February 28, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
SITE: Gardena Mayme Dear Library, 1731 W. Gardena Blvd., Gardena
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Gardena Mayme Dear Library
INFO: 310.323.6363, visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/15162524



Amina AmXn, *!E!M!P!O!W!E!R!E!D*, Digital photography, 16" x 20", 2019

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS

COMMUNITY RESOURCES & SERVICES

START YOUR ENGINES: A WRITING REVISION WORKSHOP WITH AUTHOR KB BROOKINS

Do you struggle with revising your work and would like to learn new strategies? Award-winning author KB Brookins will lead a writing revision workshop. This all-genre workshop will get participants more confident in revision as a necessary practice in creative writing. Bring your work in progress. By the end of the session, students will have at least three pages of revised work.

- WHEN:** February 1, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
SITE: West Hollywood Library, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood
COST: Free, Registration is required
SPONSOR: Friends of the West Hollywood Library, West Hollywood Library
INFO: 310.652.5340, [visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/15295546](https://www.lacountylibrary.org/event/15295546)

EVICITION RESPONSE WORKSHOP

This workshop will guide you through the Tenant Power Toolkit. The Tenant Power Toolkit is an online resource that helps tenants create an answer (a legal response to their case) that raises the defenses they might have against eviction. All attendees must bring their Summons and Complaint-Unlawful Detainer with them to the workshop. Tenants get one-on-one assistance in both English and Spanish.

- WHEN:** February 3, weekly on Tuesdays, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
SITE: Vernon Branch Library, 4504 S. Central Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Vernon - Leon H. Washington Jr. Memorial Branch Library
INFO: 323.234.9106, [lapl.org/whats-on/events/eviction-response-workshop-3](https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/eviction-response-workshop-3)

WATTS BUSINESS WORKSHOP

The workshop guides starting a business and navigating the loan process. Participants receive practical information on entrepreneurship and financial planning. The series supports small business development within the Watts community.

- WHEN:** February 5, February 12, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
SITE: Watts Branch Library, 10205 Compton Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: 323.789.2850, [lapl.org/whats-on/events/watts-business-workshop](https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/watts-business-workshop)

LAWYERS IN THE LIBRARY / ABOGADOS EN LA BIBLIOTECA

You can meet with an attorney for free to discuss foreclosure and debt collection issues. Walk-ins welcome.

- WHEN:** February 6, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
SITE: Vermont Square Branch Library, 1201 W. 48th St., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Public Counsel with the support of the Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: 323.290.7405, [lapl.org/whats-on/events/lawyers-library](https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/lawyers-library)

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Buena Johnson, *California Sky*, Photo, 11" x 14", 2024

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION & FILING

Free income tax preparation and filing by UCLA through the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Walk-ins are available, but appointments are strongly preferred. Please visit the website to find out which documents to bring on the day of your visit. We prepare Form 1040 (U.S. Individual Income Tax Return), CA Form 540 (California Resident Income Tax Return), and Form 1040NR (Nonresident Income Tax Return). Check the Los Angeles Public Library website for locations and times.

- WHEN:** Through April 11, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
SITE: Los Angeles Public Libraries
COST: Free, Register for an appointment on the website
SPONSOR: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) at UCLA
INFO: vitaatucla.as.me/schedule/41f6d2f1

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS

FREE ONLINE COURSES AND TUTORING

An introduction to free educational resources available through the library, including computer training, test preparation, and personal development tools. Participants learn how to access [Tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) for tutoring, homework help, and resume support. The session highlights opportunities for lifelong learning and skill building.

- WHEN:** February 19, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
SITE: Central Library, 630 W. 5th Street, Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: 213-228-7000, lapl.org/whats-on/events/free-online-courses-and-tutoring-1

HEALTH INSURANCE AND MEDI-CAL RESOURCE TABLE

Representatives provide information on health insurance options, Medi-Cal enrollment, and healthcare access. Community members can ask questions and receive guidance on available resources. The program supports informed decision-making around healthcare coverage.

- WHEN:** February 21, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
SITE: Baldwin Hills Library, 2906 S. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: 323.733.1196, lapl.org/whats-on/events/health-insurance-and-medi-cal-resource-table

Q.ME FREE LEGAL CLINIC

The online clinic offers brief legal consultations with volunteer attorneys. Participants receive guidance on civil legal matters through scheduled virtual sessions. The service expands access to legal information and support.

- WHEN:** February 2 – March 31, Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
SITE: Palms - Rancho Park Branch Library- Online
COST: Free, Sign up in advance
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: lapl.org/whats-on/events/qme-free-legal-clinic-2



Jea El Toro Pheels, *Sunflowers in da Hood*, Digital photography, 2021

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS

DANCE

WILL RAWLS: UNMADE

The performance series unfolds across the museum through choreographed movement and social interaction. Will Rawls stages vignettes that reflect resource sharing, collectivity, and spatial awareness. Each iteration transforms galleries and outdoor spaces into sites of embodied dialogue.

- WHEN:** February 7 and 28, 12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m.
SITE: Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Hammer Museum
INFO: 310.443.7000, hammer.ucla.edu/programs-events/2025/will-rawls-unmade

WEST AFRICAN DANCE

An introduction to West African dance through movement, rhythm, and cultural context. Learn foundational steps while engaging with traditional music and storytelling. The session emphasizes physical expression, heritage, and community participation.

- WHEN:** February 19, 3:30 p.m.
SITE: John Muir Branch Library, 1196 W. 56th St., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: 323.292.4328, lapl.org/whats-on/events/west-african-dance

STILL/HERE - BILL T. JONES/ARNIE ZANE COMPANY

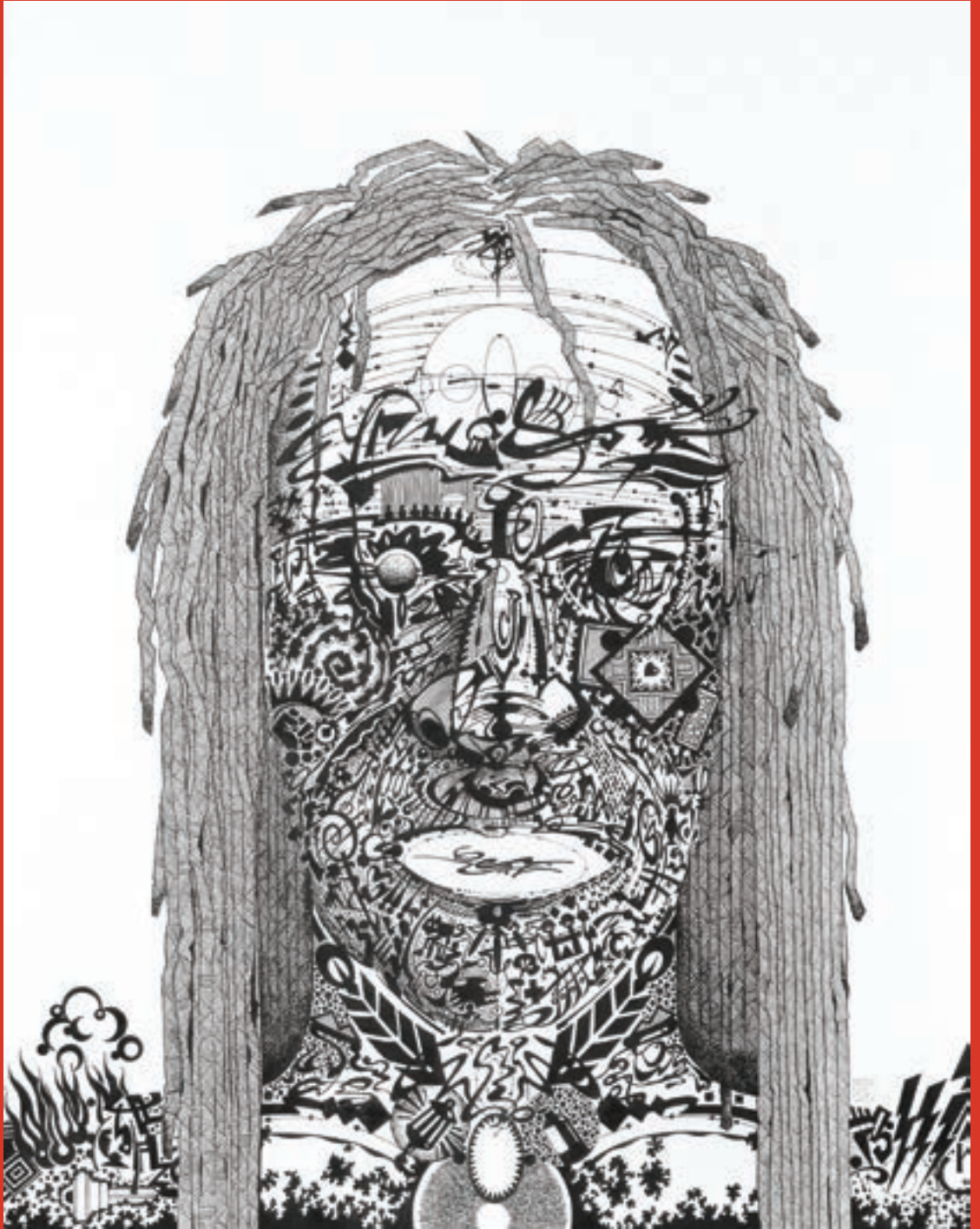
The Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company remounts this historic and timeless piece, celebrating its ability to evoke a spirit of survival. Created during the AIDS epidemic, *Still/Here* broke boundaries and exemplified a uniquely American form of dance theater, defining and transcending its era.

- WHEN:** March 5, 8:00 p.m.
SITE: Royce Hall, UCLA, 10745 Dickson Ct., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: Center for the Art of Performance, UCLA
INFO: 310.825.2101, cap.ucla.edu/event/bill-t-jonesarnie-zane-company-0

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Returning with a repertoire celebrating the legacy of Alvin Ailey and contemporary choreographic voices. Performances feature signature works alongside new commissions exploring identity, heritage, and movement innovation, highlighting the enduring influence of modern dance traditions.

- WHEN:** March 25 – 29, Check website for details
SITE: The Music Center, 135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: The Music Center
INFO: 213.972.0711, musiccenter.org/tickets-free-events/tmc-arts/dance/alvin-ailey-american-dance-theater



Mark Steven Greenfield, *Selfie*, 28" x 21.75", Pen and ink, 2025



Bryan Lee Tilford, *Summertime (Victoria's Song)*, Acrylic, pastel, collage on canvas, 16" x 20", 2025

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS

FILM & THEATRE

EXPLORING HISTORY THROUGH ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI

A conversation with director Regina King and writer Kemp Powers reflecting on themes of activism and friendship explored in the film *One Night in Miami*. The discussion examines the historic meeting that inspired the narrative. Gain insight into creative decisions shaping this influential cinematic work.

WHEN: February 1, 2:00 p.m.

SITE: Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, 6067 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles

COST: \$5

SPONSOR: Academy Museum of Motion Pictures

INFO: 323.930.3000, academymuseum.org/en/programs/detail/exploring-history-through-one-night-in-miami-019a133c-e77a-39d4-1517-8bf48ddcdea

POETRY FOR THE PEOPLE: THE JUNE JORDAN EXPERIENCE

Honoring the multi-faceted June Jordan's legacy as a poet, activist, and educator through a multidisciplinary performance. Music, poetry, and movement explore themes of justice, liberation, and human connection.

WHEN: Through March 29, 8:00 p.m.

SITE: The Fountain Theatre, 5060 Fountain Ave., Los Angeles

COST: Check the website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: The Fountain Theatre

INFO: fountaintheatre.com/events/poetry-for-the-people

CELEBRATE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH WITH MOVIES ON KANOPY AND HOOPLA

Stream films on Kanopy or Hoopla, both on-demand streaming film services with an extensive library

WHEN: Ongoing

SITE: Online

COST: Free with your library card

SPONSORS: Los Angeles Public Library and Los Angeles County Library

INFO: kanopy.com/en/category/40898?frontend=kui, hoopladigital.com

MOVIE MONDAY: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MISS JANE PITTMAN

A screening of the 1974 film *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, starring Cicely Tyson and directed by John Korty.

WHEN: February 2, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

SITE: West Hollywood Library, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood

COST: Free

SPONSOR: West Hollywood Library, Friends of the West Hollywood Library

INFO: 310.652.5340, visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/15061043

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Djibril Dramé, *Sabali*, Digital photography, 25" x 17", 2015

FRIDAY MOVIE SCREENINGS: ROOTS, TELEVISION SERIES FROM 1977

Screenings of the six episodes of the landmark American miniseries *Roots* (1977). Based on Alex Haley's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, the series traces the harrowing journey of an African man, Kunta Kinte, who is captured and sold into slavery in the 18th century, and follows his descendants through generations of struggle and survival in America, all the way to the aftermath of the Civil War.

- WHEN:** February 6, 13, 20, 27 and March 6, 13, 2:00 p.m.
SITE: Little Tokyo Branch Library, 203 S. Los Angeles St., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Little Tokyo Branch Library
INFO: 213.612.0525, lapl.org/whats-on/events/fast-friday-films

AFRICAN AMERICAN AND BLACK HISTORY MONTH DOCUMENTARY SCREENING: WOMAN IN MOTION

A screening of *Woman in Motion*, a documentary about Nichelle Nichols, the African American actress best known for her portrayal of Lt. Uhura in *Star Trek*, and her daunting task to launch a national blitz for NASA, recruiting 8,000 of the nation's best and brightest, including the trailblazing astronauts who became the first African American, Asian, and Latino men and women to fly in space.

- WHEN:** February 7, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
SITE: El Camino Real Library, 4264 Whittier Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: El Camino Real Library
INFO: 323.269.8102, visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/15404172

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



D'maria Woods, *Windmills Of My Mind*, Acrylic on paper, 18" x 24", 2025

BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH THE EBONY REPERTORY THEATRE

Join Ebony Repertory Theatre every Saturday in February as we celebrate: Black History, Black Love with Terry Steele, Black Men, Black Women.

- WHEN:** February 7 – 28, weekly on Saturdays, 8:00 p.m.
SITE: Nate Holden Performing Arts Center, 4718 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: Ebony Repertory Theatre
INFO: 323.964.9766, ebonyrep.org

HIS HOUSE

A screening of Remi Weekes' 2020 film, *His House*, which blends supernatural horror with themes of displacement and migration. Drawing from Dinka folklore, the story follows a South Sudanese couple navigating trauma and cultural transition.

- WHEN:** February 7, 7:30 p.m.
SITE: Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, 6067 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: \$5
SPONSOR: Academy Museum of Motion Pictures
INFO: 323.930.3000, academymuseum.org/en/programs/detail/his-house-0199ea5d-0fe2-ab43-9036-b4960124669c



2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS

FILM SCREENING: DUSTY AND STONES

A screening of a remarkable chronicle of a country music duo from Southern Africa's Eswatini embarking on their first trip to the United States, with stops in Tennessee and Texas. The screening will be followed by a pre-recorded Q&A with the stars and the director.

- WHEN:** February 8, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
SITE: Los Angeles Central Library, Mark Taper Auditorium, 630 W. 5th St., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library, Central Library
INFO: 213.228.7250, lapl.org/whats-on/events/film-screening-dusty-and-stones

THE 34TH PAN AFRICAN FILM & ARTS FESTIVAL

Celebrating 34 years, the Pan African Film & Arts Festival will screen over 150 new films made by, or about, Black people from the world-over. PAFF is the largest and most prestigious Black film festival in the United States. PAFF also hosts Red Carpets, a fine art show, panels, workshops, Spoken Word Fest, Comedy Show, a free Student Fest, Children's Fest, and free Seniors' Connection. Check the website for ticket and time information.

- WHEN:** February 9 – 16, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
SITE: The Culver Theater, 9500 Culver Blvd, Culver City
Cinemark Baldwin Hills, 4020 Marlton Ave, Los Angeles
COST: Check website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: The Pan African Film & Arts Festival
INFO: paff.org

WORLD CINEMA SERIES: BLACK TEA

After calling off her wedding, Aya leaves Ivory Coast for Guangzhou's vibrant "Chocolate City," where African and Chinese cultures meet, and begins working in a tea shop run by Cai.

