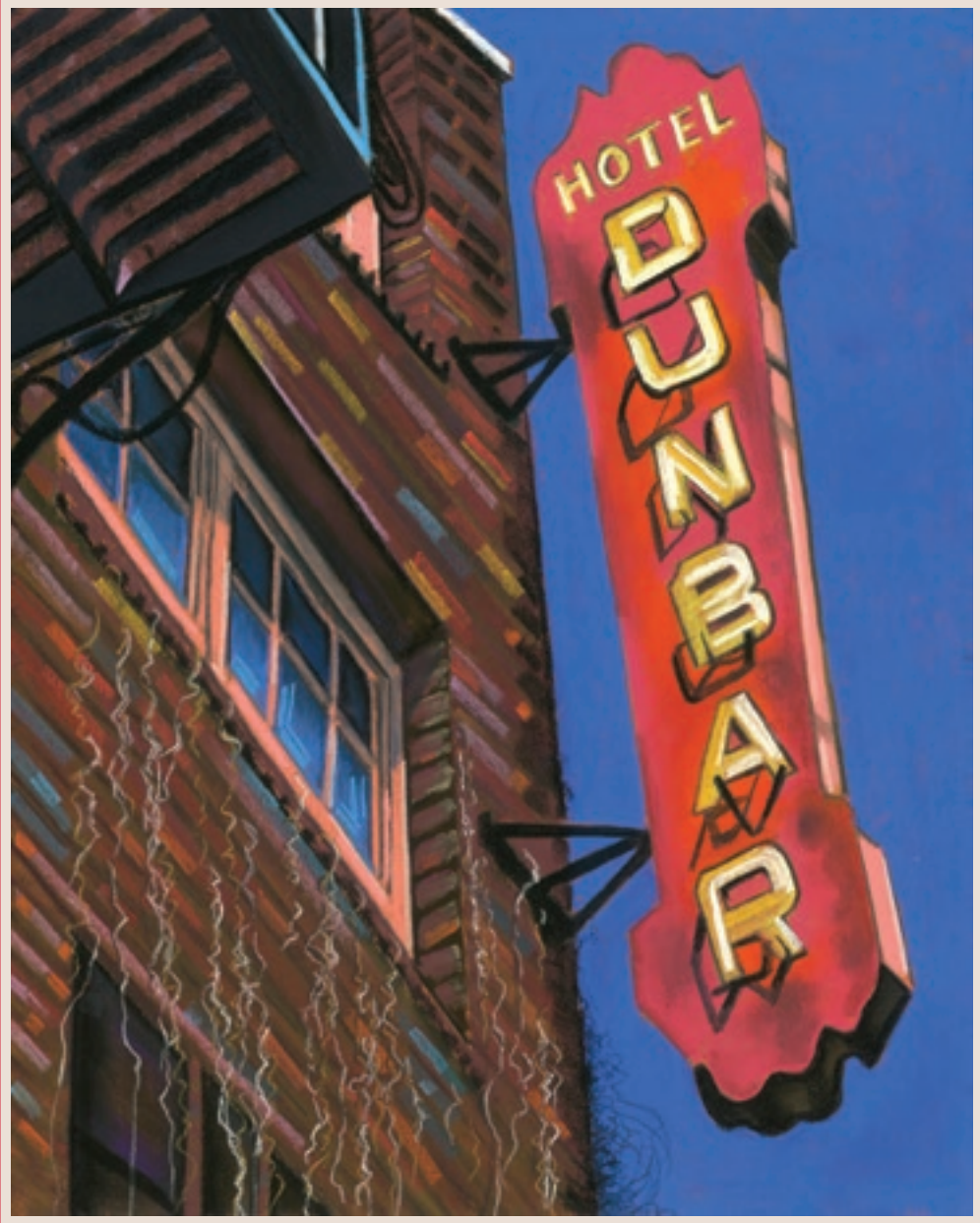


AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE



HONORING HISTORY AND COMMUNITY

75 Years Celebrating African American Heritage in the City of Los Angeles

Presented by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

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CALENDAR DESIGN

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

75 Years Celebrating Black Heritage in the City of Los Angeles



KAREN BASS
MAYOR
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Dear Friends,

While February marks Black History Month, we know that there is no American history without Black history.

The immeasurable contributions of Black America continue to this day, from City Halls across the nation, to the halls of Congress, to corporate boardrooms, to grassroots activists fighting to hold America accountable to its promise of equality for all.

In every corner of our city, Black Angelenos have helped to shape the look, sound, and feel of Los Angeles, all the way back to our city's founding.

As the first Black woman to have the privilege of serving as Mayor of Los Angeles, I take special pride in joining all Angelenos in celebrating African American Heritage Month.

I hope you will use this calendar and cultural guide created by our Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) to learn about the many exciting activities, both virtual and in-person, happening this month.

I offer you all my best wishes for memorable celebrations, and for the recognition of the contributions made by African Americans this month and every month.

Sincerely,

Karen Bass
MAYOR
CITY OF LOS ANGELES



Riea Owens, *Les Sapeurs: Miami*, Oil on canvas, 18"x24", 2023

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

75 Years Celebrating Black Heritage in the City of Los Angeles



MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
PRESIDENT, LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL
COUNCILMEMBER, EIGHTH DISTRICT

Friends and Neighbors,

Art has long been a tool for survival and a catalyst for change. It offers purpose to the individual and ignites the imagination of the collective. Black artists, in particular, occupy a unique and influential role in our country—they reveal the truths of our shared history while envisioning a future we have yet to reckon with.

The contributions of Black artists span every facet of lived experience, establishing touchstones of excellence across all forms of creative expression. Artists such as Issa Rae, Kendrick Lamar, Artis Lane, Lula Washington, Kehinde Wiley, Paul Revere Williams, and Walter Mosley have been a cultural force that has profoundly shaped American identity. Their work has influenced film, music, visual art, dance, sculpture, architecture, and literature. Black artistry is indeed the quintessential American art form.

Los Angeles, the creative capital of the world, has become a touchstone of artistic innovation, where diverse art forms have emerged or been refined. Our city is home to cultural giants who have left indelible marks. We owe a profound debt of gratitude to them and to the many emerging or unheralded talents whose work enriches our community.

As we observe African American Heritage Month, let us celebrate and sustain this ongoing work. Let us uplift the artists who hold a mirror to society, honoring the history they reflect and the futures they imagine. Through our understanding of the past, we can continue to progress, propelled by the power of art. This is our legacy in motion that continues to inspire.

Marqueece Harris-Dawson
PRESIDENT, LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL
COUNCILMEMBER, EIGHTH DISTRICT



Djibril Drame, *Nina and Lisa*, Digital photography, 80 x 120 cm, 2024

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE



DANIEL TARICA

GENERAL MANAGER
CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Dear Friends,

The Department of Cultural Affairs is pleased to present the *2025 African American Heritage Month Calendar and Cultural Guide* celebrating the thriving Black community of Los Angeles. On behalf of the Department of Cultural Affairs, it is my great honor to extend heartfelt congratulations to Our Authors Study Club on the occasion of its 75th anniversary, celebrating Black History Month.

For three-quarters of a century, Our Authors Study Club has been a beacon of knowledge, advocacy, and empowerment, preserving and celebrating the rich contributions of Black authors, scholars and historical figures. The Club's deep commitment to education, literature, and civil rights has uplifted generations and has inspired countless individuals to understand and appreciate the importance of Black history.

As we reflect on this milestone, we celebrate and take great pride in the extraordinary legacy that Our Authors Study Club has built. The Club's dedication to amplifying Black voices and fostering deeper understanding of our collective history has made an indelible mark on both the local community and the broader cultural landscape.

We thank the Club and all of its members for their unwavering commitment to justice, education, and cultural preservation. Here's to the next 75 years of powerful storytelling, activism, and community-building!

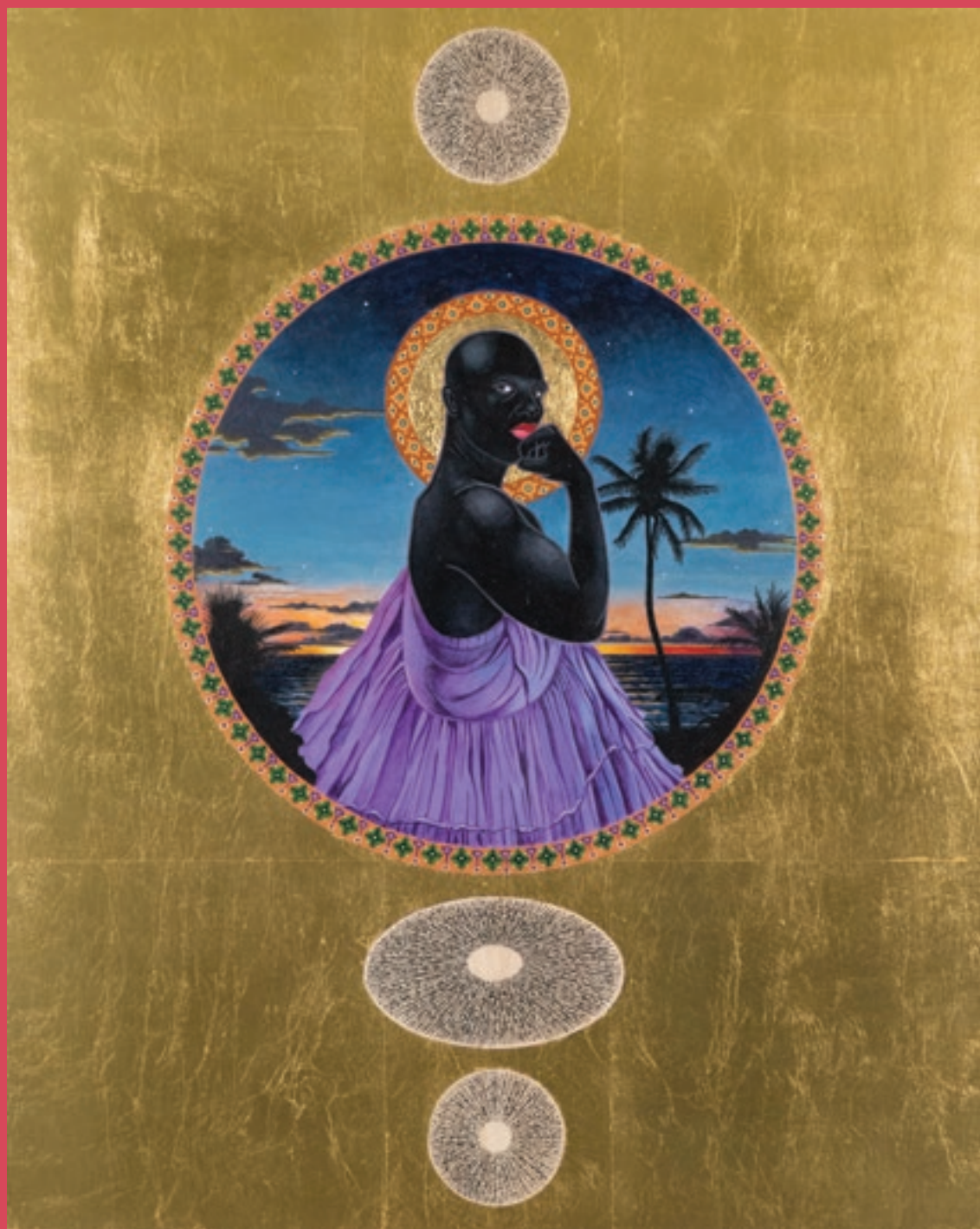
In this annual celebration of the Black community, we recognize the community's experiences, reflections, vision, and impact on Los Angeles. The guide amplifies established and rising artists by creating a platform in which our city's artists can express their joy, pain, and spirit informed by their histories, traditions, values, and knowledge. During this time of heightened racism and division, all those who contribute to the production and the programing of the calendar know that their work supports our city's larger goals to foster the wellbeing of our communities for the greater good.

I extend my appreciation for the work of the Mayor's Office, the Controller's Office, the City Attorney's Office, and the City Council Offices. Their assistance in identifying and recruiting the many nonprofit organizations, community groups, arts organizations, artists, and activists supported the creation of this impressive publication full of fun, educational, and stimulating events.

I hope you enjoy the fantastic art within this calendar and revisit it in the future to, not only to draw inspiration from, but, to be reminded of our City's great and long-standing Black heritage.

Sincerely,

Daniel Tarica
GENERAL MANAGER
CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS



Mark Steven Greenfield, *Francisco Manicongo*, Acrylic and gold leaf on wood panel, 20" x 16", 2024

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

75 Years Celebrating Black Heritage in the City of Los Angeles



OFFICIAL EVENTS

This year's official events, presented by the **City of Los Angeles**, the **City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)**, and **Our Authors Study Club, Inc.**, honor the history and culture of African Americans in our city. The events are free, and open to the public. Please join us at one of the many wonderful celebrations of 75 years of African American Heritage in Los Angeles during this special Diamond Anniversary year.



Sylvia Woolridge, *Chipasto Project Fisherman*, Acrylic, 24" x 30", 2024

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

75th Diamond Celebration Official Events

2025 BLACK HERITAGE MONTH EXHIBITION FEATURING A RETROSPECTIVE OF THE WORK OF LOS ANGELES PHOTOGRAPHER, LEROY HAMILTON

Join Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson; Mayor Karen Bass; the Los Angeles City Council; and the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) to officially celebrate the exhibition installation of the work of Los Angeles photographer, Leroy Hamilton in DCA's Henry P. Rios Gallery at Los Angeles City Hall on display from Friday, January 31, 2025 to February 26, 2025.

The Story of Us displays Black Angelenos in several dimensions of their lives—at home with family, in the conference room, on the court, in government halls of power, on the mainstage, in the streets, and in places of worship. It captures the fullness of Black life. Mr. Hamilton seeks to restore the humanity behind Black faces that are often misrepresented. Visitors will experience the full spectrum of Black personhood through the lens of a local artist with strategic connections and expansive vision.

The Story of Us is Leroy Hamilton's exhibit which he hopes will reverberate across the country. By capturing a collection of photos of Black Angelenos, the artist hopes to draw parallels between movement building in Black Los Angeles to national Black movements. Mr. Hamilton hopes to remind visitors that there is a community photographer in every community, and we must recommit ourselves to seeking them out and uplifting their work. The photography exhibit is an ode to Black Los Angeles and all we represent in the past, present, and future—from Crenshaw to the coast, this is *The Story of Us*.

The exhibition is curated and coordinated by Larry Earl.

- WHEN:** Photography Exhibition: January 31, 2025 through February 26, 2025
The exhibition is free to visit and open to the public
Ribbon Cutting: Friday, February 7, 2025, 9:30 a.m.
- SITE:** Henry P. Rios Gallery at Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, 3rd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012
- COST:** Free, and open to the public
- SPONSORS:** The Office of Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Councilmember, Eighth District;
Los Angeles Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

75th Diamond Celebration Official Events

2025 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH OPENING CEREMONY

Join 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; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, General Chair, Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month; and, the Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month Committee to officially commemorate and celebrate the opening of African American Heritage Month in the City of Los Angeles.