- WHEN:** February 14, 1:00 p.m.
SITE: Los Angeles Central Library - Meeting Room A, 630 W. 5th St., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Central Library
INFO: 213.228.7000, lapl.org/whats-on/events/world-cinema-series-black-tea

NEWFILMMAKERS LOS ANGELES MONTHLY FILM FESTIVAL | INFOCUS: BLACK CINEMA

NewFilmmakers Los Angeles hosts its February Monthly Film Festival and annual InFocus: Black Cinema program, spotlighting Black stories and emerging Black talent in front of and behind the camera.

- WHEN:** February 14, 2:30 – 9:45 p.m.
SITE: South Park Center, 1139 S. Hill St., Los Angeles
COST: \$15 – \$30
SPONSOR: NewFilmmakers Los Angeles
INFO: 323.521.7385, newfilmmakersla.com/events

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Karien Zachery, *Lucille*, Oil painting, 36"x 36", 2005

FILM CLUB - SINNERS

In an attempt to leave their troubled lives behind, twin brothers return to their hometown to start again, only to discover that an even greater evil is waiting to welcome them back. A facilitated discussion follows the viewing. The program encourages critical engagement with cinema and storytelling.

WHEN: February 17, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

SITE: East Los Angeles Library, 4837 E. 3rd St., Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSORS: Los Angeles County Library, Los Amigos of East Los Angeles Library

INFO: 323. 264.0155, visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/14971984

DAUGHTERS OF THE DUST

Julie Dash's groundbreaking 1991 film in a rare 35mm format, followed by an in-person appearance by the director. The work explores Gullah family history through poetic storytelling and nonlinear structure. The program honors Dash's transformative impact on American cinema.

WHEN: February 18, 7:30 p.m.

SITE: Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, 6067 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles

COST: \$5 Adults

SPONSOR: Academy Museum of Motion Pictures

INFO: 323.930.3000, academymuseum.org/en/programs/detail/daughters-of-the-dust-0199ea3c-2e88-59ea-0456-e2e1bee91e49

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Megashia Jackson, *Mega Meditation, Cultural Vibes*, Photo, 2024

A NIGHT OF COMEDY WITH DOMINIQUE: OH MY MAMA THERE GOES THAT WOMAN

Comedian Dominique delivers a high-energy performance grounded in personal storytelling and cultural observation. Her humor blends sharp insight with relatable experiences shaped by her career path and community. An engaging evening of bold, character-driven comedy.

WHEN: February 21, 7:30 p.m.

SITE: BroadStage, Santa Monica College's Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica

COST: Check website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: BroadStage

INFO: 310.434.3200, broadstage.org/tickets-shows/calendar/dominique-oh-my-mama-there-goes-that-woman

33RD LOS ANGELES WOMEN'S THEATRE FESTIVAL

Presenting solo performances across theater, dance, music, poetry, and storytelling. Featuring artists from around the world, the event uplifts multicultural perspectives and creative expression. The program reflects the rich artistic diversity of LA, and a long-standing commitment to women's voices.

WHEN: March 26 – March 29, Check the website for dates and times of performances

SITE: Theatre 68 Arts Complex, 5112 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood

COST: \$30

SPONSOR: DCA, LACDAC, Jessica Cosmetics, 4Imprint, KPFK 90.7FM, Adilah Barnes Productions

INFO: lawtf.org

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS

HERITAGE

LEIMERT PARK VILLAGE STREET FESTIVAL

Every weekend, enjoy family-friendly activities, live music, and food vendors. Bring your instruments to the outdoor Drum Circle on Sundays and to the jam sessions at the World Stage. In Leimert Park, you'll find freshly made ice cream, a massage table in a body therapy canopy, custom-crafted, beautiful jewelry, clothing, and art classes.

- WHEN:** February 1 – March 30, Saturdays and Sundays, 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
SITE: Leimert Park, 4300 Degnan Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: African Village Vendors Association; Inner City Cultural Center II, The Leimert Park Village Merchants Association
INFO: icc2.wootick.com/events/leimert-park-village-street-festival-E80002631728320

BLACK LA TOURS

Every corner of Los Angeles tells a story — of Black resilience, creativity, and legacy. From Union Station, to Azusa Street, to Hilltop, the Black LA Tour reconnects us to the roots that built this city.

- WHEN:** February 1 – March 30, Saturdays and Sundays, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
SITE: Union Station (starting point), 800 N. Alameda St., Los Angeles
COST: \$85
SPONSOR: Lax to Morocco/ Business In Travel
INFO: 216.403.5880, laxtomorocco.com/black-la-tour

OUR PLACE IN THE SUN: AFRICAN AMERICAN AND BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Learn about the places and spaces that existed for African American families to rest, relax, and be their full human selves. After learning about historical leisure locations, honor these spaces by creating your own Black Beach Bag.

- WHEN:** February 03, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
SITE: Bell Gardens Library, 7110 S. Garfield Ave., Bell Gardens
COST: Free, Advance registration is required
SPONSOR: Bell Gardens Library
INFO: 562.927.1309, visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/15359772

AFRICAN AMERICAN & BLACK HISTORY MONTH: AFRICAN MASKS

In celebration of African American/Black History Month, you will create your own African-inspired mask. Learn about the distinctive kinds of African masks and how they are used in various ceremonies as well as their significance. For adults.

- WHEN:** February 3, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
SITE: Woodcrest Library, 1340 W. 106th St., Los Angeles
COST: Free, Advance registration is required
SPONSOR: Woodcrest Library
INFO: 323.757.9373, visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/15463924



Candice Hunter, *Mr. Abbott*, Phototransfer collage on Scottish Birch with shards of actual *Chicago Defender* pages, dated 1938 through 1943, 28" x 48", 2015

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Buena Johnson, *Cars, Pimped Rides, Los Angeles*, Photo, 11" x 14", 2022

THE REAL WORLD NONFICTION BOOK CLUB: JOSEPHINE BAKER'S SECRET WAR

The full story of Baker's actions on behalf of the French and Allied powers during WWII, and the vital role she played in the war, from counterintelligence work for the Allied landings to serving in the French Air Force. A woman of color operating in a white male environment, Baker exploited her celebrity to enable her war work across France, Spain, Portugal, North Africa, and the Middle East.

- WHEN:** February 4, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
SITE: Culver City Julian Dixon Library, 4975 Overland Blvd., Culver City
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Culver City Julian Dixon Library
INFO: 310.559.1676, [visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/15256187](https://www.lacountylibrary.org/event/15256187)

ART MEET-UP: LORNA SIMPSON INSPIRED COLLAGE

Lorna Simpson is known for her collages that pay homage to the beauty of Black hair. After learning about her work, create a mixed media collage inspired by her artwork.

- WHEN:** February 4, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
SITE: Gardena Mayme Dear Library, 1731 W. Gardena Blvd., Gardena
COST: Free, Advance registration is required
SPONSOR: Gardena Mayme Dear Library
INFO: 310.323.6363, [visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/14960037](https://www.lacountylibrary.org/event/14960037)

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Mark7, *PISCES/VIRGO* (Collab with Carmen Carmichael), Watercolor mixed medium, 12" × 12", 2023

ARTFEST - THE PAN AFRICAN FILM & ARTS FESTIVAL

The PAFF Art FEST showcases over 100 established and emerging artists and craftspeople from around the world, focusing on artistic expressions rooted in Africa and its Diaspora. Featured works include oil paintings, watercolors, ceramics, jewelry, fashion, home decor, and more, highlighting both fine art and

WHEN: February 5 – 15, Mondays – Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.,
Sundays, 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

SITE: Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza, 3650 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSORS: The Pan African Film & Arts Festival, The Los Angeles County Arts Commission, The Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs

INFO: 323.294.7071, paff.org/artfest

BOOK CLUB: LOVELY ONE

Join us for a discussion of *Lovely One* by Ketanji Brown Jackson. Books are available for checkout at the library. For adults.

WHEN: February 5, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

SITE: Hermosa Beach Library, 550 Pier Ave., Hermosa Beach

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Hermosa Beach Library

INFO: 310.379.8475, visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/15422718

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS

BLACK HISTORY TOURS OF SOUTH LA PRESENTED BY A GREAT DAY IN SOUTH LA

A Great Day in South LA is a Black history driving tour led by local guide and resident, Janae Green. We'll cruise through iconic neighborhoods like Crenshaw, Leimert Park, and View Park Windsor Hills (and more) pairing landmark sights with powerful stories of activism and everyday life. Expect photo stops, short walks, and chances to support local businesses.

- WHEN:** February 7, Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.
SITE: Crenshaw District, 3860 Crenshaw Blvd., Suite 103W, Los Angeles
COST: \$65
SPONSOR: A Great Day in South LA
INFO: 818.252.9163, agreatdayinsouthla.com

AFRICAN AMERICAN QUILTER'S EXHIBIT

Learn about the history and art of quilt-making by the African American Quilters of Los Angeles (AAQLA). Their mission is to increase personal, public awareness, and knowledge of the historical value of African American quilts. All ages welcome.

- WHEN:** February 7, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
SITE: A C Bilbrew Library, 150 E. El Segundo Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: A C Bilbrew Library
INFO: 310.538.3350, visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/15379583

A CELEBRATION OF CULTURES- HIGHLIGHTING AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Highlighting African American Heritage Month, join drum circles, attend a panel discussion, and create educational arts and crafts.

- WHEN:** February 7, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
SITE: Yucca Community Center, 6671 Yucca St., Hollywood
COST: Free
SPONSOR: A World of Cultures
INFO: aworldofcultures.org

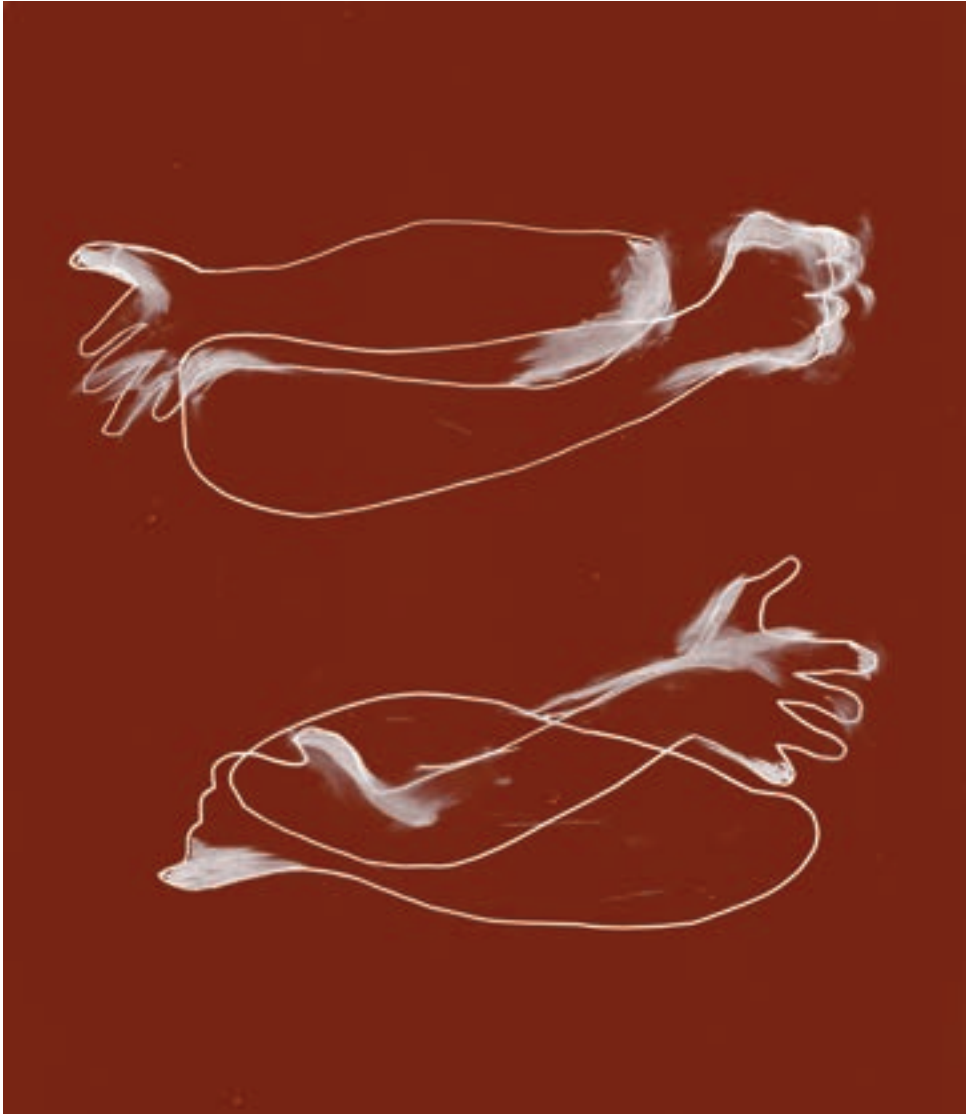
BOOK CLUB: NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

An autobiography detailing Douglass' life from birth into slavery, to his escape to freedom, and his subsequent career as an abolitionist leader. The book exposes the brutal reality of slavery, highlights the power of literacy as a path to self-knowledge and resistance, and chronicles his harrowing experiences with various slaveholders and his ultimate, successful escape in 1838. This is an in-person and online event.

- WHEN:** February 7, 2:00 p.m.
SITE: Will & Ariel Durant Branch Library, 7140 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Will & Ariel Durant Branch Library
INFO: 323.876.2741, lapl.org/whats-on/events/book-club-narrative-life-frederick-douglass

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Garland Kirkpatrick, *Embrace Releasing*, Mixed media: charcoal, digital, 18" x 20", 2025

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION: BLACK BUSINESS MIXER IN THE VALLEY

An evening designed to connect, empower, and celebrate Black entrepreneurs. This networking event offers business owners the opportunity to socialize with peers, exchange ideas, and build meaningful partnerships. A panel of financial advisors from both government and corporate sectors will share valuable insights on funding opportunities, financial growth, and strategies to strengthen business models for long-term success and sustainability.

- WHEN:** February 12, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
SITE: Turquoise + Salt, 12415 San Fernando Rd., Los Angeles
COST: Free - Register on the website
SPONSORS: Black in the Valley, Zawadi Cultural Collective
INFO: blackinthevalley.org



2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS

FROM EMMETT TILL TO SNCC & BEYOND: WORDS AND MUSIC AND ART

A commemoration of Black History Month and the UN World Day of Social Justice through a multimedia performance. Artists and activists present works addressing legacy and the emergence of SNCC. The event connects historical memory with contemporary calls for justice and collective action. A dessert reception follows.

- WHEN:** February 20, 8:00 p.m.
SITE: Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSORS: Our Authors Study Club, The Weingart Foundation, The William and Ellen Craft Foundation, Justin Carr Wants World Peace Foundation
INFO: 310.315.1459, tillartistscollective.org

AFRICAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL AT THE AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

The Aquarium of the Pacific will host its twenty-fourth annual African American Festival, which features music, dance, storytelling, and historical displays.

- WHEN:** February 21 – 22, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
SITE: Aquarium of the Pacific, 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach
COST: Check the website for ticket price
SPONSOR: Aquarium of the Pacific
INFO: 562.590.3100, aquariumofpacific.org/events/info/african_american_festival

THREADS OF HERITAGE: QUILTS AND THEIR STORIES

A quilt viewing and discussion, hosted by the African American Quilters in Los Angeles. This program celebrates the rich cultural tradition of African American quilting, highlighting its historical significance, artistic expression, and storytelling legacy. Handcrafted quilts will be on display.

- WHEN:** February 21, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Discussion, 1:30 p.m.
SITE: Washington Irving Branch Library, 4117 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Washington Irving Branch Library
INFO: 323.734.6303, lapl.org/whats-on/events/threads-heritage-quilts-and-their-stories

BOOK CLUB: PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Attend a lively discussion of *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler. In 2025 California, an eighteen-year-old African American woman suffering from a hereditary trait that causes her to feel others' pain as well as her own, flees northward from her small community and its desperate savages.

- WHEN:** February 21, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
SITE: Gardena Mayme Dear Library, 1731 W. Gardena Blvd., Gardena
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Gardena Mayme Dear Library
INFO: 310.323.6363, visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/15019407

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Jasimen Phillips, *Phyllicia's Swearing-In Ceremony*, Acrylic on canvas, 16" x 20", 2025

AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Join us and learn from family historian and professional genealogist, Charlotte Bocage as she provides a wealth of resources and strategies necessary to assist in researching your family history. For 18+.

- WHEN:** February 21, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
SITE: Online Event
COST: Free, Register at website
SPONSOR: Los Angeles County Library
INFO: visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/15321073

STEP INTO THE MOVEMENT -- STEP SHOW AND CAREER FAIR

All members of the Divine Nine are invited to take the stage and showcase their powerful, synchronized step routines — both traditional and modern — in celebration of their rich history, culture, and brotherhood/sisterhood. This vibrant showcase honors the legacy, pride, and unity of historically Black fraternities and sororities through rhythm, movement, and tradition.

- WHEN:** February 21, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
SITE: Northridge Center at Cal State University, Northridge, 18111 Nordoff St., Northridge
COST: Free
SPONSORS: Black in the Valley, Zawadi Cultural Collective
INFO: blackinthevalley.org

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Nia Simone Lane, *When We Were Free*, Mixed media on watercolor paper, 22" x 30", 2025

CLASSICS BOOK CLUB: PASSING

A discussion of the 1929 novel *Passing* by Nella Larsen. The book is centered on Irene Redfield, who leads a charmed existence-until she is shaken out of it by a chance encounter with a childhood friend who has been passing for white.

- WHEN:** February 25, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
SITE: Granada Hills Branch Library, 10640 Petit Ave., Granada Hills
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Granada Hills Branch Library
INFO: 818.368.5687, lapl.org/whats-on/events/classics-book-club-passing

A CELEBRATION OF CENTRAL AVENUE JAZZ

Immerse yourself in the historic jazz scene of Central Avenue with an exhibit provided by artist Ashley Walker, an exploration of the places people and sounds by Sean O'Connell author of *Los Angeles's Central Avenue Jazz*, a map of the clubs, souvenir photos, crafts and more.

- WHEN:** February 25, 4:00 p.m.
SITE: Alma Reaves Woods - Watts Branch Library, 10205 Compton Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSORS: Library Foundation of Los Angeles, Alma Reaves Woods - Watts Branch Library
INFO: 323.789.2850, lapl.org/whats-on/events/celebration-central-avenue-jazz-0

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Valena Broussard Dismukes, *Low tide*, Digital photography, 8" x 10", 2000

BLACK EDUCATION EXPO

A vibrant, family-friendly K-12 celebration of learning, culture, and community. Educators, families, students, and community members will explore exhibitions, engaging K-12 resources, interactive activities, and opportunities that support academic success and workforce development. Join us as we uplift youth, empower parents, support educators, and connect communities across Greater Los Angeles

- WHEN:** February 28, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
SITE: West Los Angeles College, 9000 Overland Ave., Culver City
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Black Education Expo
INFO: 323.475.6293, blackeducationexpo.com

INSPIRING JOURNEYS: AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIES FESTIVAL

Inspiring Journeys: African American Histories is a day of celebration for African American Heritage Month at Central Library. The speakers, workshops, entertainment, and family activities will surely spark joy and insight as we highlight the rich history of Black Los Angeles. Bring your friends and family along for a day of celebration and learning.

- WHEN:** February 28, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
SITE: Los Angeles Central Library, 630 W. 5th St., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: 213.228.7250, lapl.org/inspiring-journeys



Imani Tolliver, *Beloved*, Mixed-Media, 2025



Chidi Ukwuoma, *Great Towers (Watts)*, Archival linen pigment print, 18" x 24", 2023

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITIONS

POLITICS, RACE AND CARTOONS: TWO DECADES OF DRAWING MY OWN CONCLUSIONS

David G. Brown's editorial cartoons document American political and social history. His works address racial injustice, media narratives, and community resilience. Visitors explore a visual archive that centers Black perspectives across two decades of national change.

WHEN: Through February 2, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
SITE: Watts Towers Arts Center Campus, 1727 E. 107th St., Watts
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Watts Towers Art Center
INFO: 213.847.4646, wattstowers.org/copy-of-exhibitions-2

TALES FROM THE KIDS

A showcase of art and stories created by youth participating in a long-running community comic book project. Their illustrations reflect everyday experiences, imaginative worlds, and social realities..

WHEN: Through February 21, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
SITE: Watts Towers Arts Center Campus, 1727 E. 107th St., Watts
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Watts Towers Arts Center
INFO: 213.847.4646, wattstowers.org/copy-of-exhibitions-2

EVENING FOR EDUCATORS: AFRO-CARIBBEAN PERSPECTIVES

An in-depth discussion of the interdisciplinary practice of Afro-Dominican artist Patricia Encarnación. The conversation examines material culture, memory, and Afro-diasporic identity. Designed for educators, the session emphasizes scholarship and pedagogy.

WHEN: February 3, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
SITE: Museum of Latin American Art, 628 Alamitos Ave., Long Beach
COST: Free, Register on website
SPONSOR: Museum of Latin American Art
INFO: 562.437.1689, eventbrite.com/e/evening-for-educators-afro-caribbean-perspectives-patricia-encarnacion-tickets-1680959056789

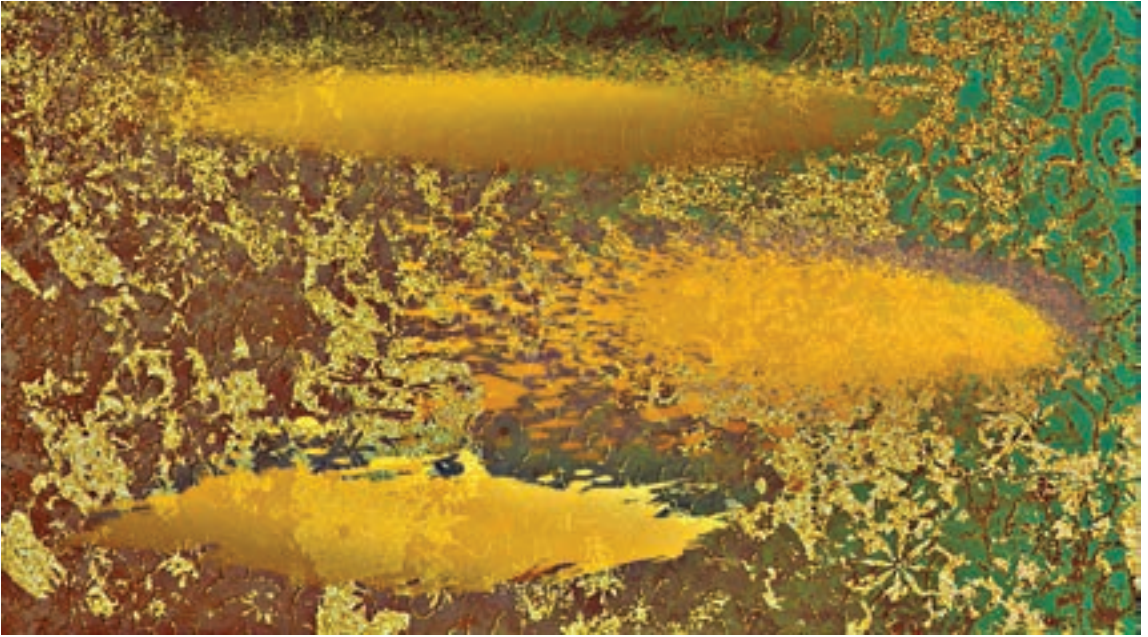
ACT ON IT! ARTISTS, COMMUNITY, AND THE BROCKMAN GALLERY IN LOS ANGELES

A look at the influential Brockman Gallery and its impact on the Black Arts Movement in LA. Featuring artists who previously exhibited with the gallery, the show highlights community leadership, creative activism, and artistic exchange.

WHEN: February 15 – June 7, Check website for details
SITE: Cal State Dominguez Hills, Library, Cultural Arts Gallery, 1000 E. Victoria St., Carson
COST: Free
SPONSOR: California State University, Dominguez Hills University and Los Angeles County Museum of Art
INFO: 310.243.3895, lacma.org/art/exhibition/act-it-artists-community-and-brockman-gallery-los-angeles

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Carole J. McCoy, *Gold Dust Over LA*, Mixed media, digital painting, 2024

TIERRA CIFRADA CODED EARTH

Presenting nine Latin American artists whose work examines identity, memory, and social transformation. Through multidisciplinary approaches, their work explores contemporary political and cultural tensions. Visitors are invited to reflect on shifting territories, personal histories, and collective futures.

WHEN: Through March

SITE: Museum of Latin American Art, 628 Alamitos Ave., Long Beach

COST: Adults, \$15, Seniors and Students, \$10, Members and Children under 12 Free, Free Admission every Sunday

SPONSORS: Museum of Latin American Art and Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation

INFO: molaa.org/2025-cifo-molaa

AMERICAN ARTIST: SHAPER OF GOD: APPLE VALLEY AUTONOMY

Celebrating the legacy of one of the most inventive science fiction writers in contemporary literature, Octavia E. Butler. This exhibition of sculpture and drawings by American Artist, is part of the their multiyear effort of activations and reflects their complex engagement with the Butler archive at the Huntington Library.

WHEN: Through March 1, Tuesdays – Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.,
Sundays 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

SITE: California African American Museum, 600 State Dr., Exposition Park, Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSOR: California African American Museum

INFO: 213.744.7432, caamuseum.org/exhibitions/2025/american-artist-shaper-of-god-apple-valley-autonomy



Toni Scott, *The Measure of Things*, Sculpture, 2021



Francesca Lalanne, *Harvest: Homage to Jean-Francois Millet*, Engraved oxidized steel, steel rod, steel artist frame, 36.5" x 48.5" x 1.75", 2024

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS

DEAR MAZIE

An exhibition inspired by the life and work of Amaza Lee Meredith (1895–1984), the first known Black queer woman architect in the United States. Eleven artists, architects, and designers were commissioned to create works inspired by her legacy, plotting her life and work within themes of place, gender, and sexuality while also exploring her impact in education, the arts, and architecture.

- WHEN:** Through March 1, Tuesdays – Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.,
Sundays 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- SITE:** California African American Museum, 600 State Dr., Exposition Park, Los Angeles
- COST:** Free
- SPONSOR:** California African American Museum
- INFO:** 213.744.7432, caamuseum.org/exhibitions/2025/dear-mazie

MADE IN L.A. 2025

The biennial highlights 28 artists whose work explores LAs' intertwined identities and landscapes. Through film, choreography, sculpture, and painting, the exhibition maps the city's cultural complexities. Each artist offers a distinct perspective on the region's tension, history, and creative vitality.

- WHEN:** Through March 1, Tuesdays – Thursdays, Saturdays – Sundays, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.,
Fridays, 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- SITE:** Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles
- COST:** Free
- SPONSORS:** Mohn Family Foundation, Hammer Circle Members, The Billy and Audrey L. Wilder Foundation, Miky Lee, Mark Sandelson, and additional supporters
- INFO:** 310.443.7000, hammer.ucla.edu/exhibitions/2025/made-la-2025

DIARY OF FLOWERS: ARTISTS AND THEIR WORLDS

View more than 80 works exploring intimate world-building across global artistic practices. Themes of connection, personal mythology, and social imagination unfold through painting, film, sculpture, and mixed media. Encounter diverse creative voices shaping contemporary art.

- WHEN:** Through March 1, Tuesday, Wednesday, Fridays, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.,
Sundays, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Thursday, 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- SITE:** MOCA Grand Avenue, 250 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
- COST:** Free
- SPONSOR:** Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles
- INFO:** 213.626.6222, moca.org/exhibition/diary

MADE IN L.A. 2025: EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

Hammer educators lead conversation-based tours of the exhibition Made in L.A. 2025. Attendance is first-come, first-served with limited capacity.

- WHEN:** Through March 1, Saturdays 1:00 p.m.
- SITE:** Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles
- COST:** Free
- SPONSOR:** Hammer Museum
- INFO:** 310.443.7000, hammer.ucla.edu/programs-events/2025/exhibition-highlights-tour-made-la-2025

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Sam Pace, *Stolen Music, The Real Meaning of the Blues*, Mixed media, 2025

GIVING YOU THE BEST THAT I GOT

Black motherhood viewed through works centered on memory, domestic life, and matrilineal history. Artists employ video, photography, and installation to explore care and generational connection. The show contributes to ongoing cultural conversations on family and representation.

WHEN: Through March 7, Tuesdays – Saturdays, 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m.

SITE: Art + Practice, 3401 W. 43rd Place, Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSORS: Art + Practice, California African American Museum

INFO: 323.337.6887, artandpractice.org/exhibitions/exhibition/giving-you-the-best-that-i-got

BLACK AND BROWN IN THE INLAND EMPIRE AND BEYOND

Exploring local histories of race, migration, education, and community through collaborative workshops and artworks. The works reflect on systemic inequities and creative resilience within Inland Empire communities. The resulting pieces create a dialogue between past and present social realities.

WHEN: Through March 15, Wednesdays – Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.,
Sundays 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m.

SITE: The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture of the Riverside Art Museum,
3581 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside

COST: Check the website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: The Cheech

INFO: 951.684.7111, riversideartmuseum.org/exhibitions/black-brown-in-the-inland-empire-and-beyond

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Jora Nelstein, *Siblings Vandrimmelenlaan*, Acrylic on canvas, 12" x 12", 2025

J.J. ANDERSON: SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE I AM ALMOST HOME

A commissioned short film by LA-based filmmaker and visual storyteller J.J. Anderson. It explores a deeply personal concept that the artist has termed “return to self,” referring to the sometimes painful spiritual journey to reclaim the freedom, passion, and possibility of childhood as an adult.

WHEN: Through March 22, Tuesdays – Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.,
Sundays 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

SITE: California African American Museum, 600 State Dr., Exposition Park, Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSOR: California African American Museum

INFO: 213.744.7432, caamuseum.org/exhibitions/2025/j-j-anderson-sometimes-i-feel-like-i-am-almost-home

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS

NONI OLABISI: WHEN LIGHTNING STRIKES

This is the first institutional show to shine a light on the extraordinary and under recognized career of Noni Olabisi (1954-2022). The exhibition will include highlights of her work as an artist, muralist, and mentor, and focus on her three masterpiece murals: *Freedom Won't Wait* (1992); *To Protect and Serve* (1995); and *Troubled Island* (2003).

- WHEN:** Through March 28, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- SITE:** Laband Art Gallery, Loyola Marymount University, Burns Fine Arts Center, 1 LMU Drive, Los Angeles
- COST:** Free
- SPONSOR:** Laband Art Gallery
- INFO:** 310. 338.2880, lmu.edu/laband

SAGE NI'JA WHITSON: THESE WALKING GLORIES

A solo exhibition by multidisciplinary artist Sage Ni'Ja Whitson that presents a portion of their *Illumination Catalogue*, an ambitious ceremony series and archive that grieves Black trans losses and celebrates Black trans living. The exhibition incorporates ritual materials, including essences made by the artist in honor of each transcestor, photographs, and sound archives accumulated through their travels, as well as a series of performance events.

- WHEN:** Through April 5, Tuesdays – Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Sundays 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- SITE:** California African American Museum, 600 State Dr., Exposition Park, Los Angeles
- COST:** Free
- SPONSORS:** California African American Museum, Mellon Foundation, University of California, Riverside
- INFO:** 213.744.7432, caamuseum.org/exhibitions/2025/sage-nija-whitson-these-walking-glories

THE BLACK INTERIOR: IMAGINING HOME IN THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

Drawing its title from poet Elizabeth Alexander's book of the same name, *The Black Interior* considers the practices of artists who explore the domestic space as creative inspiration and refuge for one's inner world. The works on view reflect on the objects and memories of home.