At this in-person celebration, presentations will be made to the **2025 Living Legends Honorees: Richard Brooks**, Pioneering Artist, Emmy-nominated Actor; and, **George Weaver**, Environmental Policy Innovator and Architect of Youth Hope, Brotherhood Crusade, and **2025 Hall of Fame Honorees: Dr. Mike Davis**, President of New Frontier Democratic Club; **Lynell George**, Grammy Award-winning Writer, and Guardian of African American Narratives; **Darnell Hunt**, Dean and Executive Vice Chancellor, UCLA, and Author; **Cecily Myart-Cruz**, President, United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA); **Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith**, Dean of Charles Drew University College of Medicine, Founding Dean CDU MD Program; **Dr. Jessie L. Sherrod**, Pioneering Physician and Founder LA Association of Black Women Physicians (ABWP); and, **Dr. Richard Allen Williams**, Pioneering Cardiologist, Healthcare Equity Advocate, and Cultural Innovator,

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History's national theme for Black History Month is **African Americans and Labor**. We honor this theme and salute the present and past members of Our Authors Study Club, Inc., who first partnered with the City 75 years ago in 1950 to celebrate our history of accomplishment and resilience while looking forward to the future to excite and encourage others to join in keeping Black history alive and vibrant. [Read the full executive summary on the 2025 theme: African Americans and Labor online at asalh.org.]

In partnership with Jeremie Six, the 41st Postmaster of Los Angeles, the Postal Service will unveil the 2025 Black History Month Stamp. The 48th stamp in the Black Heritage series honors Allen Toussaint (1938-2015), award-winning artist, legendary New Orleans writer, singer, producer, songwriter, arranger, session pianist, and solo artist.

WHEN: Council Program: Friday, February 7, 2025, 10:00 a.m.,
Reception: Friday, February 7, 2025, 12:00 noon, West Forecourt

SITE: City Hall Council Chambers and City Hall West Forecourt
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

COST: Free

RSVP: TBA

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; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month General Chair, Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month Committee; Gil Robertson, President, African American Film Critics Association

INFO: 213.770.0399
oascla.org

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

75th Diamond Celebration Official Events

2025 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AN AFTERNOON WITH AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS – FEATURING COURTNEY B. VANCE

Mayor Karen Bass; Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball, President, Our Authors Study Club, Inc.; Cynthia Exum President, Leimert Village Park Book Festival; 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; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, General Chair, Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month; and, the Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month Committee invite you to attend an Afternoon with African American Authors.

Our Authors Study Club, Inc. (OASC) and the Leimert Park Village Book Fair hosts the opportunity to hear firsthand from award-winning actor, director and #1 best-selling author Courtney Bernard Vance as he discusses his book *The Invisible Ache: Black Men Identifying Their Pain and Reclaiming Their Power*. Along with professional expertise from famed psychologist Dr. Robin L. Smith (popularly known as “Dr. Robin”), Courtney B. Vance explores issues of grief, relationships, identity, and race through the telling of his own most formative experiences. A unique combination of moving memoir and practical tools that offers guidance for Black men seeking to reclaim their mental well-being—and, ultimately, to live wholeheartedly.

The presentation will be moderated by William Allen Young, actor, director and philanthropist who has starred in over 100 television, stage, and film projects, including two Academy Award-nominated films, *A Soldier's Story* and *District 9*.

2025 OASC Living Legend Awards will be presented to both Mr. Vance and Mr. Young in honor of their body of work, leadership and personal philanthropy.

WHEN: Saturday, February 8, 2025, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

SITE: Los Angeles Public Library – Mark Taper Auditorium
630 W. 5th Street, Los Angeles, California 90012

PARKING: Parking is \$1.00 with a Los Angeles Public Library card in the garage beneath the library, entrance is on 5th Street. Come early and sign up for your library card if you do not already have one.

COST: Free, RSVP at oascla.org

SPONSORS: Mayor Karen Bass; Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball, President, Our Authors Study Club, Inc.; Cynthia Exum, President, Leimert Park Village Book Fair; 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; City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, General Chair, Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month; Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month Committee; Gil Robertson, President, African American Film Critics Association

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AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

75th Diamond Celebration Official Events



Shell Amega, *Mother Nature*, Acrylic, gold leaf, copper & gold gel, infinity gem, gold spheres, gold pin lining, 24" x 24", 2024

2025 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON AFRICAN AMERICANS AND LABOR

Join 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; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, General Chair, Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month; and, the Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month Committee.

Moderated by popular co-anchor of ABC7 Eyewitness News, Marc Brown, join local scholars: Dr. Maulana Karenga, Chair, Africana Studies, CSULB; who will discuss and expand on the 2025 national Black History theme for African American Heritage Month, **African Americans and Labor**.

WHEN: Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

SITE: Check website for location

COST: Free

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; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, General Chair, Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month; Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month Committee; Gil Robertson, President, African American Film Critics Association

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AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

75th Diamond Celebration Official Events



Imani Tolliver, *Gannet*, Mixed media, 8" x 8", 2024

2025 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CITY-WIDE WORSHIP SERVICE

Join Mayor Karen Bass; Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball, President, Our Authors Study Club, Inc.; KW Tulloss, President Baptist Ministers Conference; Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Los Angeles City Council President, Councilmember, Eighth District; Bob Blumenfield, Councilmember Third District, Curren D. Price, Jr., Councilmember Ninth District; Heather Hutt, Councilmember, Tenth District; the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, General Chair, Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month and the Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month Committee.

Invited clergy: Bishop Charley Hames Jr., Presiding Prelate, CME; Pastor Charles E. Blake II, West Angeles Church of God in Christ; Rev. Robert R. Shaw, II, 1st AME; Rev. James K. McKnight, Christian Fellowship; Rev. Thembekile Smart, Christ Liberation Ministries; and, Pastor Dr. John-Paul C. Foster, Faithful Central.

WHEN: Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

SITE: Check website for details

COST: Free

SPONSORS: Mayor Karen Bass; Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball, President, Our Authors Study Club, Inc.; KW Tulloss, President Baptist Ministers Conference; 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; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, General Chair, Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month; Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month Committee; Gil Robertson, President, African American Film Critics Association

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Yohannes Yamassee, *Pan African NBA*, Oil and Acrylic, 3'

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

75th Diamond Celebration Official Events

2025 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH TRAILBLAZERS: A SALUTE TO LABOR

Join Mayor Karen Bass; Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball, President, Our Authors Study Club, Inc.; Arturo Chavez, General Manager of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument; 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; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, General Chair, Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month; and, the Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month Committee for an engaging evening at the Pico Hotel.

In keeping with a new tradition that began in 2023, this evening pays tribute to the twenty-six founding families of African American descent who blazed a trail with other brave founders to establish what is now known as El Pueblo de Los Angeles, by recognizing Los Angeles's modern trailblazers with long standing histories of accomplishment and impact. This year, in keeping with the national theme of **African Americans and Labor**, we honor a movement so powerful and organic that it brought a diverse coalition of people, professions and visionaries together to form an organization to provide living wages and rights to security officers on Los Angeles.

WHEN: Thursday, February 22, 2025, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

SITE: El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument
125 Paseo de la Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Getting There: El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument is located in the heart of downtown Los Angeles, close to the cultural communities of Chinatown, Little Tokyo, and the Arts District. Just North of the U.S. Route 101 Freeway, the site is the historic birthplace of Los Angeles.

PARKING: There are four nearby parking lots

COST: Free, RSVP required to attend, please call 213.978.0254 to reserve a seat (space is limited).

SPONSORS: Mayor Karen Bass; Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball, President, Our Authors Study Club, Inc.; Arturo Chavez, General Manager of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument; 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; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, General Chair, Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month; Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month Committee; Gil Robertson, President, African American Film Critics Association

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AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

75th Diamond Celebration Official Events



Gina Russell Williams, *Abstract with Flowers*, "Oil paints, 10' x 3', 2022

2025 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY BUS TOUR

Mayor Karen Bass; Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball, President, Our Authors Study Club, Inc.; Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Los Angeles City Council President, Councilmember, Eighth District; Bob Blumenfield, Councilmember Third District, Curren D. Price, Jr., Councilmember Ninth District; Heather Hutt, Councilmember, Tenth District; the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, General Chair, Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month and the Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month Committee presents the 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 23, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: Consolidated Board of Realtists
3725 Don Felipe Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90008

COST: Free, RSVP required in advance

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; City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, General Chair, Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month; Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month Committee; Gil Robertson, President, African American Film Critics Association

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AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

75th Diamond Celebration Official Events



Taylor Thomas, *I Can Play, But I Can't Get My Hair Wet*, Collage - Acrylic paint, found street posters & sharpie, 30" x 40", 2024

2025 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CLOSING RECEPTION—THE PHOTOHAM

Mayor Karen Bass; Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball, President, Our Authors Study Club, Inc.; Sandra J. Evers-Manly, BHERC; 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; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, The Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month General Chair, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor; and, the Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month Committee invite you to attend the closing reception for African American Heritage Month 2025 and explore the photographic works of Leroy Hamilton.

WHEN: Thursday, February 27, 2025, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

WHERE: Forward Rotunda
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

COST: Free

SPONSORS: Mayor Karen Bass; Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball, President, Our Authors Study Club, Inc.; Sandra J. Evers-Manly, BHERC; 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; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month General Chair, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor; Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month Committee; Gil Robertson, President, African American Film Critics Association



Amina AmXn, *Life in Zimbabwe: African Diaspora Travels, Zimbabwe*, Digital photography, 16" x 20", 2024

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

75th Diamond Celebration Official Events

2025 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH DR. CARTER G. WOODSON ORATORICAL CONTEST

Join Mayor Karen Bass; Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball, President, Our Authors Study Club, Inc.; Los Angeles City Council President, Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Councilmember, Eighth District; Councilmember Traci Park, Eleventh District; Bob Blumenfield, Councilmember, Third District; Curren D. Price, Jr., Councilmember, Ninth District; Heather Hutt, Councilmember, Tenth District; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month General Chair, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor; and, the Our Authors Study Club 2025 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 **African Americans and Labor**.

At this event, finalist 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 1, 2025, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon

SITE: Airport Police Community Center
9160 South Loyola Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90045

PARKING: Lot and street parking are available

COST: Free

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; Councilmember Traci Park, Eleventh District; Bob Blumenfield, Councilmember, Third District; Curren D. Price, Jr., Councilmember, Ninth District; Heather Hutt, Councilmember, Tenth District; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month General Chair, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor; Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month Committee; Gil Robertson, President, African American Film Critics Association

INFO: 213.770.0399
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* Read the full executive summary on the 2024 theme **African Americans and Labor**, online at asalh.org.



Nia Simone, *Concrete Cowboys*, Oil paint on canvas, 40" x 40", 2024

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

75 Years Celebrating Black Heritage in the City of Los Angeles



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles



HONOREES

This year's honorees, presented by the **City of Los Angeles**, the **City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs** (DCA), and **Our Authors Study Club, Inc.**, honor the diversity and excellence of African Americans in Los Angeles.

This year's presentations will be made to the **2025 Living Legends Honorees: Richard Brooks**, Pioneering Artist, Emmy-nominated Actor; and, **George Weaver**, Environmental Policy Innovator and Architect of Youth Hope, Brotherhood Crusade. Their awards will be presented at the Opening Ceremony in City Hall Council Chambers, on February 7, 2025. **Living Legend Honorees: Courtney B. Vance**, Emmy Award-winning Artist/Philanthropist and Best-selling Author; and, **William Allen Young**, Award-winning Actor, Director, Writer, and Philanthropist will receive their awards at the African American Authors Event held at the Los Angeles Public Library, on February 8, 2025.

2025 Hall of Fame Honorees: Dr. Mike Davis, President of New Frontier Democratic Club; **Lynell George**, Grammy Award-winning Writer, and Guardian of African American Narratives; **Darnell Hunt**, Dean and Executive Vice Chancellor, UCLA, and Author; **Cecily Myart-Cruz**, President, United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA); **Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith**, Dean of Charles Drew University College of Medicine, Founding Dean CDU MD Program; **Dr. Jessie L. Sherrod**, Pioneering Physician and Founder LA Association of Black Women Physicians (ABWP); and, **Dr. Richard Allen Williams**, Pioneering Cardiologist, Healthcare Equity Advocate, and Cultural Innovator, will receive their awards at the Opening Ceremony in City Hall Council Chambers, on February 7th.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

2025 Living Legend Honoree



RICHARD BROOKS

PIONEERING ARTIST AND EMMY-NOMINATED ACTOR

Richard Brooks stands as a transformative force in American entertainment whose four-decade career embodies the essence of a living legend through his pioneering achievements and lasting impact on representation in media. Breaking barriers as the youngest-ever student admitted to Circle in the Square Professional Theater School after his recognition as a Presidential Scholar in the Arts finalist at Interlochen, Brooks quickly established himself as a vital presence in New York theater.

His early collaboration with the legendary Negro Ensemble Company and his origination of Cory in August Wilson's seminal work *Fences* at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Conference helped catalyze a new era in American theater. This foundational role in Wilson's Pittsburgh Cycle contributed to a revolutionary shift in how African American stories were presented on stage, paving the way for future generations of performers and playwrights.

Brooks' television career exemplifies the power of representation to shape cultural narratives. His groundbreaking six-year run as ADA Paul Robinette on *Law & Order* redefined possibilities for Black legal professionals in prime-time television, while his philosophical turn as Jubal Early in *Firefly* challenged traditional science fiction archetypes. His masterful portrayal of Frederick Douglass in PBS's *The Abolitionists* brought vital historical perspective to contemporary civil rights discussions, demonstrating the enduring relevance of his artistic choices.

In film, Brooks has consistently elevated projects that expand the boundaries of storytelling, particularly in Charles Burnett's landmark *To Sleep with Anger*, which explored the complexities of African American family life with unprecedented nuance. His return to stage work with the role of Harmond Wilks in August Wilson's *Radio Golf* at Yale Repertory Theatre helped complete Wilson's historic cycle, cementing Brooks' place in theater history as an artist who bookended this monumental achievement in American drama.

Beyond his performances, Brooks has dedicated himself to mentoring the next generation of artists through master classes and workshops nationwide. His influence can be seen in the growing diversity of roles and stories in contemporary media, and his continued presence on groundbreaking shows like *Abbott Elementary* and *9-1-1* demonstrates his enduring impact. His back-to-back Daytime Emmy nominations for *The Rich and the Ruthless* underscore his sustained excellence, while his body of work—spanning over 100 television shows, numerous films, and landmark theatrical productions—stands as testimony to an artist who has not only entertained but elevated American culture. Richard Brooks' selection as a **Living Legend** honors not just his artistic achievements, but his role as a catalyst for positive change in the entertainment industry.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

2025 Living Legend Honoree



GEORGE WEAVER

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY INNOVATOR AND
ARCHITECT OF YOUTH HOPE**

George Weaver embodies the transformative power of visionary leadership, having dedicated his life to revolutionizing youth development and community transformation. His remarkable journey began at UCLA, where his ambitious pursuit of medicine, theater, and baseball reflected the multifaceted approach he would later bring to changing young lives.

His pioneering work began with Legacy 2000, a groundbreaking holistic youth development program that would become the foundation for the nationally acclaimed Brotherhood Crusade Trauma-Informed Youth Development Mentoring Program—recognized as the best youth development program in the western United States by the National Criminal Justice Association. This early innovation demonstrated Weaver’s extraordinary ability to understand and address the complex needs of young people and their communities.

After establishing himself as an environmental protection specialist with the Department of Defense, where he made significant contributions to national environmental safety standards, Weaver made a courageous decision to return to his true calling—youth development. His creation of an accelerated alternative education program proved transformative, successfully educating over 5,000 “difficult to reach” students in less than four years, definitively proving that all students can succeed when given the right opportunities and support.

As a recognized thought leader in adverse childhood experiences and trauma-informed care, Weaver has pioneered numerous groundbreaking initiatives through the Los Angeles Brotherhood Crusade. His innovative programs, including the Brother to Brother: Male by Birth, Man by Choice Leadership Initiative and the Weaver Continuum of Youth Development, have redefined youth development approaches. His work culminated in the creation of comprehensive curricula that address trauma, transform attitudes, and create pathways to success for young people and their families in South Los Angeles.

George Weaver’s selection as a Living Legend honors not just his remarkable achievements, but his role as a catalyst for systemic change in youth development, education, and community transformation. His impact has been recognized with prestigious honors, including the 2014 James Irvine Leadership Award—often called the Nobel Prize for non-profit organizations—and his curriculum’s recent adoption as an A-G in-school class by Inglewood Unified School District demonstrates how his innovative approaches continue to transform lives and institutions, creating lasting positive change for generations to come.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

2025 Living Legend Honoree



COURTNEY B. VANCE

**EMMY AWARD-WINNING ARTIST, AUTHOR, AND PHILANTHROPIST
MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE AND CULTURAL CHANGE-MAKER**

Courtney B. Vance stands as a transformative force in American arts and advocacy, weaving together extraordinary artistic achievement with visionary leadership and committed community service. From his early days studying at Harvard and Yale School of Drama, Vance has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence that extends far beyond the stage and screen, establishing himself as a beacon of artistic integrity and social responsibility.

His masterful artistry has earned him an impressive array of accolades, including two Emmy Awards for his compelling portrayals of Johnnie Cochran in *The People v. O.J. Simpson* and Uncle George in *Lovecraft Country*. His presence as Rev. C.L. Franklin in *Genius: Aretha* showcases his remarkable ability to embody complex historical figures with depth and nuance. This transformative work, along with his Tony Award-winning performance in *Lucky Guy*, has garnered him numerous honors including Critics Choice, Black Reel TV, and NAACP Image Awards, as well as prestigious nominations from the Screen Actors Guild, Golden Globes, and Hollywood Critics Association.

In his role as President of the SAG-AFTRA Foundation, Vance has become a powerful advocate for performers' rights and professional development, championing initiatives that strengthen the performing arts community. His service on the board of The Actors Center in New York City further demonstrates his commitment to nurturing artistic excellence and innovation in the industry. Through Bassett Vance Productions, co-founded with his wife Angela Bassett, he continues to create groundbreaking content that pushes narrative boundaries, with projects like *Heist 88* for Showtime Networks and the critically acclaimed *61st Street* expanding the landscape of contemporary storytelling.

Vance's impact as a cultural leader extends into literature and advocacy. His co-authored work *Friends: A Love Story* with Angela Bassett offered intimate insights into sustaining both personal and professional excellence. His forthcoming book, *THE INVISIBLE ACHE: Black Men Identifying Their Pain and Reclaiming Their Power*, written with Dr. Robin L. Smith, promises to address crucial conversations about mental health and emotional wellbeing in the Black community. His Grammy-nominated narration of Neil DeGrasse Tyson's *Accessory to War* demonstrates his ability to bring gravitas and clarity to complex subjects.

Throughout his illustrious career, Vance has maintained a steadfast commitment to authenticity and excellence, whether performing on Broadway, producing groundbreaking television, advocating for artists' rights, or mentoring the next generation. His journey from Detroit to the highest echelons of American entertainment and advocacy serves as an inspiration, showing how artistic achievement can be leveraged to create lasting positive change in society. Through his continued leadership and creative endeavors, Vance continues to shape the future of American arts while opening doors for diverse voices and stories in the industry.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

2025 Living Legend Honoree



WILLIAM ALLEN YOUNG

DISTINGUISHED ACTOR, EDUCATIONAL REFORMER AND CHAMPION OF YOUTH EXCELLENCE, ELEVATING DREAMS AND EMPOWERING FUTURES

From South Central Los Angeles to national acclaim, **William Allen Young's** journey embodies the profound intersection of artistic excellence and educational empowerment, forging a legacy that has redefined possibilities both in Hollywood and in countless classrooms across America. From his humble beginnings, inspired by his mother's determination to advance from domestic work to a successful healthcare career, Young developed an unwavering commitment to excellence and social change that would shape his remarkable journey.

His artistic achievements include starring roles in over 100 television, stage, and film projects, including Academy Award-nominated films *A Soldier's Story* and *District 9*. Young's memorable performances as Frank Mitchell in *Moesha* and Dr. Rollie Guthrie in *Code Black* demonstrate his versatility and depth as an actor. As a former co-chair of the African-American Steering Committee of the Directors Guild of America, he helped broker the landmark 2000 TV Network Agreement, fundamentally transforming opportunities for diverse creators in Hollywood.

However, it's Young's dedication to educational reform that truly sets him apart. Through the Young Center for Academic & Cultural Enrichment, established in 2001, he has created pathways to success for students from over 250 schools, helping many become first-generation college graduates at more than 80 universities nationwide. His own academic excellence—graduating from USC where he led the Trojan Debate Squad to a National Championship as the nation's #1 ranked college speaker—serves as inspiration for the students he mentors.

Young's impact has been recognized with numerous honors, including the Ford Foundation Freedom Unsung Award, the NAACP Social Achievement Award, and the California Hero in Education Award. Alongside his wife, educator Dr. Helen Young, he continues to inspire audiences nationwide as a motivational speaker, embodying the principle that artistic success can be leveraged to create lasting educational change. His journey from South Central Los Angeles to the heights of Hollywood and educational advocacy demonstrates how vision, determination, and commitment to community can transform not just individual lives but entire generations.



Brandon Barry Brown, *The Weight of a Nation*, Oil on canvas, 40" x 40", 2024

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

2025 Hall of Fame Honoree—Government



DR. MIKE DAVIS

**LEGISLATIVE CHAMPION, CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMER,
AND GUARDIAN OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

Mike Davis stands as a transformative figure in California public service, whose pioneering leadership and unwavering commitment to community empowerment make him an ideal candidate for Hall of Fame recognition. His remarkable journey from academic excellence at UNC Charlotte and California State Universities to the highest levels of state and local leadership exemplifies the impact one dedicated individual can have on reshaping policy and empowering communities.

As an Assembly member representing the 48th District, Davis emerged as a powerful catalyst for change, most notably championing the successful reform of California's three strikes law through Proposition 36. His effectiveness in the legislature, recognized by the *Sacramento Bee* as one of the most loyal Democratic voters in 2011-2012, demonstrated his ability to build consensus while standing firm on principles. In his roles as vice chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus and chair of the Select Committee on Rail Transportation, he advanced both civil rights and infrastructure development, creating lasting impact across California.

Davis's early career as Senior Deputy Supervisor for Yvonne Brathwaite Burke and District Director for Congresswoman Maxine Waters established his reputation for effective leadership and community advocacy. Now, as President Pro Tem of the Los Angeles Board of Public Works Commission and President of the historic New Frontier Democratic Club—the largest and oldest Democratic Club in California—he continues to shape policy and empower communities. His leadership of the New Frontier Democratic Club carries forward its vital mission, begun in 1960, of fighting for political and economic empowerment.

Davis's legacy is defined not just by his positions held, but by his ability to create meaningful change through collaborative leadership and unwavering dedication to democratic values. His commitment to representing those who need it most, combined with his proven track record of policy achievement and community development, makes him a worthy inductee into the Hall of Fame, where his example can inspire future generations of public servants.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

2025 Hall of Fame Honoree—Literacy



LYNELL GEORGE

**CULTURAL CHRONICLER, GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING WRITER AND
GUARDIAN OF AFRICAN AMERICAN NARRATIVES**

Lynell George is a distinguished writer and cultural chronicler whose work has profoundly shaped the understanding of African American narratives. Her deep dive into Octavia Butler's life and work was recognized through the prestigious Huntington Library's Alan Jutzi Fellowship in 2017. George's analysis illuminated Butler's contributions to literature and deepened understanding of the intersection of race, science fiction, and social change.

For over three decades, George has been a vital voice in Los Angeles. Her work shines a light on the people and places of L.A. that might otherwise go unnoticed in the glossy narratives of the city. She combines essays and photography to document a city in flux, capturing its fading sights and shifting landscapes while reminding readers of the cultural treasures worth preserving.

George's impact as a writer is marked by numerous accolades, including a Grammy Award for Best Liner Notes, the National Association of Black Journalists' award for Hard Features, and multiple Los Angeles Press Club awards for Arts/Culture Features in 2019 and 2020. These honors reflect her skill in crafting compelling stories that celebrate African American culture and resilience.

George's influence extends to academia as well. As an English professor at Loyola Marymount University (2009–2011), she shaped the next generation of writers by blending her experiences in journalism with her passion for storytelling.

Her dedication to African American narratives, her scholarly focus on Octavia Butler, and her ongoing contributions to the literary and journalistic worlds make Lynell George an invaluable chronicler of contemporary culture.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

2025 Hall of Fame Honoree—Mass Media & History



DR. DARNELL HUNT

**UCLA BRIDGE BUILDING LEADER, ACADEMIC INNOVATOR,
AND MEDIA DIVERSITY CHAMPION**

Darnell Hunt embodies the rare combination of groundbreaking scholar, visionary administrator, and transformative leader in both academia and media research. As the interim chancellor of UCLA and lead author of the influential *Hollywood Diversity Report*, Hunt has consistently pioneered efforts to advance diversity, equity, and social justice across multiple spheres of influence.

His scholarly impact began with his Cambridge University Press-published dissertation, *Screening the Los Angeles 'Riots,'* which offered unprecedented insights into how different racial groups interpret media representations. Through landmark works like *O.J. Simpson Facts and Fictions* and *Channeling Blackness: Studies on Television and Race in America*, Hunt established himself as a leading voice in analyzing media's role in shaping social perceptions.

Since 2014, Hunt's annual *Hollywood Diversity Report* has transformed the entertainment industry's approach to inclusion, providing concrete evidence of the relationship between diversity and profitability. His research, commissioned by organizations like Color of Change, has led to tangible changes in industry hiring practices, including the adoption of the Rooney Rule in television writing rooms.

As a UCLA leader since 2001, Hunt has served in pivotal roles from department chair to dean of social sciences, and now as interim chancellor. His commitment to inclusive excellence has resulted in increased Black enrollment, diverse faculty recruitment, and the development of UCLA's ambitious five-year strategic plan. Following challenging campus events in Spring 2024, Hunt demonstrated his leadership by developing comprehensive approaches to enhance campus safety and foster dialogue across UCLA's diverse community.

Hunt's academic journey—from earning his B.A. in journalism at USC, through his MBA at Georgetown, to his M.A. and Ph.D. in sociology at UCLA—has equipped him with a unique perspective on institutional transformation. His work has been recognized with numerous honors, including UCLA's Academic Senate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award, reflecting his lasting impact on both academic and cultural landscapes.

Through his roles as scholar, administrator, and change agent, Hunt continues to shape conversations about race, media, and social justice while guiding one of America's premier public universities toward a more inclusive future.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

2025 Hall of Fame Honoree—Labor



CECILY MYART-CRUZ

**PIONEERING WOMAN EDUCATION LEADER AND
LABOR JUSTICE CHAMPION**

Cecily Myart-Cruz is a teacher, activist, and the first woman of color in United Teachers Los Angeles's (UTLA) history to serve as president of the union.

She has shattered barriers and transformed educational leadership in Los Angeles. Her groundbreaking presidency represents not just a personal achievement, but a pivotal moment in advancing equity and representation in one of the nation's largest school districts.

Through 28 years of dedicated service in education, Myart-Cruz has demonstrated exceptional leadership, particularly during the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Her steadfast advocacy resulted in implementing the strongest health and safety measures of any major U.S. school district, protecting countless students, educators, and families in our most vulnerable communities. This achievement showcases her ability to lead with vision and conviction during critical moments of crisis.

Myart-Cruz's enduring legacy extends beyond crisis management through her creation of the Beyond Recovery Platform, an innovative blueprint for educational excellence that has become a model for school districts nationwide. By bringing together teachers, parents, and community partners, she has pioneered a collaborative approach to educational reform that centers the needs of historically underserved communities.

As Chair of the NEA Black Caucus, she has consistently championed initiatives that advance racial justice and educational equity, from expanding Ethnic Studies programs to ending the criminalization of youth. Her work has brought vital resources to schools, including pioneering mentoring programs for young girls of color, demonstrating her commitment to creating pathways for the next generation of leaders.

Cecily Myart-Cruz exemplifies the qualities we seek to honor in the African American Hall of Fame: groundbreaking leadership, unwavering dedication to community advancement, and the ability to create lasting positive change. Her induction celebrates not only her historic achievements but also her ongoing work to ensure every student has access to a quality education in a safe, just, and supportive learning environment.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

2025 Hall of Fame Honoree—Education



DR. DEBORAH PROTHROW-STITH

**VISIONARY MEDICAL EDUCATOR, PUBLIC HEALTH PIONEER,
AND ARCHITECT OF HEALTHCARE EQUITY**

Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith's journey exemplifies how one person's vision can transform healthcare for generations. As Dean of Charles R. Drew University College of Medicine in Los Angeles, she leads a groundbreaking initiative to train diverse medical professionals who will serve communities often left behind by traditional healthcare systems.

Her path to becoming a pioneering force in medical education and public health began at Spelman College, followed by Harvard Medical School. A transformative moment came during her residency at a Boston hospital when a young Black patient she treated for stab wounds told her not to go to sleep – he planned to ensure his attacker would need medical attention later that night. This encounter sparked her revolutionary approach to urban violence as a public health crisis, leading to her groundbreaking book “Deadly Consequences,” the first to frame violence as a public health issue.