- WHEN:** Through April 5, Tuesdays – Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Sundays 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- SITE:** California African American Museum, 600 State Dr., Exposition Park, Los Angeles
- COST:** Free
- SPONSOR:** California African American Museum
- INFO:** 213.744.7432, caamuseum.org/exhibitions/2025/the-black-interior-imagining-home-in-the-permanent-collection



Linda Ternoir, *Man on the Bus*, Pencil on paper, 10" x 8", 1962

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Toni Scott, *Stoic Beauty in Grayscale and Gold*, 2025

MONUMENTS

A juxtaposition of decommissioned public monuments with contemporary artworks addressing memory, power, and cultural symbolism. The contrast contextualizes debates surrounding monument removal and reinterpretation in the United States..

WHEN: Through May 3, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.,
Thursdays 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

SITE: The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, 152 N. Central Ave., Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSORS: Mellon Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, and additional supporters

INFO: 213.621.1732, moca.org/exhibition/monuments

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS

PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE BLACK ARTS MOVEMENT, 1955–1985

Photographs documenting community life, resistance, and creative expression throughout the Black Arts Movement. Artists captured social realities alongside radical experimentation. Presented bilingually, the show offers a sweeping perspective on diasporic culture and political transformation.

WHEN: February 24 – June 14, Tuesdays – Fridays and Sundays 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

SITE: The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., Los Angeles

COST: Free, Reserve tickets in advance at website

SPONSOR: National Gallery of Art, Washington

INFO: 310.440.7300, getty.edu/exhibitions/black-arts-movement

STORIES FROM THE LIBRARY: FROM BRONTË TO BUTLER

View journals, letters, and personal objects illuminating the lives of women writers across two centuries. Anchored by Charlotte Brontë and Octavia E. Butler, the materials reveal shared experiences across time, place, and social context.

WHEN: Through June 15, Wednesday – Monday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sundays and Mondays, Wednesdays – Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

SITE: The Huntington, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino

COST: Check the website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: The Huntington

INFO: 626.405.2100, huntington.org/exhibitions/stories-library-bronte-butler

MICHAEL JACKSON: THE THRILLER YEARS, 1982–1984

Michael Jackson's *Thriller* era as seen through costumes, photographs, and archival materials. Explore the album's artistic and cultural impact, which reshaped popular music. The presentation highlights collaboration, performance, and innovation during a pivotal period.

WHEN: Through June 30, Sundays and Mondays,
Wednesdays – Fridays 11:00 noon – 5:00 p.m., Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

SITE: GRAMMY Museum, 800 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles

COST: Check the website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: GRAMMY Museum

INFO: 213.725.5700, grammymuseum.org/exhibit/michael-jackson-display

A LOOK AT OUR COLLECTION SANDRA ROWE

A highlight of recent additions to the permanent collection through new mixed-media works by Sandra Rowe. The work provides insight into the artist's evolving practice and regional significance. Visitors encounter themes of abstraction, memory, and experimentation.

WHEN: Through August 16, Wednesdays – Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.,
Sundays 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m.

SITE: Riverside Art Museum, 3425 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside

COST: Adult - \$15.95, Seniors, College Students, and Children 13-17 - \$10.95, Children 12 and under, Military and their families - Free

SPONSOR: Riverside Art Museum

INFO: 951.684.7111, riversideartmuseum.org/exhibitions/a-look-at-our-collection-sandra-rowe

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS

LUTHER VANDROSS ARTISTRY AND ELEGANCE

Explore Luther Vandross' career through stage wear, recordings, and personal artifacts. His influence on soul, R and B, and popular music is examined through performance and production. The display emphasizes vocal mastery and stylistic refinement.

WHEN: Through August 31, Sundays and Mondays, Wednesdays – Fridays 11:00 noon – 5:00 p.m., Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

SITE: GRAMMY Museum, 800 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles

COST: Check the website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: GRAMMY Museum

INFO: 213.725.5700, grammymuseum.org/exhibit/luther-vandross-artistry-and-elegance/

BELONGINGS: CHANGING HANDS AND SHIFTING MEANINGS IN AFRICAN ARTS

Tracing the journey of African objects as they circulate across time, owners, and geographies. It examines how meaning shifts through colonial histories, market exchange, and cultural reinterpretation. Objects are reframed as carriers of narrative, identity, and memory.

WHEN: Through Summer, Wednesday - Sunday, 12:00 Noon – 5:00 p.m.

SITE: Fowler Museum, UCLA, 308 Charles E. Young Dr. N., Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Fowler Museum at UCLA

INFO: 310.825.9672, fowler.ucla.edu/exhibitions/belongings

DEEP CUTS: BLOCK PRINTING ACROSS CULTURES

More than 150 works from Asia, Europe, and the Americas present the medium of block printing as both a means of creative expression and a vehicle for mass production that enabled images and ideas to circulate widely. Includes a section developed with Los Angeles–based Block Shop, highlighting how contemporary makers continue to reinterpret this enduring art form.

WHEN: Through September 13, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays – 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Fridays – 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays – 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

SITE: Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), 5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles

COST: Check the website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: Los Angeles County Museum of Art

INFO: 323.857.6010, lacma.org/art/exhibition/deep-cuts-block-printing-across-cultures

JANET JACKSON: MUSIC VIDEO LOOKS

The iconic fashion and visual styling from Janet Jackson's music videos. Costumes and media trace how image, choreography, and sound intersected to define her artistic identity. The presentation underscores the role of visual storytelling in popular music history.

WHEN: Through September 15, Sundays and Mondays, Wednesdays – Fridays 11:00 noon – 5:00 p.m., Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

SITE: GRAMMY Museum, 800 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles

COST: Check the website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: GRAMMY Museum

INFO: 213.725.5700, grammymuseum.org/exhibit/janet-jackson-music-video-looks



Jerry Weems, *They Don't Like You*, Oil on canvas, 36" x 48", 2024

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Sylvia Woolridge, *Parisian Room*, Soft pastel, 16" x 20", 2025

SADIE BARNETTE: HOW TO FLY

A site-specific photomural by artist Sadie Barnette installed in CAAM's atrium. Incorporating photos the artist has taken of locations across California with pictures from her family archives. Barnette describes herself as a "keeper of the past," someone whose role is to tend to the historical archive.

WHEN: Through October 3, Tuesdays – Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.,
Sundays 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

SITE: California African American Museum, 600 State Dr., Exposition Park, Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSOR: California African American Museum

INFO: 213.744.7432, caamuseum.org/exhibitions/2025/sadie-barnette-how-to-fly

LIFE, LIBERTY, AND LOS ANGELES

Explore the ways Angelenos have interpreted life, liberty, and happiness across the city's history. Historical and contemporary objects illuminate competing ideals and lived experiences. Community collaboration anchors the exhibition's narrative framework.

WHEN: Through January 31, 2027, Tuesday – Friday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.,
Saturday – Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

SITE: Autry Museum of the American West, 4700 Western Heritage Way, Los Angeles

COST: Check the website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: Autry Museum of the American West

INFO: 323.667.2000, theautry.org/exhibitions/life-liberty-and-los-angeles

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Mark 7, *DROOPY LOVER*, Watercolor, mixed medium, 9" × 12", 2022

BETYE SAAR: DRIFTING TOWARD TWILIGHT

Betye Saar's 17-foot canoe placed within a multisensory environment of found materials. Light, color, and symbolic objects evoke themes of transformation, spirituality, and memory. Saar's assemblage practice invites contemplation of personal and cultural lineage.

WHEN: Through November 2027, Sundays and Mondays,
Wednesdays – Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

SITE: The Huntington, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino

COST: Check the website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: The Huntington

INFO: 626.405.2100, huntington.org/exhibitions/betye-saar-drifting-toward-twilight

BEHIND BARS: INCARCERATION IN THE WEST

This installation features some of the many forms that incarceration has taken in the American West over time, in conversation with a new photo series by fine art photographer Pep Williams, taken in a California state prison. Located in the jail cell area of the Autry's firearms galleries, the installation brings past and present into dialogue.

WHEN: Ongoing Exhibition, Tuesdays – Fridays 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.,
Saturdays – Sundays 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

SITE: Autry Museum of the American West, 4700 Western Heritage Way, Los Angeles

COST: Adults, \$14, Students (with current ID) and Seniors (60+) - \$10, Children (3–12) - \$6

SPONSOR: Autry Museum of the American West

INFO: 323.667.2000, theautry.org/exhibitions/behind-bars-incarceration-west

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS

PUBLIC SCULPTURE—CHLOË BASS: #SKY #NOFILTER: HINDSIGHT FOR A FUTURE AMERICA

The outdoor sculpture functions as a participatory sundial made from blue glass panels that cast shifting shadows. Bass uses light and time to evoke collective reflection and emotional presence. The installation expands her interest in public space and shared human experience.

- WHEN:** Ongoing Exhibition, Tuesdays – Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.,
Sundays 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- SITE:** California African American Museum, 600 State Dr., Exposition Park, Los Angeles
- COST:** Free
- SPONSOR:** California African American Museum
- INFO:** 213.744.7432, caamuseum.org/exhibitions/2023/public-sculpturechloe-bass-sky-nofilter-hindsight-for-a-future-america

JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT

An in-depth installation of Jean-Michel Basquiat features all 13 works by the artist in the Broad collection, including three works on view for the first time at The Broad: Santo 2, Deaf, and Wicker.

- WHEN:** Ongoing Exhibition, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays – 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.,
Thursdays – 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- SITE:** The Broad, 221 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
- COST:** Free, Reserve tickets in advance on the website
- SPONSOR:** Broad Museum
- INFO:** 213.232.6200, thebroad.org/art/jean-michel-basquiat

REIMAGINED AMERICAN ART GALLERIES

Presenting an expanded narrative of American art shaped by global exchange and colonial histories. Approximately 135 works explore diverse cultural perspectives and artistic traditions. A dedicated film space created with Ghetto Film School highlights youth engagement with the collection.

- WHEN:** Ongoing Exhibition, Wednesdays – Mondays, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sundays and
Mondays, Wednesdays – Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- SITE:** The Huntington, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino
- COST:** Check the website for ticket prices
- SPONSOR:** The Huntington
- INFO:** 626.405.2100, huntington.org/exhibitions/reimagined-american-art-galleries

BERNARD HOYES: OUT FROM UNDER THE NET

Presenting the evolution of Bernard Hoyes' signature Rag Series, developed during the 1970s and expanded through collage, painting, and printmaking. His rhythmic compositions reflect Afro-Caribbean spirituality, rituals, and the power of women across music, dance, and magic. The works explore themes of race, identity, memory, and liberation through layered visual language.

- WHEN:** April 25 – October 4, Wednesdays – Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.,
Sundays 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m.
- SITE:** Riverside Art Museum, 3425 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside
- COST:** Adult - \$15.95, Seniors, College Students, and Children 13-17 - \$10.95, Children 12 and
under, Military and their families - Free
- SPONSOR:** Riverside Art Museum and The Cheech
- INFO:** 951.684.7111, riversideartmuseum.org/exhibitions/bernard-hoyes-out-from-under-the-net



Christopher Samaroo, *Tyler the creator/ with Mask*, Oil on canvas, 36" x 24", 2024



2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS

MUSIC

THE CELEBRATION: BLACK HISTORY MONTH JAZZ PLAYLIST

The digital playlist showcases landmark jazz recordings connected to Black musical history. Artists represented include pioneers and modern innovators. The program encourages listening, learning, and exploration through library-supported streaming.

- WHEN:** Ongoing
SITE: Freegal Music
COST: Free with library card
SPONSOR: LA County Library, Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: lacountylibrary.freegalmusic.com/playlist/396491

ARTURO O'FARRILL TRIO

The pianist leads a trio performance highlighting straight-ahead jazz infused with Afro-Cuban influences. The program showcases improvisation, rhythmic complexity, and lyrical expression. Audiences experience an intimate jazz club setting within a concert hall environment.

- WHEN:** February 5, 8:00 p.m.
SITE: The Soraya, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: The Soraya
INFO: 818.677.3000, thesoraya.org/whats-on/en/arturo-ofarrill-trio

CÉCILE MCLORIN SALVANT

The vocalist presents a program drawing from vaudeville, blues, jazz, and theatrical traditions. Known for her narrative-driven approach, Salvant reinterprets lesser-known repertoire with wit and emotional depth. The performances highlight her distinctive voice and storytelling artistry.

- WHEN:** February 6 – 7, 8:00 p.m.
SITE: The Soraya, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: The Soraya
INFO: 818.677.3000, thesoraya.org/whats-on/en/cecile-mclorin-salvant

ALFREDO RODRIGUEZ AND PEDRITO MARTINEZ

Get ready for a night of explosive rhythm and world-class musicianship with Grammy-nominated Alfredo Rodriguez and Pedrito Martinez. What begins as a duo of piano, percussion and voice quickly transforms into a high-octane performance, full of energy, improvisation and irresistible grooves.

- WHEN:** February 13, 8:00 p.m.
SITE: The Nimoy, 1262 Westwood Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: Center for the Art of Performance, UCLA
INFO: cap.ucla.edu/event/alfredo-rodriguez-and-pedrito-martinez

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Jerry Pinkney, *Black Cowboy Wild Horses*, Watercolor, gouache, colored pencil, and pencil on paper, 1998

PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND

Bringing the spirit of New Orleans Mardi Gras to the stage through traditional jazz repertoire. The ensemble performs music rooted in the cultural history of the French Quarter. The program celebrates living jazz traditions passed through generations.

WHEN: February 18, 8:00 p.m.

SITE: The Soraya, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge

COST: Check the website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: The Soraya

INFO: 818.677.3000, thesoraya.org/whats-on/en/preservation-hall-jazz-bands-mardi-gras-celebration

NEW ORLEANS GROOVE MASTERS

The concert unites Herlin Riley, Shannon Powell, and Jason Marsalis in a celebration of New Orleans rhythm traditions. The ensemble performs original works and Crescent City classics. A festive pre-show performance on the plaza enhances the cultural experience.

WHEN: February 20, 7:30 p.m.

SITE: BroadStage, 1310 11th St, Santa Monica

COST: Check the website for ticket price

SPONSOR: BroadStage

INFO: 310.434.3200, broadstage.org/tickets-shows/calendar/new-orleans-groove-masters

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Billy Monroe, *Jackie Wilson Serenading*, Digital drawing, 12" x 12", 2025

LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO

The renowned South African vocal ensemble performs signature isicathamiya harmonies honoring its 65-year legacy. The program celebrates the group's international influence and cultural roots. Experience vocal artistry shaped by historical storytelling and tradition.

WHEN: February 27, 7:30 p.m.

SITE: BroadStage, Santa Monica College's Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica

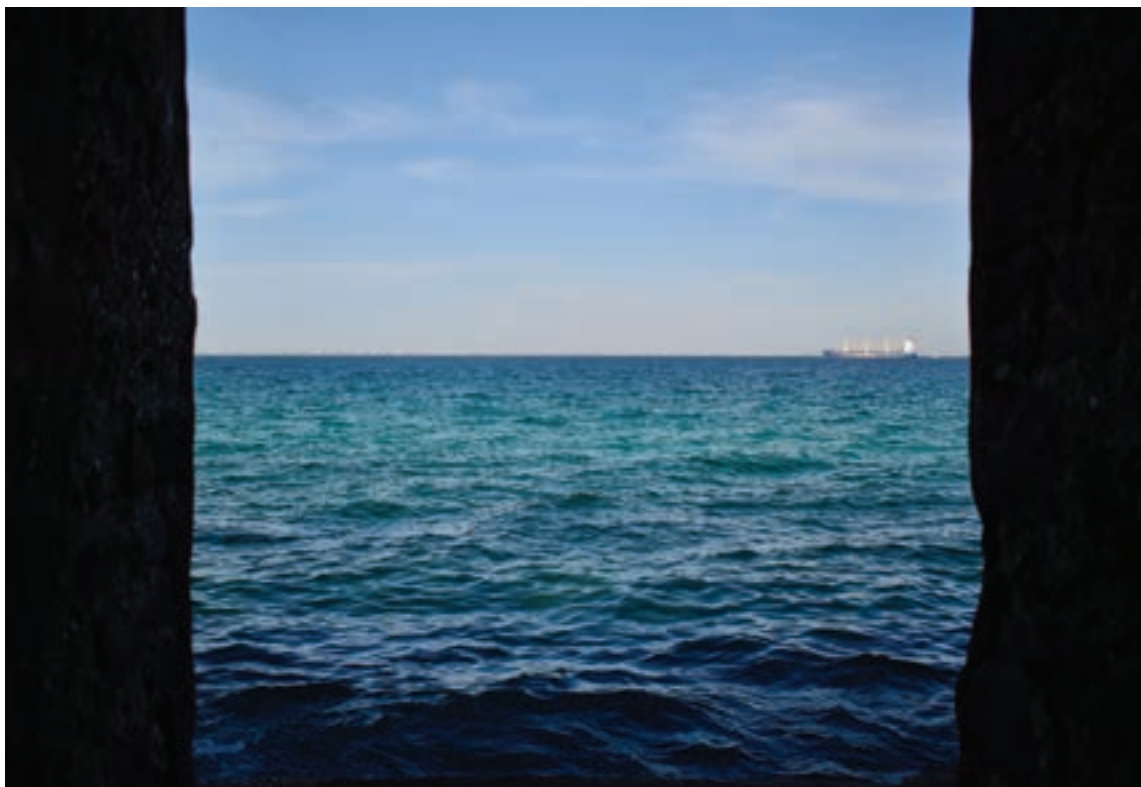
COST: Check the website for ticket price

SPONSOR: BroadStage

INFO: 310.434.3200, broadstage.org/tickets-shows/calendar/ladysmith-black-mambazo

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS



Amina AmXn, *When Ancestors Return to the Door of No Return: Goree Island, Senegal, African Diasporic Travel*, Digital photography, 16" x 20", 2023

ADRIAN DUNN'S RESURRECTION

Adrian Dunn's *Resurrection*, a large-scale choral work blending gospel, jazz, and classical traditions. Featuring the Adrian Dunn Singers, the performance explores themes of Black spirituality, liberation, and resilience. The work draws on sacred music traditions to reflect contemporary social narratives.

- WHEN:** February 28, 7:00 p.m.
SITE: Zipper Concert Hall, Colburn, 200 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
COST: See event website
SPONSOR: Colburn School
INFO: colburnschool.edu/calendar/events/adrian-dunn-singers

AKHNATEN

Philip Glass's *Akhnaton* is a visionary opera that reimagines the reign of the Egyptian pharaoh with a minimalist score, striking visuals, and ritualistic staging. The production features stunning sets and costumes, and layered vocal writing in English, Ancient Egyptian, Biblical Hebrew, and Akkadian, with English subtitles. Multiple performances allow audiences to experience this landmark work in a major operatic presentation.

- WHEN:** February 28 – March 22, Saturdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 7:30, Sundays 2:00 p.m.
SITE: Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: LA Opera
INFO: 213.972.0711, laopera.org/performances/2026/akhnaton

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS

ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY GOSPEL MUSIC CONCERT AND HERITAGE PROGRAM

The program celebrates African American heritage through gospel music featuring multiple choirs and youth performers. The event fosters unity, cultural reflection, and spiritual expression within the community. Experience powerful performances rooted in tradition and collective memory.

- WHEN:** March 1, 3:00 p.m.
SITE: St. Brigid Catholic Church, 5214 South Western Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free Will Offering
SPONSOR: St. Brigid Gospel Music Directors
INFO: 323.292.0781, stbrigidchurchla.org

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA

The orchestra performs a program celebrating the legacy and evolution of jazz as an American art form. Led by acclaimed musicians, the ensemble presents classic repertoire alongside contemporary interpretations. The concert emphasizes virtuosity, swing, and ensemble excellence.

- WHEN:** March 6, 7:30 p.m.
SITE: Luckman Fine Arts Complex, Cal State Los Angeles, 5151 State University Dr., Los Angeles
COST: Check website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: The Luckman Fine Arts Complex
INFO: 323.343.6600, ticketmaster.com/jazz-at-lincoln-center-los-angeles-california-02-13-2026/event/0B00632BA3D2177B

ALCÉE CHRISS III: ORGAN RECITAL

A featured star in the PBS documentary *Pipe Dreams*, the Texas-born keyboardist has won international competitions from Miami to Montreal. Now, he makes his Walt Disney Concert Hall debut on the monumental “Hurricane Mama” organ with music from Bach to Broadway and beyond.

- WHEN:** March 15, 7:30 p.m.
SITE: Walt Disney Concert Hall, 111 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket price
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Phil
INFO: 323.850.2000, laphil.com/events/performances/3747/2026-03-15/alcee-chriss-iii

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY EVENTS

ONLINE

GHETTO FILM SCHOOL AND HUNTINGTON PARTNERSHIP

The online series features films created by Ghetto Film School students in response to The Huntington's collections. Each cohort interprets artworks, archives, and landscapes through original cinematic storytelling. The program highlights youth perspectives and the power of creative interpretation in reimagining history.

- WHEN:** Ongoing
SITE: The Huntington - Online
COST: Free
SPONSOR: The Huntington
INFO: 626.405.2100, huntington.org/ghetto-film-school-huntington-partnership

BACKSTAGE: AN UNFURLING OF THE JOHNSON PUBLISHING COMPANY BLACK ARCHIVES AND MEMORY

This presentation focuses on the company's archival practices and the preservation of decades of Black cultural history, highlighting the contributions of archivist Doris Saunders and the significance of the photographic record. Gain insight into memory, documentation, and media representation.

- WHEN:** Ongoing
SITE: The Getty Center - Online
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Getty Research Institute
INFO: 310.440.7300, youtube.com/watch?v=PHsfufOyFlc

BLACK HISTORY MONTH COLLECTION

The streaming collection features films and documentaries exploring Black history, culture, and social movements. Curated categories highlight arts, identity, political leaders, and community narratives. Viewers can stream content using a public library or university login.

- WHEN:** Ongoing
SITE: Kanopy
COST: Free with a library card
SPONSOR: Kanopy, Los Angeles Public Library, Los Angeles County Library
INFO: kanopy.com/en/category/40898



Jasimen Phillips, *Sweet Potato Pie Input*, Acrylic on canvas, 11" x 14", 2025



2026

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

IN THE STUDIO AND IN THE COMMUNITY AFRICAN AMERICAN VISUAL ARTISTS SHAPING CULTURE IN LA

As we celebrate African American Heritage Month, we're proud and honored to uplift and highlight a small but powerful cross-section of artists whose work reflects the depth, diversity, and dynamism of our communities.

Selected at random from the artwork featured in this publication are the voices of artists who offer unique perspectives that span genres, disciplines, and cultural expressions. While their stories are just a glimpse into the richness of African American artistic voices in Los Angeles, each one invites us to reflect, connect, and celebrate. These spotlights are just a few of the many viewpoints shaping our shared cultural landscape. For a full listing of artists featured in the publication, please see page 151.

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

VISUAL ARTISTS SHAPING CULTURE IN LA

KARIEN ZACHERY



As a multi-media artist, my work includes painting, sculpting, woodcarving, mixed media, water feature designs, and music. I weave my African American heritage into each piece, balancing radical vision with conventional technique.

I find inspiration in simple truths that connect personal experience to broader cultural issues. As Nina Simone, the legendary singer, pianist, songwriter, and civil rights activist, said, “an artist’s duty, as far as I’m concerned, is to reflect the times.”

All: **Karien Zachery**, at left: the artist in her studio; at center: the artist; at right: detail from *The Healer*, Oil painting, 20” x 30”, 2003

DJIBIL DRAMÉ



I am a multidisciplinary visual artist focusing on Black identity, cultural memory, and self-definition. Through my art, I honor resilience, illuminate presence, and reflect the complexities of being seen and understood. Drawing inspiration from African American history, everyday Black life, and ancestral stories, I channel these influences into my creative process. Community, music, and moments of quiet contemplation further guide my artistic approach.

I’ve had the opportunity to exhibit my work in community and institutional spaces, where it has been supported and recognized for its cultural and narrative focus. I’m currently developing new work that continues to explore themes of heritage, identity, and representation, which I look forward to sharing with the public.

All: **Djibil Dramé**, at left: the artist; at right: detail from *Women’s Prayers are God’s Prayer*, Digital photography, 25” x 17”, 2015

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

VISUAL ARTISTS SHAPING CULTURE IN LA

BRANDON BARRY BROWN



I am a classically trained oil painter with a focus on portraiture and stories of the lived experiences, struggles, and triumphs of Black and underrepresented people in America.

Rooted in a commitment to representing the diverse narratives within our communities, my art delves into the complexities of race, culture, and freedom, offering a nuanced reflection of our shared humanity. I aim to challenge conventional narratives and disrupt the prevailing stereotypes that have long marginalized and misrepresented my community. Each stroke of my brush, every line and contour, is imbued with intentionality, seeking to reclaim and redefine the imagery of blackness in art.

All: **Brandon Barry Brown**, at left: detail from *Original Cowboy 2*, Oil on glass mirror on horse saddle, 18" x 24", 2025; at right: the artist at work in his studio.

JORA NELSTEIN



As an autodidactic artist, I create vibrant works guided by intuition and material, using acrylic paint on canvas, paper, aluminum, and wood. My practice moves between abstract and figurative landscapes, emphasizing the exploration of process.

I'm drawn to color, layering, and movement as a means of expressing my feelings. Inspiration often strikes unexpectedly — a certain mood, a shift in lighting, something that catches my eye, or being in awe of another artist's work. When something connects with me emotionally, it naturally finds its way into the beginning of a painting. From there on, it starts to take on a life of its own.

All: **Jora Nelstein**, above: detail from *Re-emerge Amoeba*, Acrylic on aluminum, 12"x 12", 2024 ; page 96, the artist in her studio.

STOP KILLING
BLACK PEOPLE

DON'T TOUCH MY HAIR

WHAT MAKE YOU SO AFRAID OF ME

ON THE PULSE OF MORNING

RIOT
THE
LANGUAGE
OF THE
UPHEAVAL



KINKIER

racial profiling

White
Slavery =
Violence

Vision and...



2026

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

LITERARY ARTISTS

The Department of Cultural Affairs is pleased to present the works of several fine writers in the *2026 African American Heritage Month Calendar and Cultural Guide*. The writers are: **Michelle Andrea Bracken, Connie Johnson, Joy Parris, Lee Pulley, Helena Donato Sapp, Valerie Ayres Wallick, and C. Jerome Woods.**

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES LITERARY ARTISTS

THE JAM SESSION

By Connie Johnson

I got to hear you sing
At a packed club on Crenshaw Boulevard
In LA: jazzy vibe diversified / joined
In our love for all things jazz
And blues.

Riffs like a flutter of birds!
We congregated / laughter boisterous
Blessings abundant / all jazz heard
'Round here a jubilant shout / blues
Mementos / heritage of our
Awakening.

Sumptuous!
Your soul's replica / gritty lines
To a jam that Dinah Washington
Would have swung on a Sunday night:
"I can sing anything, anything at all."

And so could you, LA diva!
In a spontaneous jam session that
Promised to ignite / this was the feast
Of jazz and blues recollection / this is
Where we all gathered
To partake.

SELF FORGIVENESS

By Lee Pulley

I stand in the mirror
until my beauty comes into focus
seeing beyond critical visions of myself
embracing God's reflection.

I call out to forgiveness
releasing the need to punish myself
or make myself suffer.
Whether through my own hands
or by the hands of another.

I embrace love,
without the attachment to loss.

I dismantle endless agreements
to walk in an identity
that's soaked in trauma and pain.

I release demons
that disguise themselves as healing
meditative thoughts
that loop over and over again
causing unrest and undeserved misery
bargaining with shame and guilt.

I purge self-disdain,
emptying my soul of burdens
I never earned
yet silently agreed to carry.

I allow the sun to warm my face
without the calling to be burned.

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES LITERARY ARTISTS

STICKS AND STONES

(Pelourinho. If these rocks could speak, what would they say?)

By **C. Jerome Woods**

Spirits roam
Souls run
In the city below
Beneath the Mercado Modelo

On the streets
What music would play
Giberto Gil, Olodum
Ladainha, berimbau, Bob Marley

Would children play soccer
With dolls, fabric of mysteria
Would there be kente
Or cowrie and stories from Nigeria

Would cries be heard in Yoruba
Representing Ibo, Hausa, the dead,
 Cameroon to Benin
One people, united voices, legions of warriors
Resurrecting stone mason, kings and queens

LOVE BECOMES YOU

By **Joy Parris**

Love becomes you,
It becomes you when you give and share
 unconditionally
It becomes you when you let go of anger, envy,
 and pride
It becomes you when you see the sunset and
 sunrise, and marvel at the beauty in
the world

It becomes you when you watch a baby smile,
 and you are reflected in their eyes
It becomes you when you sit still and feel the
 beating of your heart, and you are
grateful for this gift called life

It becomes you when you can say I love you to
 someone every day and really
mean it
It becomes you when you can let go of fear and
 allow yourself to feel
It becomes you when you open your heart
Love becomes you.



Sage Whitson, *Ceremony for the Unnamed (San Diego)*, from *Illumination Catalogue*, C-print, 10" x 7.5", 2023

WEEDER

By **Michelle Andrea Bracken**

I've been pulling weeds. Proud of myself
For pulling so many out, roots and all.
I use my gloved hand to tug gently at the stem,
Until I feel the root hairs let go of the soft, moist soil, Then toss it all into the bin
Never to be seen again.

Tell me which ones to pull.
I'm not sure what some have done
To be unceremoniously yanked up and thrown away.

I don't need to know. I don't need to know.
I sit on my flat rock and clear a circular space around me As wide as my arm can reach.
My ungloved hand has a fresh herbal smell. How long will it last?

Let me not think about the politics that permeate and linger in every other aspect of life.
I have argued my opinions, Prayed my beliefs, and Voted my convictions.
I still have them, but
I am told that over half the country is in violent disagreement.

The weeds do not argue, pray, or vote. Neither do they foment insurrection.
They do not object to being called "weeds,"
While other plants are spoken of in more loving terms.

There are wars and rumors of wars,
But I sit on my flat rock with the sun on my face, In this cleared space
With the herbal scent on my left hand, on my shirt, in the air, And I can breathe.

RESISTANCE

By **Helena Donato-Sapp**

Identity is resistance.
I decide who I am and how I name myself.
I will not be diminished.
I love all of my identities.

Memory is resistance.
I remember who loves me deep and pure.
I remember your compliments,
and your smile and hugs.
I remember how you made me feel,
how you championed me.
And I also remember those who only offered me unkindness.
I remember that time you put me down,
that time you made me feel less-than,
that time you excluded me,
and how you tried to erase me.
Memory is resistance.
Don't think I will forget.

Imagination is resistance.
I dream a new world of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
I imagine a future filled with kind, deep friendships.

Authentic self-expression is resistance.
Creativity is resistance.

My Spirit is resistance.
A Spirit that allows people to maintain their humanity.
A Spirit that will not be broken by this political moment.
The Spirit of kindness is resistance to a brutal, barbaric world.

Allyship is resistance.
Protect the Dolls.
Trans rights are human rights.
Gender is a galaxy.

Music is resistance.
We use song to sustain our spirits.
Music gives us strength to go on.
Songs help us combat dehumanization.
I heard that there's a special place
where boys and girls can all be queens every single day.

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES LITERARY ARTISTS

Black joy is resistance.
Unbridled joy in the face of anti-Blackness
is resistance.
Laughter is resistance.

Disability justice is resistance.
Disability rights and inclusion is resistance.
Including the voices of the disabled is resistance.
The government may try to silence our voices,
to lock us back in institutions,
to legislate against us,
but our collective voices are resistance.

Compassion is resistance
in this cruel world.
Compassion is an antidote to suffering.

Documenting is resistance.
Oppressors want to hide their violences
so note each oppression.
Tell everything
and bring evil doers to the light of day.
Exposing is resistance.

Writing is resistance.
Writing is both information and inspiration.
Word by word
and deed by deed
write the truth of those who lead.
And tell the tales
of evil intentions
and expose it all with ink and paper.

Love is resistance.
Friendship is resistance.
We are all creative,
we are all artists.
Friends give me space to speak and process,
and I am safe in their arms.
They listen
and the listening heals me.
Love is our forcefield.
Love is resistance.