Breaking barriers throughout her career, Dr. Prothrow-Stith became Massachusetts' first woman Commissioner of Public Health, managing 3,500 employees, eight hospitals, and a \$350 million budget. At Harvard School of Public Health, she established the Division of Public Health Practice and served as Associate Dean for Diversity. Her commitment to global health led her to work in an AIDS clinic in Tanzania while her husband served as U.S. Ambassador.

In 2016, she embarked on perhaps her most ambitious mission yet – developing the newest medical school at a historically Black university west of the Mississippi. Under her leadership, Charles R. Drew University College of Medicine has become a beacon of hope for diversifying the medical profession. The school's mission resonates powerfully: more than 6,000 applicants compete for just 60 slots in each class, with the next cohort set to begin in July 2025.

Understanding that financial barriers often block talented students from medical careers, Dr. Prothrow-Stith has become a tireless fundraiser. Her efforts culminated in a historic \$75 million donation from Bloomberg Philanthropies in 2024, marking a vote of confidence in the school's mission to address healthcare disparities.

With ten honorary doctorates and recognition as LA County's Woman of the Year for the 2nd District in 2017, Dr. Prothrow-Stith remains focused on her ultimate goal: creating lasting change in healthcare delivery to underserved communities. Through her leadership at Charles R. Drew University College of Medicine, she is building a legacy that will transform healthcare access and equity for generations to come, proving that with vision and determination, one person can indeed change the world.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

2025 Hall of Fame Honoree—Medicine



DR. JESSIE L. SHERROD

**HEALTHCARE PIONEER, COMMUNITY HEALTH GUARDIAN,
AND MENTOR TO GENERATIONS**

In the heart of the Mississippi Delta, a young girl's courage to fight for civil rights would foreshadow a lifetime dedicated to breaking barriers and uplifting communities. **Dr. Jessie L. Sherrod's** remarkable journey from teenage activist to pioneering physician embodies the power of purpose and perseverance in creating lasting change.

Breaking ground as the first student from Tougaloo College to attend Harvard Medical School in 1971, Dr. Sherrod opened doors that would benefit generations to follow. Her success paved the way for approximately ten more Tougaloo pre-med students to walk through Harvard's prestigious halls. Yet her most profound impact would come in Los Angeles, where she would dedicate her career to serving those most in need.

When Martin Luther King Jr. Drew Medical Center faced closure, Dr. Sherrod made the selfless decision to leave her successful private practice in Infectious Disease to save this vital community hospital. Her innovative infection control model achieved the seemingly impossible – reducing infection rates by 50% in just one year and transforming the hospital's rating from its worst to its best score. As she often reflects, it was her way of giving back to the community with the skills she acquired through Affirmative Action.

In 1982, recognizing the need for support and mentorship among Black women in medicine, Dr. Sherrod founded the Association of Black Women Physicians (ABWP) of Los Angeles. Under her leadership, this organization has become a powerful force for change, providing over one million dollars in scholarships to more than 500 pre-med students over 42 years. Her vision of empowering Black women physicians to lead in community health and wellness continues to inspire new generations.

Even in retirement and facing health challenges, Dr. Sherrod's commitment to service remains undiminished. She freely shares her knowledge of traditional, Eastern, alternative, and functional medicine to help others facing similar health challenges. Her motto, "never fail to help someone in need if you can," continues to guide her work in mentoring aspiring physicians and educating communities about health and well-being.

Dr. Sherrod's numerous accolades – including the Jackie Robinson Trail Blazer Award, recognition as Woman of the Year by the California Legislature, and induction as the first African American in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health Hall of Fame – speak to her extraordinary impact. Yet her greatest legacy lies in the countless lives she's touched through her work in public health, her advocacy for healthcare access, and her tireless efforts to increase diversity in medicine.

Her life reminds us that true success isn't measured by personal achievements alone, but by how many others we lift as we climb. As she emphasizes, we all have a purpose on Earth – our task is to find it and use it to manifest good in the world. Dr. Jessie L. Sherrod's story isn't just about breaking barriers; it's about building bridges that allow others to cross into a future of greater possibility and promise.



Adeola Davies-Aiyelaja, *Ancestral Visit*, Cyanotype on textile, 12" x 12", 2024

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

2025 Hall of Fame Honoree—Medicine



DR. RICHARD ALLEN WILLIAMS **PIONEERING CARDIOLOGIST, HEALTHCARE EQUITY ADVOCATE, AND CULTURAL INNOVATOR**

From the segregated streets of Wilmington, Delaware, to the prestigious halls of Harvard, **Dr. Richard Allen Williams'** story exemplifies the power of determination and vision in breaking barriers. Born in an era of racial segregation, young Richard refused to let society's constraints define his future.

As a Black student in the 1940s and 50s, Williams faced the reality of segregated schools with limited resources. Spending countless hours at the Wilmington Public Library, he sought knowledge beyond what his school could provide. His dedication led to graduating at the top of his class from Howard High School, with College Board scores so exceptional that Harvard University offered him a full scholarship at age 16.

After graduating with honors from Harvard and earning his medical degree, Dr. Williams focused on transforming healthcare for communities of color. In 1974, at a time when African American cardiologists were rare, he founded the Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC), an organization dedicated to addressing cardiovascular disease's disproportionate impact on African Americans. In 1985, he established the Minority Health Institute, focusing on cultural competency and healthcare equity education for medical professionals.

A multifaceted talent, Dr. Williams is also an accomplished musician. As a gifted trumpet player, he learned from jazz legend Clifford Brown and developed a close relationship with Miles Davis, who became both his mentor and patient. Through his band RAW Sugar, he has used music as a tool for raising awareness about health equity.

His contributions to medical literature include nine influential books, including the groundbreaking *Healthcare Disparities at the Crossroads with Healthcare Reform* (2011). Notably, two of his works have been preserved in the Smithsonian Institution's historical archives for their historical significance: the *Textbook of Black-Related Diseases* (1975) and *Blacks in Medicine* (2020). These works have fundamentally shaped the understanding of health disparities and cultural competency in medicine.

Dr. Williams' accomplishments have earned him numerous honors, including President Biden's Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award in 2023. In 2024, his hometown of Wilmington plans to rename a street "Dr. Richard Allen Williams Way," symbolizing how determination and excellence can overcome societal barriers.

His legacy extends beyond personal achievements to the countless lives he's touched – from patients he's treated to generations of medical professionals he's inspired to fight for healthcare equity. Through the Minority Health Institute, he continues his mission of "Uplifting the Health of Humanity," proving that when we break through barriers, we create paths for generations to follow.



Brandon Barry Brown, *The Original Cowboy*, Oil on canvas, 36" x 48" x 1.5", 2024



AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

honors

LEROY HAMILTON PHOTOGRAPHER

Leroy Hamilton is a Los Angeles based professional photographer who captures life as it happens. He has a truly unique way of telling stories, by capturing magical images. He consistently finds the very best moments and adds a masterful artistry to each photo he creates. His work has appeared in *USA Today*, *Variety*, *Black Enterprise*, *Written By*, *Upscale*, *Jet*, *Ebony*, *O Magazine*, and *Essence*. He has an excellent eye for detail, which he uses to create a strongly compelling narrative about his subjects. His belief, that everyone is beautiful, shines through his lens.

The Story of Us exhibition of Hamilton's work, at the Henry P. Rios Gallery at City Hall, displays Black Angelenos in several dimensions of their lives—at home with family, in the conference room, on the court, in government halls of power, on the main stage, in the streets, and in places of worship. It captures the fullness of Black life. Mr. Hamilton seeks to restore the humanity behind Black faces that are often misrepresented. Visitors will experience the full spectrum of Black personhood through the lens of a local artist with strategic connections and expansive vision.

Mr. Hamilton wants his exhibit, *The Story of Us*, to reverberate across the country. By capturing a collection of photos of Black Angelenos, the artist hopes to draw parallels between movement building in Black Los Angeles to national Black movements. Mr. Hamilton hopes to remind visitors that there is a community photographer in every community, and we must recommit ourselves to seeking them out and uplifting their work. The photography exhibit is an ode to Black Los Angeles and all we represent in the past, present, and future—from Crenshaw to the coast, this is *The Story of Us*.

His exhibition, *The Story of Us*, will be on display in the Henry P. Rios Gallery at Los Angeles City Hall from January 31 through February 26, 2025 in honor of African American Heritage Month. The exhibition is free to attend and open to the public from Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Visit the artist's website photographybyhamilton.smugmug.com to see more of his incredible work.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

Photographer Leroy Hamilton



AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

Photographer Leroy Hamilton



All photographs, taken by **Leroy Hamilton**, are presented at the City of Los Angeles Bridge Gallery, located in City Hall. The exhibition is open to the public from Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Page 36: **Michael Jackson, Magic and Cookie Johnson**

Page 38: Top, **Los Angeles City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson and Rapper/Activist Nipsey Hussle**

Middle, **City of Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass and United States Vice President Kamala Harris at the Inauguration of Mayor Bass**

Bottom, **Celia Cruz**

Page 39: Top, **Attorney Johnnie Cochran**

Bottom, **Kobe Bryant**



Christopher Samaroo, Girl with Beaded Hair, Oil on canvas, 36"x24", 2022



AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025

OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

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

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND LABOR

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D.M. Eason, *Nia*, I pen digital hand drawing, 2023



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**PRESIDENT
LOS ANGELES FEDERATION OF LABOR**

As the Honorary Chair of the 2025 Black History Month 75th City-Wide Celebration, I am honored to introduce this year's theme, **African Americans and Labor**. This theme shines a light on the profound impact of Black labor, which has shaped not only the history of African Americans but also the very fabric of societies across the United States, Africa, and the Diaspora. Our story—the story of Black labor—is woven from struggles and triumphs that extend far beyond economic contributions. It is a story of resilience, culture, and transformation.

This year's theme, **African Americans and Labor**, commemorates the monumental centennial of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, founded by labor leader A. Philip Randolph in 1925. As the first all-Black union to receive a charter in the American Federation of Labor, it catalyzed economic and social reforms that continue to resonate today. Leaders like Mr. Randolph, alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who linked labor rights with civil rights through the March on Washington and the Poor People's Campaign, remind us that the pursuit of economic justice remains an essential part of our struggle for dignity and equality.

By revisiting these stories of labor and labor struggles, we aim to inspire meaningful dialogue on the intersections of Black people's work, communities, and contributions. Whether through compensated labor in industry and service or voluntary work in churches and community groups, Black labor has been foundational to our shared history and cultural heritage.

As we celebrate this theme, let us recognize that understanding Black labor is essential to understanding the full breadth of Black history. Let us also honor the generations who have paved the way for our present achievements and commit to ensuring that labor in all its forms is recognized, respected, and equitably compensated.

I invite you all to join us this February as we celebrate, reflect, and rededicate ourselves to the work that remains ahead. Together, let us uplift the legacy of African Americans and Labor—a legacy of resilience, community, and unwavering strength.

In Solidarity,

Yvonne Wheeler

**PRESIDENT, LOS ANGELES FEDERATION OF LABOR
HONORARY CHAIR, 2025 OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB LOS ANGELES CITY-WIDE BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION**



OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

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

YVONNE WHEELER

PRESIDENT

LOS ANGELES FEDERATION OF LABOR

2025 OASC BLACK HISTORY MONTH GENERAL AND HONORARY CHAIR

Yvonne Wheeler's journey is a powerful testament to breaking barriers and fighting for justice. From marching for civil rights as a high school student in segregated Louisiana to becoming the first Black woman President of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, she has never backed down from challenging inequality. When she witnessed racial discrimination as a telephone operator, she stood up and fought back. When she saw too few African Americans in labor leadership, she created training programs to mentor the next generation. Through decades of fearless advocacy, Wheeler has transformed the landscape of labor rights while opening doors for others to follow.

Her impact extends beyond the labor movement, serving as a bridge between workers' rights and civil rights. As president of the Los Angeles Chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, she mobilized communities to defeat anti-labor legislation and developed programs to ensure African Americans had pathways to leadership roles. Her work with major organizations like the AFL-CIO, AFSCME, and AFGE has championed the rights of working families across the nation, while her mentorship has created a lasting legacy of empowered leaders.

Today, as she takes on the role of Honorary and General Chair for the 75th Anniversary African American Heritage Month City Wide Celebration in 2025, Wheeler continues to unite communities and celebrate the rich legacy of African American achievement. Serving as First Executive Vice President of the California Federation of Labor and Vice Chair of the California Democratic Party Labor Caucus, she demonstrates that leadership means not just breaking through glass ceilings, but ensuring others have the tools to follow. As a leader, mother, and grandmother, she proves that one person's courage and dedication can create lasting change for working families and communities, while honoring the heritage that helped shape her remarkable journey.



Dolores Johnson, *Women at the Window*, Watercolor, 6" x 11", 2024



OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

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

2025 NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH THEME

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND LABOR

2025 HONORARY CHAIR

Yvonne Wheeler
PRESIDENT
LOS ANGELES COUNTY FEDERATION OF LABOR

2025 HONORARY COMMITTEE

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PRESIDENT
THE BAKEWELL COMPANY

Cherisse Bremond
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BROTHERHOOD CRUSADE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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EXECUTIVE PUBLISHER / CEO
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

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RAINBOW PRODUCTIONS, LLC.

Anita Castille
VICE PRESIDENT HUMAN RESOURCES
AHF

Cynthia Exum
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Coach Wendy Gladney
WENDY'S ENTERPRISES

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Malik Muhammed
OWNER
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Reverend K.W. Tulloss
BAPTIST MINISTERS CONFERENCE

Brian Williams
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
WEINGART FOUNDATION

Helen. P Young
CO-FOUNDER
PIPELINES TO POSSIBILITIES
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CCC TO HBCU

William Allen Young
ACTOR-DIRECTOR
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT
YOUNG CENTER FOR ACADEMIC &
CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

OASC HONORARY MEMBERS

Mike Davis
COMMISSIONER EMERITUS
LA CITY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Pastor Cue Jn-Marie
THE ROW CHURCH/
THE CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS

Clifton Johnson
VICE PRESIDENT (RETIRED)
UNION BANK

Rev. James K. McKnight
PASTOR
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Rev. Travis Morris
PASTOR
LEWIS METROPOLITAN, CME

Rev. Thembekila Smart
PASTOR
CHRIST LIBERATION MINISTRIES

Rev. William D. Smart
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SCLC-SC

Pastor Kelvin Sauls
FORMER PASTOR
HOLMAN UNITED METHODIST
CO-FOUNDER BLACK ALLIANCE
FOR JUST IMMIGRATION

Marqueece Harris-Dawson
PRESIDENT LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL
COUNCILMEMBER, EIGHTH DISTRICT



OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

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

Let us banish fear. We have been in this mental state for three centuries.
I am a radical. I am ready to act if I can find brave men to help me.

~ Carter G. Woodson

2025 AFRICAN AMERICAN PLANNING COMMITTEE

Lura Ball
PRESIDENT
OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB

Rhoda Bruton
REPRESENTATIVE
COUNCIL DISTRICT 8

Carolyn Connor
MEMBER
OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB

Teresa Curtis
CHAPLAIN
OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB

Paqueta Davis
TREASURER
OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB

Jacquelin Dupont-Walker
FOUNDING PRESIDENT
WARD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

Antona Farmby
VICE PRESIDENT
SEIU UNITED SERVICE WORKERS WEST

Gwendolyn Goodman
PRESIDENT/CEO
ONE SOLUTION HR & TRAINING, LLC

Ernestine J. Gordon
HISTORIAN
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Cydnee Hines
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

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COUNCIL DISTRICT 8

Clifton Johnson
VICE PRESIDENT (RETIRED)
UNION BANK

Maude Johnson
EVENTS
OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB

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OUTREACH AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
COORDINATOR
THE LA COUNTY FEDERATION OF LABOR,
AFL-CIO

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DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS
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CITY OF LOS ANGELES

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COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAM MANAGER
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VICE PRESIDENT
OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB

Nancy René
AFRICAN AMERICAN POLICE HISTORY SOCIETY

Gil Robertson
PRESIDENT
AFRICAN AMERICAN FILM CRITICS
ASSOCIATION (AAFA)

Rosa Russell
COMMISSIONER, LA CIVIL RIGHTS
COMMUNITY HUMAN RELATIONS

Alvetia Smith
RETIRED
US POSTAL SERVICE

Pamela Sparrow
SENIOR SPECIALIST OFFICER OF MAYOR BASS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Dr. Daniel Tabor
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR
LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Brenda Tyson

Carolyn Webb de Macias
CHIEF OF STAFF, MAYOR
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

William Allen Young
ACTOR-DIRECTOR
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT
YOUNG CENTER FOR ACADEMIC & CULTURAL
ENRICHMENT



OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

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



2025 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DR. LURA DANIELS-BALL
PRESIDENT
OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

Work transcends mere labor for compensation—it is a profound narrative of human dignity, resilience, and hope, as exemplified through my parents' extraordinary journeys.

My mother Mary Lee, a Licensed Vocational Nurse, worked grueling graveyard shifts at a psychiatric hospital, commuting long distances without complaint. Despite her exhausting schedule, she ensured her community was enriched by her volunteer service and children never missed opportunities—from parochial school to sports to community engagement. Her work wasn't just about a paycheck; it created pathways of possibility.

My father Wilburn's story exemplifies courage. As one of Greenville, Texas's first Black policemen, his decision to arrest a white man for a crime in the Black community forced our family to relocate to California for safety. Gaining employment at the General Motors Plant in Fremont, CA, he rose from line worker to union leader. He became a self-taught advocate especially for Black workers facing systemic barriers. He built bridges with law enforcement and judiciary throughout Santa Clara County, creating channels for fair representation.

His impact grew beyond workplace advocacy. After training with the National Association of Alcoholism Counselors, he helped workers maintain both their jobs and dignity through substance abuse support. When the plant sold in 1984, he adapted, training in Japan and embracing each challenge as an opportunity.

These experiences showed us: work is the cornerstone of the Black experience—not just about survival, but about building community, challenging inequities, and creating opportunities. My parents exemplified self-help, entrepreneurship, social justice, and unwavering human rights commitment.

This truth extends beyond compensated labor to include community building, social justice activism, and institutional development—shaping not just individual lives, but entire cultural landscapes.

Let me take a personal privilege. On behalf of all my brothers and sisters, I thank my parents and previous generations for this profound understanding.

My parents' lives were a profound example of self-help, entrepreneurship, social justice, and an unwavering commitment to human rights. Because of our generational legacy, our family's labor story is a testament to dignity and dreams passed through generations. Through our parents Mary Lee and Wilburn, we understood work as an instrument of change, a beacon of hope, and a bridge to possibilities.



OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

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

As we mark 75 years of partnership with the City of Los Angeles and its Mayor for the Celebration of Black History in 2025, we honor those who transformed free and unfree, skilled, and unskilled, vocational and voluntary labor into an extraordinary legacy. Their hands built more than buildings—they constructed futures. Their voices reached beyond grievances to articulate visions of justice.

Our labor, Black Labor remains our love letter to the future. Through this lens, we continue to work, serve, and transform—not just for ourselves, but for future generations. Our greatest work of all kinds opens doors, clears paths, grows businesses, and makes dreams possible.

Let this be our commitment and our calling: to ensure that every hour of labor brings us closer to the beloved community our ancestors envisioned, where dignity is not just defended but celebrated, where opportunity is not just promised but guaranteed, and where the transformative power of work continues to light the way toward justice, equality, and shared prosperity for all.



OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

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

DR. LURA DANIELS-BALL

PRESIDENT
OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

Lura Daniels-Ball is a renaissance woman whose influence spans business, arts, and community service. As President of the Our Author Study Club, Inc. (OASC) since 2022, she advances the vision of Vassie D. Wright and Dr. Carter G. Woodson in preserving and promoting Black history in Los Angeles.

In the 1980s and '90s, she transformed corporate America through pioneering diverse consumer marketing programs that resolved the major Coors Brewing Company boycott. Her corporate giving initiatives created enduring impact across 14 Western states. At USC, she revitalized the Black Alumni Association, establishing nine endowments. Inspired by Howard University's pinning ceremony, which she witnessed with her son Lawrence, she created the Trojan Welcome Ceremony to honor past, present, and future generations. The Cardinal and Gold pins she designed feature adinkra symbols representing the Ideal Trojan: Faithful, Scholarly, Skillful, and Ambitious. She continues to shape futures through Heartsung, her boutique PR firm, and Lura's Kitchen, Inc., a multi-generational benefit corporation celebrating her family's culinary heritage.

A classically trained vocalist from USC's Thornton School of Music, Lura transcends musical genres from classical to gospel, jazz to R&B. Her program, *MLK: A Tribute in Song*, artfully combines music and civil rights history. Her dedication to education lives on through donation and music scholarships established in honor of her parents, Wilburn and Mary Lee Daniels and film scholarships in honor of her late husband Lionel.

As a management consultant, computer instructor, and life skills coach, Lura exemplifies service and excellence. Mother to Langston, Lawrence, and Lauren, and grandmother to Trinity, Jonathan, and Jackson, she continues to inspire while serving as a soloist at the Congregational Church of Christian Fellowship.

Throughout her career, Lura Daniels-Ball demonstrates how passion, purpose, and perseverance can transform business, arts, and community—embodying the essence of a modern renaissance woman.



Jasimen Phillips, *Get the Bag*, Acrylic on canvas, 18" x 24", 2024



OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

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AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY



2025 BLACK HERITAGE MONTH STAMP

MUSICIAN ALLEN TOUSSAINT

The Black Heritage series has celebrated a man one year and a woman the next. In 2025 the 48th stamp in the series honors **Allen Toussaint** (1938–2015), the virtuoso pianist, singer, songwriter, composer, arranger and producer responsible for scores of hits across multiple genres. Designed by Ethel Kessler, an art director for USPS, the stamp features a photograph taken by Bill Tompkins in New York City in 2007.

Toussaint was an influential figure in New Orleans rhythm and blues from the 1950s to the end of the century, described as “one of popular music’s great backroom figures.” Many musicians recorded Toussaint’s compositions. He was a producer for hundreds of recordings: the best known are *Right Place*, *Wrong Time*, by longtime friend Dr. John, and *Lady Marmalade* by Labelle.

The *Daily Telegraph* described Toussaint as “a master of New Orleans soul and R&B, and one of America’s most successful songwriters and producers,” adding that “self-effacing Toussaint played a crucial role in countless classic songs popularized by other artists.” He had written so many songs, over more than five decades, that he admitted to forgetting quite a few.

For more information about this amazing musical talent, visit: allen-toussaint.com.



Schessa Garbutt, *Octavia's Solstice*, Cyanotype sun print, 8.5" x 11", 2024



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.**

Dr. Carter G. Woodson's journey from the son of former slaves to becoming one of America's most influential scholars embodies the transformative power of education and determination. Born in 1875, he forged his path from the coalfields of West Virginia to the prestigious halls of Harvard University, where he made history as the first person born to enslaved parents to earn a Ph.D. This achievement was more than a personal triumph—it was a lighthouse of possibility.

In 1915, driven by a profound vision, Woodson established what would become the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). His mission was revolutionary: to ensure that Black Americans' contributions to our nation's story would be rigorously documented, thoughtfully preserved, and widely celebrated. His home at 1538 Ninth Street in Washington, D.C., purchased in 1922, became the epicenter of this cultural renaissance.

This historic residence served as more than just a home—it was a vibrant intellectual hub where future generations of scholars were mentored, where groundbreaking publications like the *Journal of Negro History* took shape, and where Negro History Week was conceived in 1926. The latter would evolve into what we now celebrate as Black History Month, touching millions of lives across the nation.

Through his "office-home," Woodson created a sacred space where luminaries like Langston Hughes worked alongside him, and where countless historians and academics found guidance and inspiration. He meticulously preserved rare documents and collections that captured the African American experience, understanding that each artifact told a fundamental story of resilience and achievement.

As Mary McLeod Bethune poignantly expressed after his passing in 1950, "He kept my faith in myself intact. He restored my faith in the potential of my race." These words capture the essence of Woodson's lasting impact—his ability to illuminate the path forward by honoring the journey that came before.

Today, his home reopened as a National Historic Site in late 2024. It stands as a monument to one person's extraordinary vision and unwavering commitment. Woodson's legacy reminds us that when we preserve our history, we do more than remember the past—we light the way for future generations to understand their own potential for greatness.

His life's work continues to teach us that education is not merely about acquiring knowledge, but about using that knowledge to lift up others, to challenge assumptions, and to ensure that every American's story is recognized as an integral part of our shared history. In doing so, Woodson didn't just study history—he changed it, leaving us a legacy that continues to inspire and educate.

Plan your visit when it opens to the public. Log on to follow Ranger John Fowler on a tour of Dr. Carter G. Woodson's office-home, which is now the Carter G. Woodson Home NHS, the 389th unit of the national park system at:

nps.gov/media/video/view.htm?id=I6B8DCA4-ID9B-4E6B-8E7E-C478196FC4F4



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AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY



For Teachers:

Lesson Plans for Elementary, Middle, and High School Students. To learn more about the life, work, and legacy of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, teachers can download lesson plans created by educators and members of the Association for Study of African American Life and History, Inc. (ASALH), Dr. La Vonne I. Neal and Dr. Sarah Militz-Frielink.

nps.gov/cawo/learn/education/index.htm

For a full bio: asalh.org



ASALH

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF
AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY

2025 BLACK HISTORY MONTH THEME EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND LABOR

The 2025 Black History Month theme, **African Americans, and Labor**, focuses on the various and profound ways that work and working of all kinds – free and unfree, skilled, and unskilled, vocational and voluntary – intersect with the collective experiences of Black people. Indeed, work is at the very center of much of Black history and culture. Be it the traditional agricultural labor of enslaved Africans that fed Low Country colonies, debates among Black educators on the importance of vocational training, self-help strategies and entrepreneurship in Black communities, or organized labor’s role in fighting both economic and social injustice, Black people’s work has been transformational throughout the U.S., Africa, and the Diaspora. The 2025 Black History Month theme, “African Americans and Labor,” sets out to highlight and celebrate the potent impact of this work.

Considering Black people’s work through the widest perspectives provides versatile and insightful platforms for examining Black life and culture through time and space. In this instance, the notion of work constitutes compensated labor in factories, the military, government agencies, office buildings, public service, and private homes. But it also includes the community building of social justice activists, voluntary workers serving others, and institution building in churches, community groups, and social clubs and organizations. In each of these instances, the work Black people do and have done have been instrumental in shaping the lives, cultures, and histories of Black people and the societies in which they live. Understanding Black labor and its impact in all these multivariate settings is integral to understanding Black people and their histories, lives, and cultures.

Africans were brought to the Americas to be enslaved for their knowledge and serve as a workforce, which was superexploited by several European countries and then by the United States government. During enslavement, Black people labored for others, although some Black people were quasi-free and labored for themselves, but operated within a country that did not value Black life. After fighting for their freedom in the Civil War and in the country’s transition from an agricultural based economy to an industrial one, African Americans became sharecroppers, farm laborers, land owners, and then wage earners. Additionally, African Americans’ contributions to the built landscape can be found in every part of the nation as they constructed and designed some of the most iconic examples of architectural heritage in the country, specifically in the South.

Over the years to combat the superexploitation of Black labor, wage discrepancies, and employment discrimination based on race, sex, and gender, Black professionals (teachers, nurses, musicians, and lawyers, etc.) occupations (steel workers, washer women, dock workers, sex workers, sports, arts and sciences, etc.) organized for better working conditions and compensation. Black women such as Addie Wyatt also joined ranks of union work and leadership to advocate for job security, reproductive rights, and wage increases.



ASALH

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF
AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY

2025 marks the 100-year anniversary of the creation of Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and Maids by labor organizer and civil rights activist A. Philip Randolph, which was the first Black union to receive a charter in the American Federation of Labor. Martin Luther King, Jr. incorporated issues outlined by Randolph's March on Washington Movement such as economic justice into the Poor People's Campaign, which he established in 1967. For King, it was a priority for Black people to be considered full citizens.

The theme, **African Americans and Labor**, intends to encourage broad reflections on intersections between Black people's work and their workplaces in all their iterations and key moments, themes, and events in Black history and culture across time and space and throughout the U.S., Africa, and the Diaspora. Like religion, social justice movements, and education, studying African Americans' labor and labor struggles are important organizing foci for new interpretations and reinterpretations of the Black past, present, and future. Such new considerations and reconsiderations are even more significant as the historical forces of racial oppression gather new and renewed strength in the 21st century.

ASALH MISSION

To promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community.

For more information about the Association, visit: asalh.org



Bernard Stanley Hoyes, *Healing Spirit*, Oil on wood panel, 9" x12", 2010



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.
LOS ANGELES BRANCH OF THE ASSOCIATION
FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE
AND HISTORY, INC. (ASALH)**

Some heroes build monuments, others build bridges, but Vassie Davis Wright built something even more enduring—she built pathways to knowledge that would transform Los Angeles's understanding of its own history. In 1945, while many focused on the end of World War II, Wright was launching a quiet revolution from a meeting with postal workers that would change how the city understood its African American heritage.

Born in 1899 in Paola, Kansas, Wright carried with her the determination and dreams of a teacher, but she would become far more—a cultural architect whose influence would reshape Los Angeles's educational and cultural landscape. Armed with degrees from Western University and graduate studies from the University of Kansas, she saw beyond the limitations placed on Black women of her era.