Poetry is resistance.
Poetry is unpredictable.
Poetry is hard to control.
Poetry calls out
and talks back to inhumanity.
Poetry can't be contained
and that makes poetry dangerous.
Poetry is the nurse of abuse.
Our resistance is hidden in the rhyme.

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CITY OF LOS ANGELES LITERARY ARTISTS



Valena Broussard Dismukes, *Woman*, Digital photography, 8" x 10", 1995

ALONE

By C. Jerome Woods

Solitude
And slumber
Give me clout
With the ancestors

They give me resolve
And respite
I am aligned
With the Almighty.

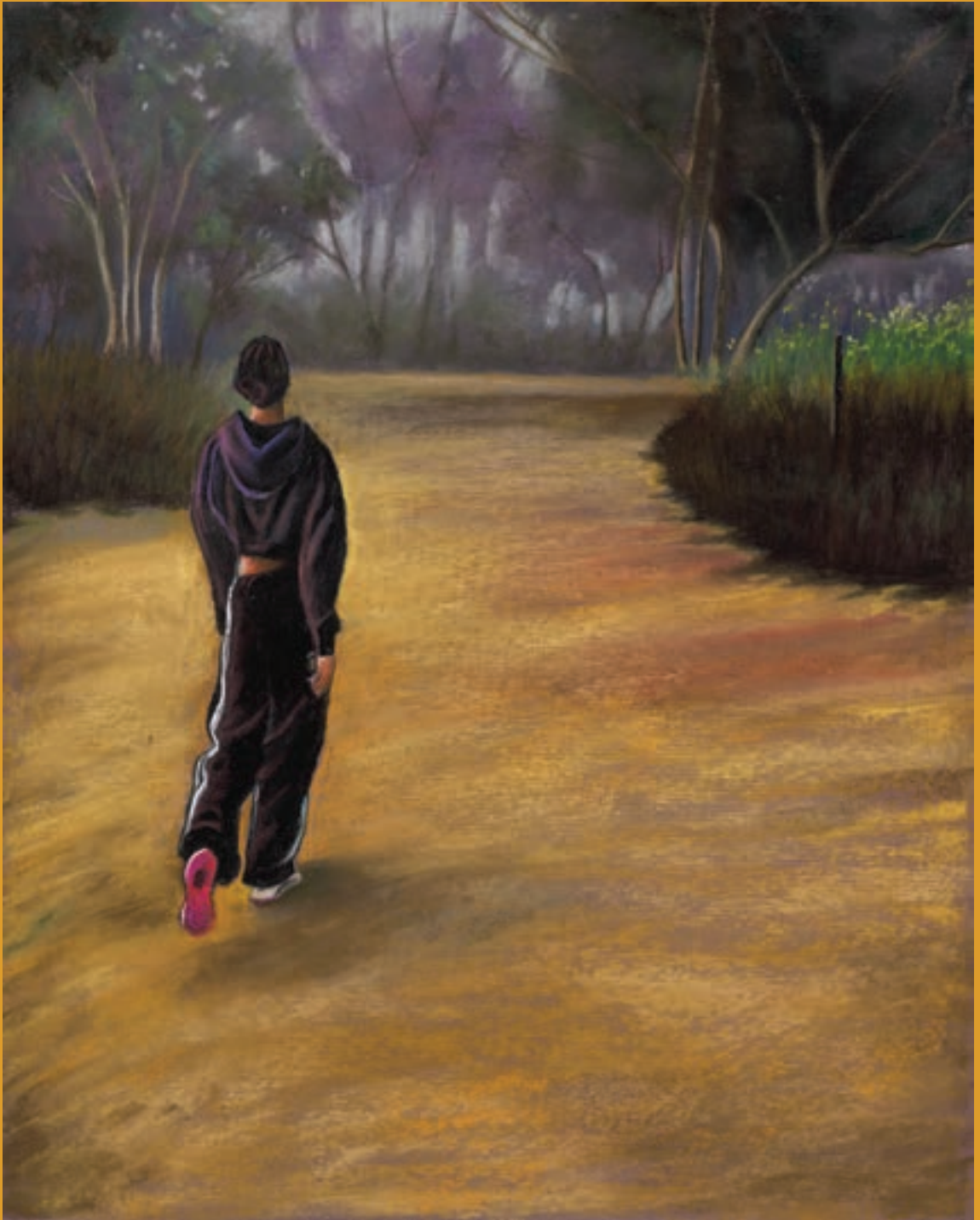
HAIKU

By Valerie Ayres Wallick

Lake before us still—
shoulders touch, unknown calls near
together we stand



Jora Nelstein, *Being herself*, Acrylic on canvas, 16" x 16", 2025



Sylvia Woolridge, *Kenneth Hahn Park*, Soft pastel, 16" x 20", 2025

2026

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

SUGGESTED READING

In celebration of African American Heritage Month, we present the following reading selections for elementary, middle, high school and adult readers. The Department of Cultural Affairs would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the librarians of the Los Angeles Public Library for providing an exceptional collection of literature in honor of African American Heritage Month. We thank you for empowering readers of all ages to explore and appreciate the profound legacy of Black heritage, history, and culture.

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUGGESTED READING



Linda Ternoir, *Barack Obama To Me*, Acrylic paint on canvas, 36" x 36", 2009

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.—EARLY READERS

CORETTA

Written by **Coretta Scott King** and Illustrated by **Ekua Holmes**
Publisher: Godwin Books

Adapted from her adult memoir, this is the autobiography of Coretta Scott King--wife of Martin Luther King, Jr., founder of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change (the King Center), and twentieth-century American civil and human rights activist.

BE A KING: DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S DREAM AND YOU

Written by **Carole Boston Weatherford** and Illustrated by **James E. Ransome**
Publisher: Bloomsbury USA Childrens

You can be a King. Stamp out hatred. Put your foot down and walk tall. Beat the drum for justice. March to your own conscience. A dual narrative of the key moments of Dr. King's life, the poetic text encapsulates the moments that readers today can reenact in their own lives. See a class of young students as they begin a school project inspired by Dr. King and learn to follow his example, as he dealt with adversity and never lost hope that a future of equality and justice would soon be a reality. As times change, Dr. King's example remains, encouraging a new generation of children to take charge and change the world.

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUGGESTED READING



Maggie Weems, *Girl With Three Dogs*, Acrylic on canvas, 16" x 20", 2025

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.—MIDDLE READERS

THE DAY KING DIED: REMEMBERED THROUGH TWO VOICES AND A CHOIR

Written by: **Ann Busbaum**
Publisher: Reycraft Books

When Martin Luther King, Jr. arrived in Memphis on April 3, 1968, no one knew he would be killed the next day. When he gave his famous “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” speech, no one knew it would be his last. And when the world learned of his death, no one knew exactly how deeply his legacy would live on. Interwoven with excerpts from “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” and “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” (the song played at King’s funeral), the book recounts the last 24 hours of the prolific activist’s life while reminding us how his teachings continue to endure.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Written by **Laurie Calkhoven**
Publisher: DK

In this biography, discover the amazing story of Martin Luther King, Jr., whose powerful words and dreams for the future inspired the world. Dr. King will always be remembered for his famous “I Have a Dream” speech, which he gave during the March on Washington in 1963. But his life before and after that big event, and his other enormous contributions to the Civil Rights Movement in the United States, largely go unspoken. In this biography for kids ages 8-12, learn all about MLK—from his early family life and experiences in education to his untimely death and the worldwide mourning and riots that followed.

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUGGESTED READING



Amina AmXn, *Soccer in Mombasa, Kenya: African Diasporic Travel*, Digital photography, 16" x 20", 2023

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.—MIDDLE READERS, CONTINUED

AIN'T GONNA LET NOBODY TURN ME 'ROUND: MY STORY OF THE MAKING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Written by **Kathlyn J. Kirkwood** and Illustrated by **Steffi Walthall**

Publisher: Versify, an imprint of Harper Collins Publishers

This moving memoir-in-verse tells about what it means to be an everyday activist and foot soldier for racial justice, as Kathlyn recounts how she went from attending protests as a teenager to fighting as an adult for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday to become a national holiday.

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUGGESTED READING

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.—HIGH SCHOOL READERS

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

Written by **Autumn Allen**

Publisher: Kokila, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC

In April 1968, in the wake of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, Kevin joins a protest that shuts down his Ivy League campus. In September 1995, amidst controversy over the Million Man March, Gibran challenges the “See No Color” hypocrisy of his prestigious New England prep school. As the two students, whose lives overlap in powerful ways, risk losing the opportunities their parents worked hard to provide, they move closer to discovering who they want to be instead of accepting as fact who society and family tell them they are.

MARCH: BOOK ONE

Written by **John Lewis, Andrew Aydin** and Illustrated by **Nate Powell**

Publisher: Top Shelf Productions

March: Book One is the first volume in a nonfiction graphic novel trilogy that chronicles the life of civil rights leader John Lewis. The book details his early years, his involvement in the Civil Rights Movement, and his relationship with Martin Luther King, Jr. It combines personal narrative with historical events, providing readers with an engaging and educational experience about the struggles for civil rights in America.

DEAR MARTIN

Written by **Nic Stone**

Publisher: Crown Books for Young Readers

Justyce McAllister is at the top of his class with a promising future lying ahead—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. Despite leaving his rough neighborhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a project writing letters to Dr. King, hoping to understand and navigate these challenges. Then comes the day Justyce goes driving with his best friend, Manny, windows rolled down, music turned up—way up, sparking the fury of a white off-duty cop beside them.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., THE LAST INTERVIEW AND OTHER CONVERSATIONS

Written by: **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Publisher: Melville House

As the Black Lives Matter movement gains momentum, and books like Ta-Nehisi Coates's *Between the World and Me* and Claudia Rankine's *Citizen* swing national attention toward the racism and violence that continue to poison communities, it's as urgent now as ever to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr., whose insistence on equality and peace defined the Civil Rights Movement and forever changed the course of American history. This collection ranges from an early 1961 interview in which King describes his reasons for joining the ministry (after considering medicine), to a 1964 conversation with Robert Penn Warren, to his last interview, which was conducted on stage at the convention of the Rabbinical Assembly, just ten days before his assassination.



Adeola Davies-Aiyeloja, *U B-OWL VISIT*, Cyanotype on textile, 11" x 8", 2025

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUGGESTED READING



Candice Hunter, *Sanctuary Here III*, Phototransfer and collage elements on barnyard slats, 30" x 14", 2016

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.—ADULT READERS

ALABAMA V. KING: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AND THE CRIMINAL TRIAL THAT LAUNCHED THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Written by **Dan Abrams**

Publisher: Hanover Square Press

The defense lawyer for Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, the Selma marchers, and other civil rights heroes reveals the true story of the historic trial that made Dr. King a national hero. Fred D. Gray was just twenty-four years old when he became the defense lawyer for Dr. King. In this incredible history, Gray takes us behind the scenes of that landmark case. *Alabama v. King* captures a pivotal moment in the fight for equality, from the eyes of the lawyer who Dr. King called “the brilliant young leader” who later became the chief counsel for the protest movement.

KING: A LIFE

Written by **Jonathan Eig**

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux

In this landmark biography, Eig gives us a Martin Luther King, Jr. for our times: a deep thinker, a brilliant strategist, and a committed radical who led one of history’s greatest movements, and whose demands for racial and economic justice remain as urgent today as they were in his lifetime.

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUGGESTED READING

CIVIL RIGHTS & SLAVERY—EARLY READERS

FIGHTING WITH LOVE: THE LEGACY OF JOHN LEWIS

Written by **Lesa Cline-Ransome** and Illustrated by **James E. Ransome**
Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

The story of groundbreaking civil rights leader, John Lewis. Lewis left a cotton farm in Alabama to join the fight for civil rights as a teenager. He soon became a leader of a movement that changed a nation. Walking at the side of his mentor, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Lewis was led by his belief in peaceful action and voting rights.

THE DAY MADEAR VOTED

Written by **Wade Hudson** and Illustrated by **Don Tate**
Publisher: Nancy Paulsen Books

In 1969, a Black woman brings her two little boys along when she exercises her right to vote for the first time. Wade Hudson and Don Tate give young readers a warm family story as well as a powerful glimpse into the struggle that had to be waged to achieve a fundamental right of citizenship.

GO FORTH AND TELL: THE LIFE OF AUGUSTA BAKER, LIBRARIAN AND MASTER STORYTELLER

Written by **Breanna J. McDaniel** and Illustrated by **April Harrison**
Publisher: Dial Books for Young Readers

A luminous picture book biography about librarian and storyteller Augusta Baker, the first Black coordinator of children's services at all branches of the New York Public library.

HOW DO YOU SPELL UNFAIR?: MACNOLIA COX AND THE NATIONAL SPELLING BEE

Written by **Carole Boston Weatherford** and Illustrated by **Frank Morrison**
Publisher: Candlewick Press

In 1936, eighth grader MacNolia Cox became the first African American to win the Akron, Ohio, spelling bee. And with that win, she was asked to compete at the prestigious National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC, where she and a girl from New Jersey were the first African Americans invited since its founding. She left her home state a celebrity—right up there with Ohio's own Joe Louis and Jesse Owens—with a military band and a crowd of thousands to see her off at the station. But celebration turned cold when the train crossed the state line into Maryland, where segregation was the law of the land. Prejudice and discrimination ruled—on the train, in the hotel, and, sadly, at the spelling bee itself. *How Do You Spell Unfair?* is the story of Cox's groundbreaking achievement.



2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUGGESTED READING



Nijel Binns, *Marcus Garvey*, Bronze, 24", 2022

CIVIL RIGHTS & SLAVERY—MIDDLE READERS

BARRACOOON: ADAPTED FOR YOUNG READERS

Written by **Zora Neale Hurston**, adapted by **Ibram X. Kendi**, and Illustrated by **Jazzmen Lee-Johnson**
Publisher: HarperCollins

Young readers are introduced to the remarkable and true-life story of Cudjo Lewis, one of the last survivors of the Atlantic human trade, in an adaptation of the internationally bestselling and critically acclaimed *Barracoon*. This is Lewis' life story, as told by himself. Of the millions of men, women, and children transported from Africa to America to be enslaved, eighty-six-year-old Cudjo Lewis was then the only person alive to tell the story of his capture and bondage—fifty years after the Atlantic human trade was outlawed in the United States. Cudjo shared his firsthand account with legendary folklorist, anthropologist, and writer Zora Neale Hurston.

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUGGESTED READING



J.J. Anderson, *Sometimes I Feel Like I Am Almost Home*, Digital video, analog video, and 8mm film transferred to digital video, color, sound, 2025

A VOICE OF HOPE: THE MYRLIE EVERS-WILLIAMS STORY

Written by **Nadia Salomon** and Illustrated by **London Ladd**
Publisher: Philomel, an imprint of Penguin Random House

Myrlie Evers-Williams’ voice is gentle yet strong, soft yet powerful. Her story is a soaring song of hope. Myrlie’s voice didn’t start out that way. She was born into the segregated South and the beautiful brown color of her skin made her a target for hate. This resulted in her not having the same opportunities as white children, and that meant her dream of one day playing music on stage would be harder to achieve. But this didn’t stop Myrlie. As she grew, she marched for equal rights alongside her husband and activist, Medgar Evers. She fought against Jim Crow laws and for voting rights. She became the chair of the NAACP, and finally she realized her dream of performing at Carnegie Hall. After that, as a voice for hope and change, Myrlie spoke at President Obama’s second inauguration, inspiring a nation.

BOX: HENRY BROWN MAILES HIMSELF TO FREEDOM

Written by **Carole Boston Weatherford** and Illustrated by **Michele Wood**
Publisher: Candlewick Press

A moving, lyrical tale about the cost and fragility of freedom, a New York Times best-selling author and an acclaimed artist follow the life of a man who courageously shipped himself out of slavery. Henry Brown wrote that, long before he came to be known as Box, he “entered the world a slave.” He was put to work as a child and passed down from one generation to the next—as property. When he was an adult, his wife and children were sold away from him out of spite. What more could be taken from him? But then hope—and help—came in the form of the Underground Railroad. Escape! The book is augmented with historical records and an introductory excerpt from Henry’s own writing as well as a timeline, notes from the author and illustrator, and a bibliography.



2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUGGESTED READING

CIVIL RIGHTS & SLAVERY—HIGH SCHOOL READERS

DRED SCOTT V. SANDFORD: SLAVERY AND FREEDOM BEFORE THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

Written by **Amy Van Zee**
Publisher: ABDO Publishing

The US Supreme Court is the head of the judicial branch of the federal government, and is the highest court in the land, with thousands of cases appealed to it every year. One of those history-making cases was *Dred Scott v. Sanford*, which addressed slavery and freedom before the Civil War began. Follow this case from beginning to end, including the social and political climates that led up to it and the effects the case had after the court made its ruling.

AMAZONS, ABOLITIONISTS, AND ACTIVISTS: A GRAPHIC HISTORY OF WOMEN'S FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS

Written by **Mikki Kendall** and Illustrated by **A. D'Amico**; Colors by **Shari Chankhamma**; and, Letters by **Erica Schultz**
Publisher: Berkeley, California : Ten Speed Press, [2019]

The ongoing struggle for women's rights has spanned human history, touched nearly every culture on Earth, and encompassed a wide range of issues, such as the right to vote, work, get an education, own property, exercise bodily autonomy, and beyond. *Amazons, Abolitionists, and Activists* is a fun and fascinating graphic novel-style primer that covers the key figures and events that have advanced women's rights from antiquity to the modern era. .

HE CAME TO SLAY: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF HARRIET TUBMAN

Written and Illustrated by **Erica Armstrong Dunbar**
Publisher: Simon and Schuster

A lively, informative, and illustrated tribute to one of the most exceptional women in American history—Harriet Tubman—a heroine whose fearlessness and activism still resonate today. Best known as one of the most famous conductors on the Underground Railroad, and a leading abolitionist, her bravery and selflessness has inspired generations in the continuing struggle for civil rights. Not only did Tubman help liberate hundreds of slaves, she was the first woman to lead an armed expedition during the Civil War, worked as a spy for the Union Army, was a fierce suffragist, and was an advocate for the aged. The book reveals the many complexities and varied accomplishments of one of our nation's true heroes and offers an accessible and modern interpretation of Tubman's life.

GROWING UP IN SLAVERY: STORIES OF YOUNG SLAVES AS TOLD BY THEMSELVES

Edited by **Yuval Taylor**
Publisher: Lawrence Hill Books

Ten individuals — all under the age of 19 — tell their stories of enslavement, brutality, and dreams of freedom in this collection. Culled from full-length autobiographies, these accounts were selected to help teenagers understand the horrific experiences of people their own age who were torn from their mothers and families, suffered from starvation, and were whipped and tortured. But these are not all tales of deprivation and violence. Teenagers will see themselves in these accounts as the people who are enslaved challenge authority, play games, tell jokes, and fall in love. These stories cover the range of the experience of enslavement, from the passage in slave ships across the Atlantic to daily life in slavery both on large plantations and in small city dwellings, and from escaping slavery to fighting in the Civil War.



2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUGGESTED READING

CIVIL RIGHTS & SLAVERY—ADULT READERS

JAMES

Written by Percival Everett
Publisher: Doubleday

A retelling of Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* from the point of view of Jim, Huck's enslaved traveling companion on a raft trip down the Mississippi River. Many of the events in Twain's story occur in this version, but with a different slant on their significance. Jim's narrative reveals that he has secretly taught himself to read, and that he and other slaves speak in normal English when they are alone with each other and only use "slave talk" dialect when white people are around, to give the impression that they are simple and submissive. Eventually, Jim also confesses the surprising reason for his protective attitude toward Huck.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF HANNAH CRAFTS: THE TRUE STORY OF THE BONDWOMAN'S NARRATIVE

Written by Gregg Hecimovich
Publisher: Ecco

A groundbreaking study of the first Black female novelist and her life as an enslaved woman, from the biographer who solved the mystery of her identity, with a foreword by Henry Louis Gates Jr. *The Bondwoman's Narrative* is the only known novel by an enslaved woman. It was never published during her lifetime but was rediscovered years later in a New Jersey attic. When Gates bought the manuscript and arranged for its publication in 2002, it became a bestseller.

THE COLOR OF ABOLITION: HOW A PRINTER, A PROPHET, AND A CONTESSA MOVED A NATION

Written by: Linda R. Hirshman
Publisher: Mariner Books

The fascinating, yet fraught, alliance of Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, and Maria Weston Chapman. In the crucial early years of the abolition movement, the Boston branch of the cause seized upon the star power of the eloquent ex-slave Frederick Douglass to make its case for slaves' freedom. Journalist William Lloyd Garrison promoted emancipation, while Garrison loyalist Maria Weston Chapman, known as "the Contessa," raised money and managed Douglass's speaking tour. Conventional histories have seen Douglass's departure for the New York wing of the Abolition party as a result of a rift between Douglass and Garrison, but, this misses the influence of the woman in power, while analysis shows that the breakup had many causes. Eventually, as the most sought-after Black activist in America, Douglass was able to dangle the prize of his endorsement over the Republican Party's candidate for president, Abraham Lincoln.

PORTRAITS OF RESISTANCE: ACTIVATING ART DURING SLAVERY

Written by Jennifer Van Horn
Publisher: New Haven : Yale University Press, 2022

Revisiting the origins of portrait painting in the United States, this book reveals how mythologies of whiteness and of nation building erased the aesthetic production of enslaved Americans and obscured the portrait's importance as a site of resistance. Moving from the wharves of colonial Rhode Island to South Carolina townhouses during the Civil War, the book illuminates how enslaved people's relationships with portraits shaped the trajectory of African American art post-emancipation. The book is a significant intervention in the fields of American art and history, and also an important contribution to the reexamination of the racial constructs on which American culture was built.

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUGGESTED READING



Carole J. McCoy, *Guardian Protector*, Mixed media, digital painting, 2024

CIVIL RIGHTS & SLAVERY—ADULT READERS, CONTINUED

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Written by Colson Whitehead

Publisher: Doubleday

A winner of the Pulitzer Prize for fiction and the National Book Award, this work of alternate history takes place in a version of the antebellum South where the Underground Railroad—a system that assisted slaves in escaping to the North—is a literal underground railroad. Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape. Though they manage to find a station and head north, they are being hunted. Their first stop is a city in South Carolina that initially seems like a haven, but it's placid surface masks an insidious scheme designed for its Black denizens.

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUGGESTED READING



Djibril Dramé, *Peaceful Warriors*, Digital photography, 25" x 17", 2015

LIFE & CULTURE—EARLY READERS

THEY BUILT ME FOR FREEDOM: THE STORY OF JUNETEENTH AND HOUSTON'S EMANCIPATION PARK

Written by **Tonya Duncan Ellis** and Illustrated by **Jenin Mohammed**

Publisher: Balzer + Bray

This tale brings to life the 150-year story of Emancipation Park in Houston, Texas, and the origins of Juneteenth, this moving picture book, with lyrical text and vibrant artwork, is an ode to the struggle, triumph, courage and joy of Black America.

BLACK GIRL, BLACK GIRL: CELEBRATE THE POWER OF YOU

Written by **Ali Kamanda** and Illustrated by **Amanda Quartey**

Publisher: Sourcebooks Explore

From the first Black female Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris, to three-time Olympic gold medalist Wilma Rudolph, civil rights activist Claudette Colvin, and the first Black female astronaut, Mae Carol Jemison, there are so many inspirational women in Black history. This book is an uplifting and beautiful introduction to the strong women who have shaped history and encourages young Black girls to trust in their fierce spirit and magnificent grace.

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUGGESTED READING



Chidi Ukwuoma, *Mami Wata*, Earthenware and ceramic glaze, 12", x 7.5", x 4.5", 2025

LIFE & CULTURE—EARLY READERS, CONTINUED

MY DADDY IS A COWBOY

Written by **Stephanie Seales** and Illustrated by **C. G. Esperanza**
Publisher: Abrams

In the early hours before dawn, a young girl and her father greet their horses and ride together through the waking city streets. As they trot along, the father tells cowboy stories filled with fun and community, friendship, discovery, and pride. Seeing her city from a new vantage point and feeling seen in a new way, the child discovers that she too is a cowboy—strong and confident in who she is. This beautiful book celebrates joy, and the quality time spent between child and parent.

CROWNING GLORY: A CELEBRATION OF BLACK HAIR

Written by **Carole Boston Weatherford** and Illustrated by **Ekua Holmes**
Publisher: Candlewick Press

Black hair styles embody beauty and loving ritual, culture and community, expression and strength, patience and boundless creativity. The author and illustrator bring an array of gorgeous hair designs—and the individuals who wear them—to bold and powerful life. Readers curious to know more can find an author's note about the five Black women who made history in 2019 as title holders of five major beauty pageants, as well as a glossary describing some twenty hair styles (from Afro to updo) and other terms related to the glory of Black hair.



Toni Shaw, *A Father's Love*, Mosaic, stained glass. glass nuggets on wood, 18" x 24", 2025

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUGGESTED READING

LIFE & CULTURE—MIDDLE READERS

GHOST (TRACK SERIES BOOK #1)

Written by **Jason Reynolds**
Publisher: Simon and Schuster

Ghost, Lu, Patina, and Sunny are four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. The kids are chosen for an elite middle school track team. If they can get their acts together, they could qualify for the Junior Olympics. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other but to themselves. Ghost has been running for the wrong reasons—it all started with running away from his father, who chased him and his mother through their apartment, then down the street, with a loaded gun, aiming to kill. Since then, Ghost has been the one causing problems—and running away from them—until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic medalist who sees something in Ghost: crazy natural talent.

JOYFUL, JOYFUL: STORIES CELEBRATING BLACK VOICES

Edited by: **Dapo Adeola**
Publisher: St. Martin's Press

A color-illustrated collection of stories and poems celebrating joy, showcasing 40 talented Black writers and artists from across the world.

SWIM TEAM: A GRAPHIC NOVEL

Written and Illustrated by **Johnnie Christmas**
Publisher: HarperAlley, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

Bree can't wait for her first day at her new middle school, home to the Mighty Manatees—until she's stuck with the only elective that fits her schedule, the dreaded Swim 101. The thought of swimming makes Bree more than a little queasy, yet she's forced to dive into one of her greatest fears. Lucky for her, Etta, an elderly occupant of her apartment building and former swim team captain, is willing to help. With Etta's training and a lot of hard work, Bree suddenly finds her community counting on her to turn the school's team around. But that's easier said than done, especially when their rival school has everything they need to leave the Mighty Manatees in their wake. Can Bree defy the odds and guide her team to a championship, or has the team swum its last lap—for good?

CLOUDS OVER CALIFORNIA

Written by **Karyn Parsons**
Publisher: Little, Brown and Company

A moving and heartfelt novel about how a girl's family and friendships are turned upside down—just as the world is changing in 1970s Los Angeles.



Imani Tolliver, *The Stars Know us by Name*, Mixed-media, 2025

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUGGESTED READING



Nia Simone Lane, *What Else Are We to do But Dance?*, Mixed media on watercolor paper, 22" x 30", 2025

LIFE & CULTURE—HIGH SCHOOL READERS

GRANVILLE T. WOODS: AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION PIONEER

Written by **David L. Head**
Publisher: RoseDog Books

It began one autumn evening. David Head was viewing the PBS documentary *Transportation in America*, and he noticed the film made no mention of African American contributions. But he knew there was much to share. At that moment he determined his new purpose in life would be to share the extraordinary life and legacy of the amazing Granville T. Woods. The book showcases Woods' inspirational life and amazing innovative abilities and encourages youth to cultivate their own talents, to stay in school and seek higher education, to discern their abilities, and to pursue them as Woods did.

FORTY YEARS OF MEDICAL RACISM: THE TUSKEGEE EXPERIMENTS

Written by **Michael V. Uschan**
Publisher: Lucent Books

This informative book describes the history behind the "Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male," the study itself, and the uproar it created when the ethics behind the study were challenged.

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUGGESTED READING



Bernard Hoyes, *Mating Dance*, Collage on board, 30" x 40", 2022

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

Written by **James Marion Gray**
Publisher: Silver Burdett Press

The life and accomplishments of George Washington Carver, the former slave who became a scientist and devoted his career to helping the South improve its agriculture.

ROOTS OF TIME: A PORTRAIT OF AFRICAN LIFE AND CULTURE

Written by **Margo Jefferson** and **Elliott P. Skinner** and Illustrated by **Jerry Pinckney**
Publisher: Africa World Press

This book discusses various socio-economic aspects of life, birth, childhood, economics, marriage, family relationships, politics, society, religion, and art common to many native African people.

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUGGESTED READING

LIFE & CULTURE—ADULT READERS

FANTASIES OF NINA SIMONE

Written by **Jordan Alexander Stein**
Publisher: Durham : Duke University Press, 2024.

The author uses an archive of Nina Simone’s performances, images, and writings to think through the space between our collective and individual fantasies about Simone the performer, Civil Rights activist and icon, and her own fantasies about herself.

BLACK BOX: WRITING THE RACE

Written by **Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**
Publisher: Penguin Press

A magnificent, foundational reckoning with how Black Americans have used the written word to define and redefine themselves, in resistance to the lies of racism and often in heated disagreement with each other, over the course of the country’s history.

THE ART OF REMEMBERING: ESSAYS ON AFRICAN AMERICAN ART AND HISTORY

Written by **Gwendolyn DuBois Shaw**
Publisher: Durham : Duke University Press, 2024.

This book explores African American art and representation from the height of the British colonial period to the present, seeking out the recovery of facts and narratives of African American creativity and self-representation that have been purposefully set aside, actively ignored, and disremembered. The book analyses the work of artists ranging from Scipio Moorhead, Moses Williams, and Aaron Douglas to Barbara Chase-Riboud, Kara Walker, Kehinde Wiley, and Deana Lawson, the author demonstrates that African American art and history may be remembered and understood anew.