Her founding of **Our Authors Study Club** was more than just creating a literary circle—it was establishing a beacon of intellectual pursuit and historical truth. Under Wright's leadership, the club became a branch of Dr. Carter G. Woodson's Association for the Study of African Life and History, chartered by Dr. Woodson himself, connecting Los Angeles to a national movement of historical preservation and cultural pride.

In an era when leadership roles for Black women were severely restricted, Wright defied conventions. She pioneered the first Black History curriculum in Los Angeles adult schools, established vital lending libraries across community centers, and orchestrated the city's first Negro History Week celebration in 1948. This began a remarkable tradition that continues today, where OASC and every Los Angeles Mayor since Fletcher Bowron in 1950 have jointly hosted the city-wide celebration, declaring it an experience open to all Angelenos. As a real estate broker and civic leader, she understood that community empowerment required both cultural awareness and economic strength.

While serving as Chair of the Recognition and Awards Committee for the El Pueblo De Los Angeles State Historical Monument Commission, she worked alongside the formidable Miriam Matthews and Mayor Yorty to unveil a plaza plaque acknowledging the original founding families of Los Angeles, which identified thirteen founders of African descent. This unveiling restored a crucial piece of the city's history that might have otherwise remained hidden.

When the Jefferson Library Branch was renamed the Jefferson-Vassie D. Wright Library after her passing in 1983, it wasn't just a building receiving a new name—it was the city acknowledging a woman who had helped it discover its true self. Through her work with numerous organizations, from church groups to sororities, Wright created a network of knowledge and empowerment that continues to influence Los Angeles today.



OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

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



City of Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and Mrs. Vassie D. Wright at an African American Heritage Month event in the 1970s.

In addition to founding and leading Our Authors Study Club, the Los Angeles branch of ASALH, Wright held numerous prestigious positions. She was a member of Second Baptist Church, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, a life member of the National Association of Negro Women's Clubs and served on countless other organizations. Her achievements earned her recognition in Marquis' "Who's Who Among American Women in the West," the National Register of Prominent Americans and International Notables, and the Dictionary of International Biography in Cambridge, England. She was appointed by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn to serve on both the Los Angeles County Committee on the American Revolution Bicentennial and the Los Angeles Bicentennial Committee.

Her legacy teaches us that the most powerful changes often begin with a simple question: "What stories haven't been told?" Wright dedicated her life to answering this question, ensuring that the rich tapestry of African American contributions to Los Angeles would be preserved, celebrated, and passed on to future generations.

OASC turns eighty on February 14, 2025, and continues to amplify her vision—one that lives on in every student who learns about Black history in Los Angeles schools, in every reader who discovers African American authors at the library bearing her name, and in every citizen who better understands the diverse foundations of their city thanks to her tireless work.



Megashia Jackson, *Kwanzaa*, Digital photography, 2023



Our Authors Study Club, Inc.

WHEREAS, Our Authors Study Club, Inc. (OASCI), founded by Yvonne D. Wright in 1943 has partnered with nine Los Angeles regional administrations, establishing the longest-running city-wide Black History Month celebrations in the country; and

WHEREAS, OASCI has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to promoting Black history and culture through education, advocacy, and community engagement, culminating in the adoption of a resolution by Councilmember Don A. Allen on January 26, 1991, to acknowledge and celebrate their contributions; and

WHEREAS, February 2023 marks the 79th Diamond Anniversary of Black History Month celebrations in the City of Los Angeles, in alignment with the national theme "African Americans and Labor," which underscores the transformative roles of work throughout Black history, from the labor of enslaved Africans to entrepreneurship, organized labor, and ongoing struggles for economic and social justice; and

WHEREAS, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson has championed national Black History Month celebrations since 1926 to explore and honor the Black experience; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month represents a vital opportunity to recognize and celebrate the profound influence of Black Americans in shaping our national narrative and fostering understanding and unity; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month represents the enduring legacy of African Americans who have shaped the progress and spirit of the United States, encouraging all Angelenos to participate in Black History Month programs and initiatives that promote learning, empathy, and mutual respect.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles City Council celebrates and recognizes the Our Authors Study Club, Inc.'s Seventy-Ninth Diamond City-Wide Black History Celebration and its unprecedented, intergenerational partnership with Los Angeles mayors spanning over seven decades and the 2023 national theme "African Americans and Labor" as a profound lens for understanding the complex historical contributions of African Americans.

RESOLUTION BY


 REBECCA HARRIS-DAWSON
 Mayor

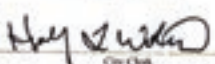
I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Los Angeles at its meeting held December 13, 2023.


 President of the Council

RECORDED BY ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS






 Holly S. Wilkin
 City Clerk



AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025

OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

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

THE LEGACY OF PARTNERSHIP

THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES HONORS 75 YEARS OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATIONS

The **Los Angeles City Council**'s adoption of this resolution marks a watershed moment in civic leadership. For 75 years, **Our Authors Study Club** has woven Black history into the fabric of Los Angeles through an unprecedented partnership with nine mayoral administrations.

This collaboration, first recognized by Councilmember **Don A. Allen** in 1951, represents the nation's longest-running citywide Black History Month celebration. By reaffirming this relationship in 2025, the Council not only honors decades of cultural stewardship but also connects Los Angeles's local heritage to the national conversation about African Americans' contributions to labor and economic justice.

The resolution, at left, captures this enduring commitment to celebrating the diversity that defines our city.



OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

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

75th Diamond OASC City Wide Celebration Award



MARY LOUISE REEVES

**CENTENARIAN LEGACY BUILDER, EDUCATIONAL
PIONEER, AND COMMUNITY PILLAR**

A Life of Purpose: Linking Los Angeles to Our Authors Study Club

Born on a summer day in 1922 in Marshall, Texas, Mary Louise entered the world with an extraordinary spirit that would define her remarkable journey. Her birth, attended by a midwife, marked the beginning of a life characterized by determination, intellectual brilliance, and unwavering service to others.

From her earliest years, Mary Louise demonstrated exceptional academic prowess. Breaking barriers and defying expectations, she graduated high school at just 15 years old—an achievement that spoke not only to her remarkable intelligence but to her fierce determination. By 19, she had earned her degree from Bishop College, stepping into her first teaching position in a rural school where some of her students were older than their young instructor. This early experience would prove to be just the beginning of her lifelong commitment to education and community service.

At 20, with courage and ambition in her heart, Mary Louise embarked on a new chapter, moving to Los Angeles to forge her destiny. Starting at the Post Office, she soon pursued her true calling in education, earning her teaching credentials and joining the Los Angeles Unified School District. For three decades, she shaped young minds and futures, while simultaneously fighting for teachers' rights as a pioneering member of UTLA (United Teachers Los Angeles). In those early days, when the union had neither money nor power, Mary Louise stood at the forefront of change, helping organize the first teachers' strike—a testament to her commitment to not just education, but to justice and fair treatment for educators.

Her dedication to public service extended far beyond the classroom. For over four decades, Mary Louise served as an Angelina docent in the Los Angeles Mayor's Office, beginning her service under the honorable Tom Bradley, who affectionately nicknamed his dedicated docents the "Yellow Brick Roaders of City Hall." In this role, she helped countless visitors navigate and understand the historic corridors of Los Angeles City Hall, sharing its rich history and significance with generations of citizens. This remarkable commitment to civic engagement demonstrated her deep belief in the power of community service and her dedication to making Los Angeles a better place for all its citizens.

Faith has been the cornerstone of Mary Louise's life since childhood. Joining the church at age 8, she has remained a pillar of spiritual strength and service in her community. Her spiritual journey led her to Park Hills Community Church in 1990, where she continued to nurture her faith and serve others. Her commitment to education and African American



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history and culture has extended far beyond the classroom through her dedicated service to Our Authors Study Club, Inc. and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), organizations where she has worked tirelessly to preserve and promote African American heritage and literary achievements.

Now at 101 years old, Mary Louise continues to be a beacon of strength and inspiration, remaining active and engaged in her community. Her remarkable vitality and ongoing dedication to service demonstrate that age is truly just a number when one has purpose and passion.

As a mother of three daughters (one of whom she sadly lost), grandmother of four, and great-grandmother of seven, Mary Louise has created a legacy of love, strength, and service that spans generations. Her story is not just one of personal achievement, but of lifting others up along the way—whether they were her students, fellow teachers, community members, or family.

Mary Louise's life stands as a testament to the power of education, perseverance, and unwavering commitment to service. From her precocious academic achievements to her decades of teaching, from her brave union organizing to her faithful community service, she has demonstrated that one person, armed with determination and compassion, can touch countless lives and help build a better world.



Jora Nelstein, *Passage Los Angeles 3*, Acrylic on canvas, 36" x 36", 2024



OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

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OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB EVENTS

75TH DIAMOND CELEBRATION 2025 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH ROOTS RISING: BUILDING BUSINESS HISTORY TODAY POWERED BY VERMONT STREET ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (VSEDC) IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OASC,

Join 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; Tracy Park, Councilmember, Eleventh District; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, The 2025 African American Heritage Month General Chair, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor; and, the 2025 African American Heritage Month Committee for the first Labor Evolution Job Fair in partnership with Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corporation (VSEDC).

Roots Rising: Building Business History Today powered by Vermont Street Economic Development Corporation (VSEDC) in partnership with OASC, is an innovative business support initiative designed to drive direct sales and customer traffic to participating businesses throughout 2025. This program empowers local businesses through specialized promotional opportunities and resources, featuring exclusive curated promotions available at each participating vendor. By connecting entrepreneurs with strategic support and promotional platforms, Roots Rising aims to cultivate a thriving business ecosystem while preserving and building upon our community's rich entrepreneurial heritage. Through this targeted approach, customers can discover and support local businesses while enjoying special offers unique to each participating establishment.

Log on to find out how you can find valuable goods and services and support your local businesses.

WHEN: February 1 – December 31, 2025, check website for details

SITE: Online

COST: Check website for details

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; Traci Park, Councilmember, Eleventh District; Bob Blumenfield, Councilmember, Third District, Curren D. Price, Jr., Councilmember, Ninth District; Heather Hutt, Councilmember, Tenth District; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month General Chair, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor; Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month Committee; Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corporation (VSEDC); Gil Robertson, President, African American Film Critics Association

INFO: 213.770.0399

oascla.org/events



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OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB EVENTS



Tamika Quillard, *Soul Full Necklace*, Digital collage, 11" x 17", 2024

75TH DIAMOND CELEBRATION 2025 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH THE ROADS WE'VE TRAVELED – BLACKS IN LABOR

Preserve your family's labor legacy be part of a historic collection.

Your family's story is part of America's story. Our Authors Study Club, in partnership with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), is creating a powerful new book that celebrates Black excellence in labor: *The Roads We've Traveled: Blacks in Labor*.

This landmark collection will showcase the untold stories of strength, perseverance, and triumph that built America. From skilled craftsmen to union organizers, from domestic workers to entrepreneurs – every story matters, and yours deserves to be told.

How to add your family's legacy:

- Share ONE historical photo of a family member connected to the labor movement
- Tell their story in 75 powerful words
- Submit through our simple online form: bit.ly/SubmissionOASCLaborBook

Your submission will become part of both a beautifully crafted print edition and a dynamic digital collection, preserving these vital stories for generations to come. Don't let this piece of history go untold.

WHEN: February 1 – March 28, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., check website for details

SITE: Online

INFO: 323.789.6224 (calls only, not a text line)

Arnetta at Mack Enterprises Unlimited, arnetta@mackenterprises.net



Teresa Tolliver, *Angel Flying to One Step Beyond*, Mixed media, 70" x 22" x 7", 2024



OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

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OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB EVENTS



Imani Tolliver, *Finally Free*, Mixed media, 8" x 8", 2024

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PULLMAN PORTERS UNION— THE RISE OF THE BLACK MIDDLE CLASS AND FUEL FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Join Mayor Karen Bass; Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball, President, Our Authors Study Club, Inc.; Sandra J. Evers-Manly, BHERC; 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; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, The Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month General Chair, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor; and, the 2025 Our Authors Study Club African American Heritage Month Committee for a discussion of 10,000 Black Men Named George. Explore the little-known history of this movement that began in 1867 and would create the Black middle class and fuel the civil rights movement.

WHEN: February 25, 2025, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

SITE: Check website for details

COST: Free

SPONSORS: Mayor Karen Bass; Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball, President, Our Authors Study Club, Inc.; Sandra J. Evers-Manly, BHERC; 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; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, The Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month General Chair, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor; Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month Committee; Gil Robertson, President, African American Film Critics Association

INFO: bherc.org



OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB, INC.

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AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY

OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB EVENTS

75TH DIAMOND CELEBRATION 2025 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH LABOR EVOLUTION JOB FAIR: PATHWAYS TO PURPOSE

Join Mayor Karen Bass; Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball, President, Our Authors Study Club, Inc.; Los Angeles City Council President, Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Councilmember, Eighth District; Traci Park, Councilmember, Eleventh District; Bob Blumenfield, Councilmember, Third District; Curren D. Price, Jr., Councilmember, Ninth District; Heather Hutt, Councilmember, Tenth District; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, The 2025 Our Authors Study Club African American Heritage Month General Chair, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor; and, the Our Authors Study Club 2025 African American Heritage Month Committee for the first Labor Evolution Job Fair in partnership with Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corporation (VSEDC).

Labor Evolution Job Fair: Pathways to Purpose connects today's job seekers with diverse opportunities across traditional employment, gig economy positions, and meaningful volunteer work. This dynamic event brings together forward-thinking employers, nonprofit organizations, and career development experts to showcase how modern work has transformed and the many ways people can build fulfilling careers.

Participants can explore opportunities ranging from full-time corporate positions to project-based freelance work and impactful volunteer roles that build valuable skills and community connections.

Featured elements include:

- Sessions on negotiating modern work arrangements and benefits
- Skill-building workshops for today's job market
- Guidance on building portfolio careers and multiple income streams
- Resources for starting your own business or independent practice

This event bridges traditional employment with contemporary work culture, helping participants find opportunities that align with their skills, values, and lifestyle goals.

WHEN: February 28, 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

SITE: Check website for details

COST: Free, RSVP online at oascla.org

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; Traci Park, Councilmember, Eleventh District; Bob Blumenfield, Councilmember, Third District; Curren D. Price, Jr., Councilmember, Ninth District; Heather Hutt, Councilmember, Tenth District; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Yvonne Wheeler, 2025 Our Authors Study Club African American Heritage Month General Chair, President Los Angeles County Federation of Labor; 2025 Our Authors Study Club African American Heritage Month Committee; Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corporation (VSEDC); Gil Robertson, President, African American Film Critics Association

INFO: 213.770.0399
oascla.org



Cola Smith-Adabachi, *Aaliyah*, Digital illustration, 9" x 12", 2024

Cola Smith-Adabachi

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

75 Years Celebrating Black Heritage in the 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.



Dolores Johnson, *Flower Girl*, Watercolor, 5.5" x 6", 2024

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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CHILDREN AND TEEN ACTIVITIES

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG

This animated musical was inspired by E. D. Baker's book *The Frog Princess*—a reimagining of the Brothers Grimm classic *The Frog Prince*—and moves the story to 1920s New Orleans. The film features Disney's first Black princess, Tiana.

WHEN: February 1, 11:00 a.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/series/family-matinees

MUSIC OF ZIMBABWE WITH MASANGA MARIMBA

Come learn about Shona Mbira, an ancient Zimbabwean instrument. Those who attend will learn a welcome song and play with Masanga Marimba, an ensemble founded at Cal State Northridge in 2001.

WHEN: February 1, 3:30 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/branches/granada-hills

FEELING THE SPIRIT OF THE DRUM: DRUM CIRCLE WITH ROBERTO “KONGAKID” GUTIERREZ

Come feel the spirit of the drum and join in the fun with an interactive and spirit-lifting drum circle for all ages led by Roberto “Kongakid” Gutierrez. Connect with your fellow drummers as you learn about West African and Cuban drums, such as the djembe, ashiko, conga, and various percussion instruments. Learn basic patterns to complement your drumming team and share in the “spirit of the groove.”

WHEN: February 4, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
SITE: Sylmar Branch Library, 14561 Polk St., Sylmar
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Sylmar Branch Library
INFO: 818.367.6102
lapl.org/branches/sylmar



AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

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Shell Amega, *Imagine*, Acrylic, gold spheres, crystals, 24" x 24", 2024

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CRAFTS: ALMA THOMAS

Celebrate Black History Month and the artistry of Alma Thomas by making a colorful, stamped heart.

WHEN: February 5, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
SITE: Angeles Mesa Branch Library, 2700 W. 52nd St., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Angeles Mesa Branch Library
INFO: 323.292.4328
lapl.org/branches/angeles-mesa

MARCUS MILLER'S DRUMS

Join the library for an interactive drum workshop which focuses on the importance of drums in our society, past and present. Participants are given the opportunity to express themselves on a percussive instrument. The goal is to get total group interaction and stimulate (non-verbal) communication so that we learn more about each other and our cultures through the experience of drumming.

WHEN: February 6, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
SITE: Vernon - Leon H. Washington Jr. Memorial 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/branches/vernon



Valena Broussard Dismukes, *Washtime in the Sahara*, Digital photography, 5" x 7", 2014

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

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Megashia Jackson, *Motherland Music*, Digital photography, 2022

CHESS CLUB

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

- WHEN:** February 7, every Friday, 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

AFRICAN TRADE BEADS WORKSHOP

In celebration of African American and Black History Month, join Danli Bayne for her African Trade Beads workshop to create your own jewelry and learn about the significance and use of these beads. For ages 5 - 12.

- WHEN:** February 7, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
SITE: Gardena Mayme Dear Library, 1731 W. Gardena Blvd., Gardena
COST: Free, register at the website
SPONSOR: Gardena Mayme Dear Library
INFO: 310.323.6363
visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/12436557

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

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Amina AmXn, *A Family Travels Without Restrictions in South Africa: African Diaspora Travels*, Digital photography, 16" x 20", 2023

TALKING DRUMS WITH INA, THE SUNSHINE STORYTELLER

Gather around our story circle for folktales and songs from Libya, Ghana, and Tanzania for African American and Black History Month. Play your shaker and leg drums as we celebrate together. For ages 5 – 12 with parent or caregiver.

- WHEN:** February 8, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
SITE: San Gabriel Library, 500 S. Del Mar Ave., San Gabriel
COST: Free. Register in advance at the website
SPONSOR: San Gabriel Library
INFO: 626.287.0761
visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/11752771

MOON MAN - VICTOR J. GLOVER, JR. AND ARTEMIS II

Southern California native Victor J. Glover, Jr., will pilot a spaceship around the moon in 2025 as part of the Artemis II mission. At this event, which will include special guests and activities, learn more about this extraordinary African American astronaut, the moon, and more.

- WHEN:** February 18, 3:00 p.m.
SITE: Alma Reaves Woods - Watts Branch Library, 10205 Compton Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Watts Branch Library
INFO: 323.789.2850
lapl.org/branches/watts



D.M. Eason, *SelfLove*, | pen digital hand drawing, 2022

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

Community Events



Tamika Quillard, *A Beach Coverup*, Digital collage, 11" x 17", 2024

FAMILY ARTS AND CRAFTS

Join this family arts and craft workshop. Participants will create a paper quilt inspired by the work of Faith Ringgold.

WHEN: February 20, 4:00 p.m.

SITE: Westchester - Loyola Village Branch Library, 7114 W. Manchester Ave., Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Westchester - Loyola Village Branch Library

INFO: 310.348.1096

lapl.org/branches/westchester

AFRICAN AMERICAN ARCHITECTS OF LOS ANGELES

Learn about the African American architects who helped shape mid-century Los Angeles. This workshop includes the works of Paul R. Williams, who helped design the Theme Building at LAX; Robert Kennard, who started the oldest Black-owned and operated firm in Los Angeles in 1957; and Norma Sklarek, who worked on several projects including Santa Monica Place and the U.S. Embassy in Japan. Teens will try to recreate these buildings using LEGOs. For ages 12 -18.

WHEN: February 20, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

SITE: Rivera Library, 7828 S. Serapis Ave., Pico Rivera

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Rivera Library

INFO: 310.348.1096

visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/12156783

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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SLIME!

Special guest Ciji Davis will be our slime guru. You will be able to create gooey amazingness!

WHEN: February 25, 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, Library Foundation of Los Angeles

INFO: 323.789.2850
lapl.org/branches/watts

CHA WA

Cha Wa offers a euphoric celebration of New Orleans' rich heritage. With songs that resonate with the ongoing fight for liberation, Cha Wa's music, described by PopMatters as "a grand gumbo of singing, intoxicating rhythms, and deep funk grooves," invites you to experience the unstoppable energy of New Orleans. School matinee concert, grades 4-8.

WHEN: February 28, 10:45 a.m.

SITE: The Nimoy, 1262 Westwood Blvd., Los Angeles

COST: Free; RSVP at the website

SPONSOR: Center for the Art of Performance UCLA

INFO: cap.ucla.edu/event/design-sharing-cha-wa

INUA ELLAMS

Award-winning poet and playwright Inua Ellams shares his chaotic, audience-led poetry event. Prompted by audience suggestions, Ellams will instantly search through his archive of work and perform a reactive and spontaneous selection. School matinee performance, grades 6 and up.

WHEN: March 7, 10:45 a.m.

SITE: The Nimoy, 1262 Westwood Blvd., Los Angeles

COST: Free, RSVP at the website

SPONSOR: Center for the Art of Performance UCLA

INFO: cap.ucla.edu/calendar



Buena Johnson, *Let us Pray/Bless the Children*, Acrylics, pencil, pastels, 28" x 38", 2012

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES & SERVICES

EVICITION RESPONSE WORKSHOP

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

WHEN: Tuesdays, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
SITE: Vernon - Leon H. Washington Jr. Memorial 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/branches/vernon

BASIC COMPUTER CLASS

Learn and practice basic computer skills, such as using the mouse, typing, browsing the Internet, using email, and more.

WHEN: February 4, every other Tuesday, at 3:00 p.m.
SITE: Vernon - Leon H. Washington Jr. Memorial 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/branches/vernon

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION & FILING

The Koreatown Youth + Community Center (KYCC) offers free income tax preparation and filing services through the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Please visit the website to find out what 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 library's website for more locations throughout February.

WHEN: February 8, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
SITE: Los Angeles Central Library - Meeting Room A, 630 W. 5th St., Los Angeles
COST: Free. RSVP by email, appointments only at business@lapl.org
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Central Library
INFO: 213.228.7000
lapl.org/branches/central-library

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

Community Events



Edward Ewell, *Auntie Quilter*, Type C print, 16" x 20", 2013

DESIGN PATENT SEARCH BASICS

Learn all about design patents and how to research design patents with our Patents Librarian.

WHEN: February 11 and March 4, 2:00 - 3:00 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/branches/central-library

ARROYO WRITING GROUP

Writers of any level of experience are invited to join our writing group to practice writing short pieces across many genres and sharing their writing with others. Each month, we will engage with a different writing prompt, preparing our own short work in response and bringing it to share at our meeting.

WHEN: February 20, every third Thursday of the month, 6:00 p.m.

SITE: Arroyo Seco Regional Branch Library, 6145 N. Figueroa St., Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Arroyo Seco Regional Branch Library

INFO: 323.255.0537

lapl.org/branches/arroyo-seco



Brandon Barry Brown, *Bound by Liberty*, Oil on canvas, 40"x 60", 2024



Dolores Johnson, *Man in Yellow Coat*, Watercolor, 11" x 15", 2024

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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CULINARY ARTS

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: MAGGIE BAIRD, BRYANT TERRY & ALICE WATERS

Award-winning chefs and activists Bryant Terry and Alice Waters are in conversation about climate activism grounded in a plant-based diet. Joining them is the founder of Support+Feed, Maggie Baird, who is committed to mitigating climate change and increasing food security by driving global demand, acceptance, and accessibility of plant-based food.

WHEN: Ongoing

SITE: Online at Hammer Channel

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Hammer Museum, Cosponsored with LULU and Support+Feed

INFO: channel.hammer.ucla.edu/video/1913/food-for-thought-maggie-baird-bryant-terry-alice-waters

AFRICAN AMERICAN AND BLACK HISTORY MONTH: CULINARY TRADITIONS

Celebrate African American and Black History Month with LA County Library. Food nourishes the body and helps tell people's stories. Explore the rich culinary traditions of Black Americans through cookbooks and capture your culinary story using the recipe card template.

WHEN: Ongoing

SITE: Online at Los Angeles County Library

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Los Angeles County Library

INFO: youtube.com/watch?v=cAR0L9tFmX4

CRENSHAW FARMERS MARKET

Every Saturday, the market features regional farmers, food, and artisan vendors who bring a diverse selection of local produce as well as sprouts, breads, nuts, baked goods, and delicious prepared food. The market also hosts monthly events including cooking demonstrations, tastings, and children's activities.

This is a time to explore the art and food of our global community. This session's theme is "Rainbow Gardens: from Cali to Southeast Asia." Children and their parents are welcome to see an art exhibit connecting California urban farmers to the food of Southeast Asia.

WHEN: February 1, First Saturday of the month, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

SITE: Crenshaw and Slauson, 5730 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Food Access Los Angeles

INFO: foodaccessla.org/crenshaw-farmers-market

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

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Marc Broyard, *I Saw the Sun Turn Blue*, (From the *Visions of Nat Turner Series*), Mixed assemblage, 20" x 28", 2002

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY WITH FOOD

Celebrating food can promote healthy eating habits and highlight the importance of wellness within the community. Chef Cheryl Tate reminds us that preparing and enjoying traditional dishes is a way to honor our resilience.

WHEN: February 20, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

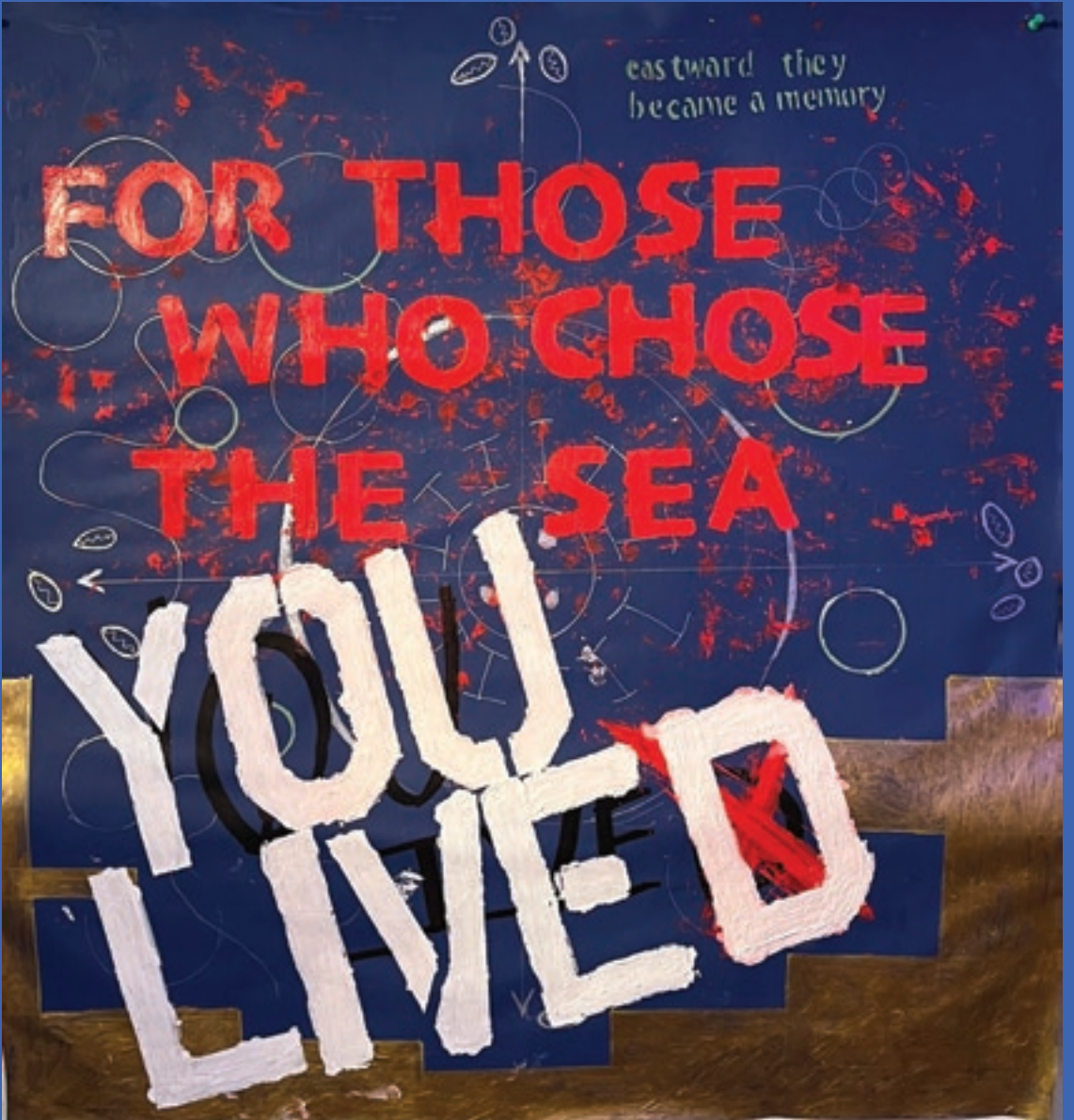
SITE: Willowbrook Senior Center, 12915 Jarvis Ave, Los Angeles

COST: Free, RSVP at 310.772.9196

SPONSOR: LA South Hope Foundation

INFO: 310.722.9196

ad.lacounty.gov/services/community-and-senior-centers/willowbrook-senior-center



Marcus John Guillory, *Olokun's Children*, Oil, acrylic on paper, 34" x 36", 2024



Nia Simone, *Tryna Find Peace of Mind*, Oil paint on canvas, 30" x 30", 2022

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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FILM & THEATRE

OSCAR SUNDAYS® GET OUT

Meeting his white girlfriend's parents is way more terrifying than Chris Washington (Daniel Kaluuya) could have ever imagined in this witty, metaphorical horror film. *Get Out* single-handedly established popular comedy writer-performer Jordan Peele as an A-list genre filmmaker known for horror stories that cleverly comment on contemporary American society.