BLACK TITAN: A.G. GASTON AND THE MAKING OF A BLACK AMERICAN MILLIONAIRE

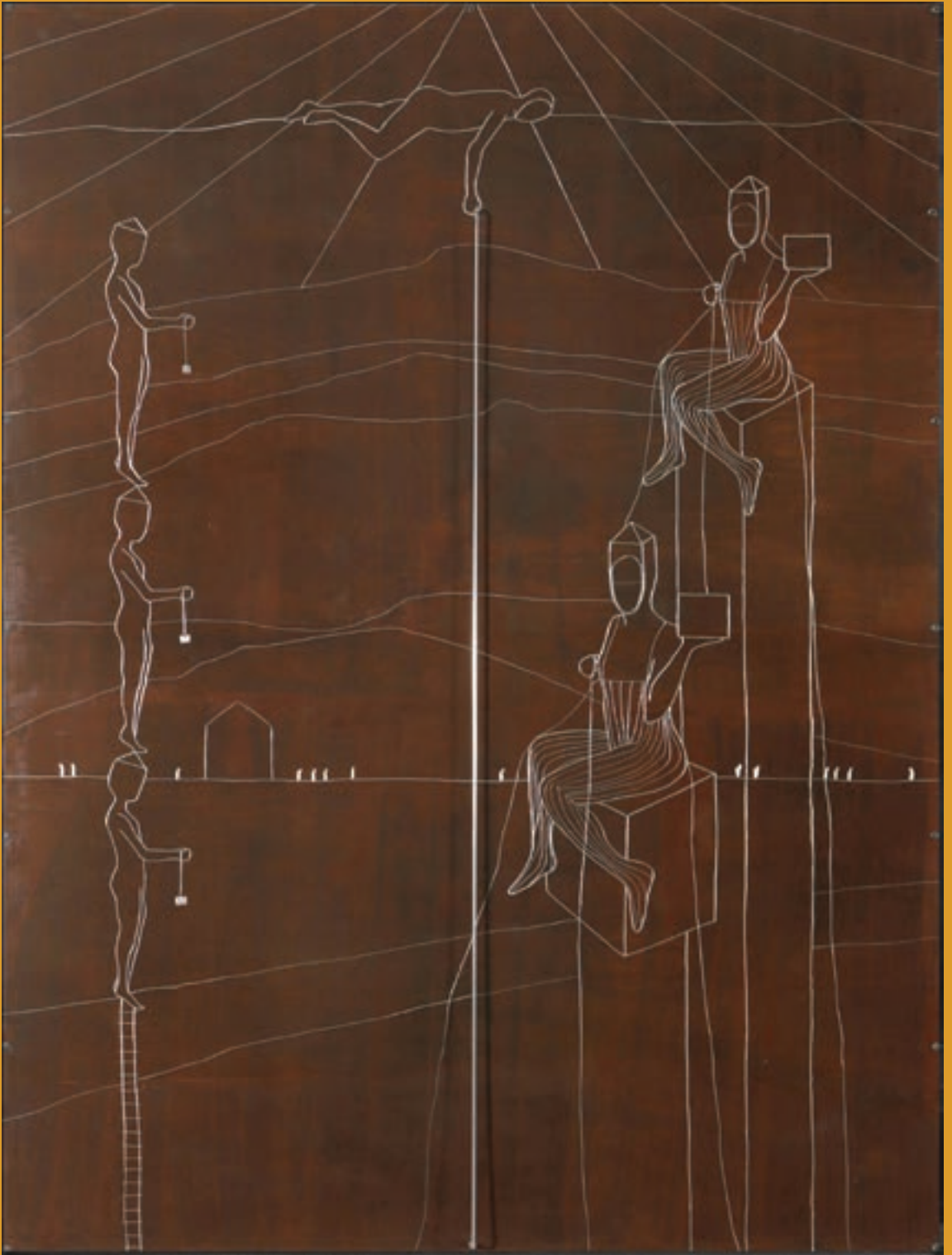
Written by **Carol Jenkins**
Publisher: One World/Ballantine Books

Born at a time when the bitter legacy of slavery and Reconstruction still poisoned the lives of black Americans, Gaston was determined to make a difference. His first job, after serving in the celebrated all-black regiment during World War I, bound him to the near-slavery of an Alabama coal mine—but even here Gaston saw not only hope but opportunity. He launched a business selling lunches to fellow miners, soon established a rudimentary bank—and from then on there was no stopping him. At the time of his death in 1996, A.G. Gaston was one of the wealthiest black men in America, if not the wealthiest, but his legacy extends far beyond the monetary.

THE AMERICOLA STORY

Written by **Andrew Manley**
Publisher: Manley Movie Productions, LLC

The AmeriCola Story is an autobiographical account of one black man’s struggle for equal opportunity in the then racially divided business community of Los Angeles. This riveting novel is the true story behind the first black owned soft drink company.



Francesca Lalanne, *Watchtower*, Engraved oxidized steel, steel rod, steel artist frame, 36.5" x 48.5" x 1.75", 2024



Riea Owens, *When You're A Girl Dad*, Acrylic on canvas, 16"x20", 2024

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUGGESTED READING

RECIPES & ENTERTAINING

ENTERTAINING IDEAS FROM THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN KITCHEN: RECIPES AND TRADITIONS FOR HOLIDAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Written by **Angela Shelf Medearis**
Publisher: Dutton

A book of customs, lore, and food, it offers a year's worth of recipes and party-planning suggestions for all occasions honored in the black community. It includes ideas for an Afro-centric baby shower and a "jump the broom" nuptial feast.

A KWANZAA CELEBRATION: FESTIVE RECIPES AND HOMEMADE GIFTS FROM AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN KITCHEN

Written by **Angela Shelf Medearis**
Publisher: Dutton

Emphasizing foods that traveled with Africans to America, such as yams, sesame seeds, collard greens, and hot peppers, this collection of recipes for a Kwanzaa celebration includes information about the holiday, its ceremonies, and inspirational text.

FRUITS OF THE HARVEST: RECIPES TO CELEBRATE KWANZAA AND OTHER HOLIDAYS

Written by **Eric V. Copage** and Illustrated by **Cheryl Carrington**
Publisher: Amistad

Fruits of the Harvest: Recipes to Celebrate Kwanzaa and Other Holidays offers more than 125 treasured recipes from people of African descent all over the world: Jerked Pork Chops and Fresh Papaya Chutney from Jamaica; New-Fashioned Fried Chicken, a dish from the Deep South; and Tiebou Dienne, Senegalese herb-stuffed fish steaks with seasoned rice. In addition to main courses, there are recipes for a full range of dishes, from appetizers to soups, salads, side dishes, vegetables, breads, beverages, and, of course, desserts. Fried Okra, Antiguan Pepper Pot, Ambrosia Salad and Potato Salad, Garlic-Cheddar Grits Souffle, Caipirinha, and Sweet Potato Tarts in Peanut Butter Crusts are but a few of the delights featured here.

THE COOKING GENE: A JOURNEY THROUGH AFRICAN AMERICAN CULINARY HISTORY IN THE OLD SOUTH

Written by **Michael W. Twitty** and Illustrated by **Stephen Crotts**
Publisher: Amistad

A renowned culinary historian offers a fresh perspective on a divisive cultural issue, race, in this illuminating James Beard Award-winning memoir of Southern cuisine and food culture that traces his ancestry—both black and white—through food, from Africa to America and slavery to freedom. Southern food is integral to the American culinary tradition, yet the question of who "owns" it is a provocative touch point. Michael W. Twitty takes readers to the center of this question, tracing the roots of his own family and the origins of soul food, barbecue, and all Southern cuisine. From the tobacco and rice farms of colonial times to plantation kitchens and backbreaking cotton fields, Twitty tells his family story through the foods that enabled his ancestors' survival across three centuries. He sifts through stories, recipes, genetic tests, and historical documents, and travels from Civil War battlefields in Virginia to synagogues in Alabama to Black-owned organic farms in Georgia.



Bryan Lee Tilford, *Mic Drop (Disciple)*, Acrylic, pastel, collage on canvas, 48" x 60", 2025

2026

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

ABOUT THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles's vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, literary, musical, performing, and educational arts programming; managing vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art; and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists.

Formed in 1925, DCA promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA's residents and visitors, and ensure LA's varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced. DCA's mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike.

DCA advances the social and economic impact of arts and culture through grantmaking, public art, community arts, performing arts, and strategic marketing, development, and design. DCA creates and supports arts programming, maximizing relationships with other city agencies, artists, and arts and cultural nonprofit organizations to provide excellent service in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

For more information, please visit culture.lacity.gov or follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/culturela, Instagram [@culture_la](https://instagram.com/culture_la), YouTube [@culturela](https://youtube.com/culturela), and X/Twitter [@culture_la](https://twitter.com/culture_la).



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2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

ABOUT THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

DCA NEIGHBORHOOD ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTERS

DCA's neighborhood facilities offer high-quality instruction for young people and adults in the performing, visual, and new media arts. The Arts and Cultural Centers offer after-school and summer arts programs, produce solo and group art exhibitions, create outreach programs for under-served populations, and produce a variety of festivals during the year that celebrate the cultural diversity of the community.

DCA MANAGED ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTERS

Barnsdall Arts Center and Junior Arts Center

Barnsdall Park

4800 Hollywood Boulevard

Los Angeles, CA 90027

323.644.6295 Barnsdall Arts Center

323.644.6275 Barnsdall Junior Arts Center

Canoga Park Youth Arts Center

7222 Remmet Avenue

Canoga Park, CA 91303

818.346.7099

DCA's Henry P. Rio Bridge Gallery at City Hall

200 North Spring Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG)

Barnsdall Park

4800 Hollywood Boulevard

Los Angeles, CA 90027

323.644.6269

Lincoln Heights Youth Arts Center

2911 Altura Street

Los Angeles, CA 90031

323.224.0928

Sun Valley Youth Arts Center

(The Stone House)

8642 Sunland Boulevard

Sun Valley, CA 91352

818.252.4619

Watts Towers Arts Center and Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center

1727 East 107th Street

Los Angeles, CA 90002

213.847.4646

Watts Towers Arts Center

323.566.1410

Charles Mingus Youth

Arts Center

William Grant Still Arts Center

2520 South West View Street

Los Angeles, CA 90016

323.734.1165



Brandon Barry Brown, *The Mad-Hatter*, Oil paint on glass mirror, 20" x 40", 2025



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Robert Colescott, *George Washington Carver Crossing the Delaware: Page from an American History Textbook*, Acrylic on canvas, 84" x 108", 1975

DCA MANAGED PERFORMING ARTS THEATERS

Through its professional theater facilities, DCA serves the performing and media arts community by offering below-market theater rentals. In turn, the arts community presents year-round dance, music, theater, literary, and multi-disciplinary performances; supports the development of emerging and established Los Angeles-based performing and media artists; and offers workshops for playwrights and writers of all ages.

Barnsdall Gallery Theatre

Barnsdall Park
4800 Hollywood Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90027
323.644.6272

Lankershim Arts Center

5108 Lankershim Boulevard
North Hollywood, CA 91602
818.752.7568

Madrid Theatre

21622 Sherman Way
Canoga Park, CA 91303
818.347.9938

Taxco Theatre

7242 Owensmouth Avenue
Canoga Park, CA 91303
818.347.9938

Vision Theatre Performing Arts Center

3341 West 43rd Place
Los Angeles, CA 90008
213.202.5508

Warner Grand Theatre

478 West 6th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731
310.548.7672

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

ABOUT THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

DCA MANAGED HISTORIC SITES

DCA provides conservation services and educational programming and tours for two of LA's most treasured historic sites, Hollyhock House and the Watts Towers. Conservation efforts are coordinated through DCA's Historic Site Preservation Office. DCA's Museum Education and Tours Program coordinates tours and interpretive programs for both young people and adults.

Hollyhock House is Frank Lloyd Wright's first Los Angeles project. Built between 1919 and 1921, it represents his earliest efforts to develop a regionally appropriate style of architecture for Southern California. Barnsdall Park, including the iconic Hollyhock House, was awarded landmark status in 2007 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. As the nation's highest historic landmark designation, the site has been formally recognized for its role in interpreting the heritage and history of the United States. Hollyhock House was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2019.

Hollyhock House

Barnsdall Park
4800 Hollywood Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90027
323.913.4030

The Watts Towers, built over 34 years by Simon Rodia, are a Los Angeles icon. Built from found objects, including broken glass, sea shells, pottery, and tile, the Towers stand as a monument to the human spirit and the persistence of a singular vision. The Watts Towers, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, are a National Historic Landmark, a State of California Historic Park, and Historic-Cultural Monument No. 15 as previously designated by the City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission.

Watts Towers

1765 East 107th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90002
213.847.4646



Christopher Samaroo, *Message from the Butterfly*, Oil on canvas, 30" x 24", 2024



MARATHON
Burger

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

ABOUT THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS



Jora Nelstein, *Siblings- Op de bank*, Acrylic on canvas, 12" x 12", 2025

DCA PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP ARTS FACILITIES

ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTERS

Art in the Park

5568 Via Marisol
Los Angeles, CA 90042
323.259.0861

Eagle Rock Community Cultural Center / Center for the Arts Eagle Rock

2225 Colorado Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90041
323.561.3044

McGroarty Arts Center

7570 McGroarty Terrace
Tujunga, CA 91042
818.352.5285

Frida Kahlo Theatre

William Reagh - LA Photography Center

2332 West Fourth Street
Los Angeles, CA 90057
213.382.8133



Dolores Johnson, *Red Shirt*, Oil and digital, 8.5" x 14", 2025

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

ABOUT THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

DCA PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP ARTS FACILITIES

PERFORMING ARTS THEATERS

Los Angeles Theatre Center /
The NEW LATC
514 South Spring Street, 2nd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90013
213.489.0994

Nate Holden Performing Arts Center
4718 West Washington Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90016
323.964.9768

DCA PROP K FACILITIES IN DEVELOPMENT

Downtown Youth Arts Center
(Fire Station # 23)
225 East 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Highland Park Youth Arts Center
111 North Bridewell Street
Los Angeles, CA 90042

Manchester Youth Arts Center
5730 South Crenshaw Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90043

Vera Davis McLendon Youth Arts Center
(Oakwood Junior Youth Arts Center)
610 California Avenue
Venice, CA 90291

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



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Garland Kirkpatrick, *The Signal: LaBrea/Obama*, Digital photography, 20" x 20", 2025

2026

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

CALENDAR ARTISTS

The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs gives special thanks to our calendar artists for generously allowing us to showcase their work in this publication.

Amina AmXn
AminaAmXn.com

Nijel Binns
FineArtAmerica.com/profiles/nijel-binns

Michelle Andrea Bracken
newmabnew@yahoo.com

Brandon Barry Brown
brandonbarrybrown.com

Adeola Davies-Aiyeloja
adeolastudio.org

Nahshon Dion
nahshondionanderson.com

Valena Broussard Dismukes
valenadismukes.weebly.com

Djibril Dramé
djibrildrame.com

Mark Steven Greenfield
markstevengreenfield.com

Sr. Betty A, Harbison, SSS
facebook.com/SrBettysBooks

Bernard Hoyes
bernardhoyes.com

Megashia Jackson
Megashia.com

Buena Johnson
artbybuena.com

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Dolores Johnson
dolojo2@yahoo.com

Garland Kirkpatrick
gmatter.la

Francesca Lalanne
francescalalanne.com

Nia Simone Lane
Artbyniasimone.com

Mark 7
Mark7brand.com

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instagram.com/artistcarolejmccoy

Feliz Mc Innis
maskofleimert.com

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instagram.com/artmastermonroe

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joranelstein.com

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rieaowens@earthlink.net

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samuelpace.com

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leepulley@gmail.com

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Helena Donato Sapp
helenalourdes.com

Toni Shaw
info@houseofmosaic.com

2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CALENDAR ARTISTS

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ternoirart.com

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[instagram.com/BryanLeeTilford](https://www.instagram.com/BryanLeeTilford)

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imanitolliver.com

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artbychidi.com

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designsbydmaria.godaddysites.com

Sylvia Woolridge
[instagram.com/kizzy5u](https://www.instagram.com/kizzy5u)

Karien Zachery
theartnme.com

Courtesy of
California African
American Museum
caamuseum.org

J.J. Anderson
Sadie Barnette
Sage Whitson

Courtesy of
The Lucas Museum of
Narrative Art
lucasmuseum.org

Robert Colescott
Ernie Barnes
Kadir Nelson
Jerry Pinkney

Courtesy of
Till Artists Collective Project
tillartistscollective.org

Candice Hunter
Toni Scott



2026 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

COVER ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

RIEA OWENS



Above: At left, artist Riea Owens. Above right: the artist at work in her studio, bottom right: detail from *Yeah, He's Got My Back!*, Acrylic on canvas, 12"x 12", 2024

As a lover of the human form and the variety of faces, gestures, and emotions, Riea Owens mostly paints people. With a background in entertainment advertising, Riea designed graphics and directed art projects. The crucial aspect of variety in her professional life now influences her diverse approach to painting.

Throughout Owens' advertising career, she produced visuals that demanded approval from multiple bosses. While this process often diluted her original ideas, retirement has allowed her to paint uninterrupted and rediscover her passion for creativity.

Riea is currently working on her *Les Sapeurs: Congo* series, which explores the movement of stylish, working-class men known as "dandies" that originated in the Congo. This year's cover image is from that series. Through her artwork, she captures their vibrant fashion and cultural importance. This movement has gained wider recognition, including being featured at last year's Met Gala.

Riea is the Art Curator for Alkebulan Cultural Center in Pasadena, where she hosts and promotes artists of all levels. She is currently showing her works at Band of Vices, ArtGal, and Alkebulan Cultural Center. She also created the featured artwork for last year's Central Avenue Jazz Festival.



Christopher Samaroo, *African Sunset*, Mixed media, oil on canvas, 30" x 24", 2024



dca



1926–2026

HONORING

A CENTURY OF BLACK HISTORY COMMEMORATIONS

2026 NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH THEME

African American Heritage Month is a celebration of African American life, history, and culture. Founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the ‘Father’ of Black history in February of 1926, it is a month to celebrate and reflect upon the importance of Black life, history, and culture to the world.

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