WHEN: February 2, 7:30 p.m.

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

COST: \$10

SPONSOR: Academy Museum of Motion Pictures

INFO: 323.930.3000

academymuseum.org/en/programs/series/oscar-sundays

THE PAN AFRICAN FILM & ARTS FESTIVAL

The Pan African Film & Arts Festival includes America's largest and most prestigious Black film festival. The event showcases many Black creative works worldwide, highlighting those that reinforce positive images and help destroy negative stereotypes. Nowhere else can audiences find this unique opportunity to come together through film and art to explore new worlds, meet new people, and acquire new information and ideas. In-person and virtual screenings. Check the website for ticket and time information.

WHEN: February 4 - 17, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

SITE: Culver Theatre, 9500 Culver Blvd., Culver City

COST: Check website for more information

SPONSOR: The Pan African Film & Arts Festival

INFO: 323.296.1005

paff.org

THE GREAT YES, THE GREAT NO

Marseille, 1941: A liner sails for Martinique with artists and intellectuals on board fleeing from Vichy France, including surrealist André Breton, anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss, Cuban painter Wifredo Lam, Communist novelist Victor Serge, and exiled German author Anna Seghers. The journey mixes history with fiction, augments reality, and invites other celebrated figures to join this new kind of ark, an allegory of all past and present forced expeditions.

WHEN: February 5 - 8, 7:30 p.m.

SITE: Bram Goldsmith Theater at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills

COST: Check the website for ticket price

SPONSOR: The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

INFO: 310.746.4000

thewallis.org/season2425

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Adesina Cooper, *Wings of Choice: Silent Promise*, Ceramic earthenware, 8" x 11" x 5", 2024

OSCAR SUNDAYS® JUDAS AND THE BLACK MESSIAH

To avoid criminal charges, Bill O'Neal accepts a plea deal from the FBI to become an informant. In this compelling thriller based on historical accounts, O'Neal infiltrates the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party to get information on deputy chairman Fred Hampton, who the FBI targets as a radical threat.

WHEN: February 9, 7:30 p.m.
SITE: Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, 6067 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: \$10
SPONSOR: Academy Museum of Motion Pictures
INFO: 323.930.3000
academymuseum.org/en/programs/series/oscar-sundays

MOVIE MONDAY: THE INSPECTION

Join the library for a screening of the film *The Inspection*. A young, gay Black man, rejected by his mother and with few options for his future, decides to join the Marines, doing whatever it takes to succeed in a system that would cast him aside. But even as he battles deep-seated prejudice and the grueling routines of basic training, he finds unexpected camaraderie, strength, and support in this new community, giving him a hard-earned sense of belonging that will shape his identity and forever change his life. For adults ages 18 and up.

WHEN: February 10, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
SITE: West Hollywood Library, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood
COST: Free. Register at the website
SPONSOR: West Hollywood Library
INFO: 310.652.5340
visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/12240148

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FRIDAY FILMS: AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION

Poetic Justice is an Oscar-nominated movie from 1993, it features a stellar cast, including Janet Jackson in the lead role as hairdresser Justice on a road trip from South Central L.A. to Oakland. The cast also includes Tupac Shakur, Regina King, and Maya Angelou.

WHEN: February 14, 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/branches/little-tokyo

WORLD CINEMA SERIES: IO CAPITANO

It is a Homeric fairy tale that tells the adventurous journey of two young boys, Seydou and Moussa, who leave Dakar to reach Europe. Longing for a brighter future, the two Senegalese teenagers journey from West Africa to Italy. However, between their dreams and reality lies a labyrinth of checkpoints, the Sahara Desert, and the vast waters of the Mediterranean.

WHEN: February 15, 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/branches/central-library

THE MATRIX IN DOLBY VISION

This film by writer-directors The Wachowskis envisions a dystopian future where humans are trapped in a virtual reality simulation while AI machines harvest their bodies for energy. Cyberpunk themes blend with stylistic elements from anime and Hong Kong action cinema as computer hacker Neo and a group of rebels fight against the machines to free humankind.

WHEN: February 15, 7:30 p.m.
SITE: Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, 6067 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: \$5-\$10
SPONSORS: Academy Museum of Motion Pictures; and, Richard Roth Foundation
INFO: 323.930.3000
academymuseum.org/en/programs/series/cyberpunk-film-series



Buena Johnson, *Soul's Cry*, Pencils, acrylic wash, 32" x 26", 2021

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Mark 7, *St. Elmo Kids*, Watercolor, 11" x 14", 2019

FILM CLUB - SELMA

Join the library for a chronicle of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s campaign to secure equal voting rights via an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965.

WHEN: February 18, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
SITE: East Los Angeles Library, 4837 E. 3rd St., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Amigos of East Los Angeles Library
INFO: 323.264.0155
visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/12125425

DOCUMENTARY - TULSA: THE FIRE AND FORGOTTEN

Join us for a showing of the PBS documentary *Tulsa: The Fire and the Forgotten*. On the one-hundredth anniversary of the crime, learn about the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre and how the community of Tulsa is coming to terms with its past, present, and future.

WHEN: February 19, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
SITE: Rivera Library, 7828 S. Serapis Ave., Pico Rivera
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Rivera Library
INFO: 562. 949.5485
visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/12155237



Both: Adeola Davies-Aiyeloja, At top: *Ancestral Tree of Life*, At bottom: *In Steps of Ancestors*, Both: Cyanotype on textile, 12" x 12", 2024

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NEWFILMMAKERS LOS ANGELES MONTHLY FILM FESTIVAL | INFOCUS: BLACK CINEMA

NewFilmMakers Los Angeles (NFMLA) 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 22, 2:00 - 10:30 p.m.
SITE: South Park Center, 1139 S. Hill St., Los Angeles
COST: \$10 - \$30
SPONSOR: NewFilmMakers Los Angeles
INFO: 323.521.7385
newfilmmakersla.com/events/event

MELANATED MOVIE NIGHT: THINK LIKE A MAN

Join us for *Think Like a Man*, a film based on a book of the same name. For one reason or another, friends Dominic, Jeremy, Michael, and Zeke can't seem to seal the deal with the women in their lives. When their lovely ladies buy a book by comic Steve Harvey and apply its advice to their relationships, this band of brothers gets all shaken up. Learning that they have been betrayed by one of their own, Dominic and his friends conspire to use the book's teachings to turn the tables.

WHEN: February 22, 3:00 - 5:30 p.m.
SITE: Black Resource Center, 150 E. El Segundo Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Friends of AC Bilbrew & Woodcrest Libraries
INFO: 310.538.0059
visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/11946280

OSCAR SUNDAYS® THE HOLDOVERS

This is a heartwarming Christmas comedy set in a New England boarding school during the 1970s. Unpopular professor Paul Hunham is assigned to supervise a small group of students who have nowhere to go during the holidays. He forms a bond with a troublemaker named Angus and the school's head cook, Mary. Together, they create an unlikely trio that evolves into a chosen family.

WHEN: February 23, 7:30 p.m.
SITE: Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, 6067 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: \$10
SPONSOR: Academy Museum of Motion Pictures
INFO: 323.930.3000
academymuseum.org/en/programs/series/oscar-sundays

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INUA ELLAMS

Award-winning poet and playwright Inua Ellams (*Barber Shop Chronicles*, *The Half-God of Rainfall*) brings his chaotic, audience-led poetry event to The Nimoy. Search Party is a unique interactive experience where the boundary between artist and audience blurs into a dynamic act of creation. Ellams uses a lifetime of writings, from poems to plays and essays, all meticulously indexed and stored within his electronic tablet. Choose a word, any word, and watch as he navigates his vast archive, uncovering gems of written art — whether polished masterpieces or intriguing works-in-progress.

WHEN: March 8, 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/calendar

ART EVANS A CONVERSATION

Enjoy a quaint conversation and Q&A with Art Evans as he tells his story in an intimate and candid conversation with friends. Get up close and personal at our Tuesday Night Biography Series, which documents the legacy of the Inner-City Cultural Center. Learn about your favorite actors, television shows, and films; talk about everything from theatre to films, from auditions to writing scripts and songs to surviving Hollywood directly with your best-loved iconic figures.

WHEN: March 26, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
SITE: Willie Agee Playhouse, 600-698 N. Park Ave., Inglewood
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: Inner City Cultural Center II
INFO: 818.714.4242
iccc2.wootick.com/#events

32ND ANNUAL LOS ANGELES WOMEN'S THEATRE FESTIVAL

A weekend of events celebrating performances by female solo performers in drama, dance, and music. The festival also awards distinguished women of theatre.

WHEN: March 28 - 30
SITE: Theatre 68 Arts Complex, 5112 Lankershim Blvd, North Hollywood
COST: Check the website for tickets and show times
SPONSORS: Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival; and City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs
INFO: 818.760.0408
lawtf.org



Feliz Mc Innis, *Mask of Futility*, Paper mâché, 30" x 36", 2022

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Valena Broussard Dismukes, *Panamanian Bus*, Digital photography, 4" x 6", 2010

MELANATED MOVIE NIGHT: BELOVED

Join us for *Beloved*, a film based on a book of the same name. In 1873 Ohio, Sethe is a mother of three haunted by her horrific slavery past and her desperate actions for freedom. As a result, Sethe's home is haunted by a furious poltergeist, which drives away her two sons. Sethe and her daughter endure living with the spirit for ten more years until an old friend, Paul D. Garner, arrives to run it out. After Garner moves in, a strange woman named Beloved enters their lives, causing turmoil.

WHEN: March 29, 2:30 - 5:30 p.m.

SITE: Black Resource Center, 150 E El Segundo Blvd., Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSORS: Black Resource Center; and, Friends of AC Billbrew & Woodcrest Libraries

INFO: 310.538.0059

visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/11946402

GIL SCOTT-HERON BLUESOLOGY

Gil Scott-Heron Bluesology is a theatrical reinterpretation celebrating the legacy of Gil Scott-Heron, covering his influential work from 1970 to 2010. The production features skilled spoken word artists who breathe new life into his powerful and enduring words. Adding a personal touch to this tribute, his daughter, Gia Scott-Heron, shares stories and memories, providing a unique authenticity that distinguishes this production from others. It's a chance to experience the spirit of Gil Scott-Heron's work in a vibrant and moving performance. Don't miss out—The Revolution will be live!

WHEN: March 31, 7:30 p.m.

SITE: Willie Agee Playhouse, 600-698 North Park Ave., Inglewood

COST: \$30

SPONSOR: Inner City Cultural Center II

INFO: 818.714.4242

gilscottheronbluesology.com



Riea Owens, *Livin' the Golden Life*, Acrylic on canvas, 18"x 24", 2024



Nia Simone, *Mother's Pain is Daughter's Pain; Daughter's Pain Helps the Flowers Grow*, Oil paint on canvas, 30" x 40", 2023

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HERITAGE

ROUTES OF ENSLAVEMENT IN THE AMERICAS

The Intra-American Slave Trade Database is a resource for the study of the African diaspora in the Americas. Launched online in 2018, it documents more than 27,000 voyages that trafficked enslaved Africans and African-descended people from one part of the Americas to another from 1550 to 1860. This database strengthens research throughout the University of California system on the history and impact of the slave trade and slavery in the Americas by connecting scholarship on the Atlantic and Pacific Worlds.

WHEN: Ongoing
SITE: Online at the University of California, Irvine
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Humanities Center, University of California, Irvine
INFO: humanities.uci.edu/routes-enslavement-americas

WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED IN 1619 - THE ORIGINS OF SLAVERY IN NORTH AMERICA

This public event brings three historians of slavery together—one focused on the importance of slavery to colonial empires, one focused on captive experiences and health in the slave trade, and one focused on the introduction of African maritime culture into the Americas—to wrestle with the question: What actually happened in 1619?

WHEN: Ongoing
SITE: Online at the University of California, Irvine
COST: Free
SPONSOR: University of California, Irvine, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center
INFO: youtube.com/watch?v=ulrUr1-rtzM&t=3s

THE NEW SUBURBIA: HOW DIVERSITY REMADE SUBURBAN LIFE IN LOS ANGELES AFTER 1945

America's suburbs are undergoing significant transformation. The traditional view of suburbs as predominantly white, middle-class areas no longer reflects reality. Today, they encompass a diverse mix of residents—rich and poor, Black, Latino, Asian, immigrants, and the unhoused. This shift is especially evident in Los Angeles, where many suburbs have become majority-minority. The New Suburbia explores the experiences of Asian Americans, Black Americans, and Latinos who moved into formerly exclusive neighborhoods.

WHEN: Ongoing
SITE: Online from the Los Angeles City Historical Society
COST: Free
SPONSOR: The Los Angeles City Historical Society
INFO: youtube.com/watch?v=GDMZHW3b2iE

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Helena Donato-Sapp, *Self Portrait of a Black Girl*, Paper collage, 18" x 24", 2023

CHASING THE “DIAMOND”: OCEAN MEMORY, THE BLACK PACIFIC & SLAVE TRADE ROUTES TO THE AMERICAS

In 1759, the *Diamond* sailed to unspecified ports in the Americas, Jamaica, Panama, Colombia, and more unspecified destinations in what was then known as the Spanish Caribbean, embarking and disembarking human cargo as part of the slave trade. The *Diamond* serves as an entry point into a discussion of the movement of Africans and African-descended captives to the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea-bordered regions, the ocean memory of those human cargo lost to the voyages through the Americas, and how that loss reverberates into the present.

WHEN: Ongoing

SITE: Online at the University of California, Irvine

COST: Free

SPONSOR: University of California, Irvine, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center

INFO: [youtube.com/watch?v=WGePkyfKPgk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGePkyfKPgk)

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Carole J. McCoy, *My Pan-African Basket*, Digital painting, from paper-cut collage, 28" x 36", 2024

THE CALIFORNIA REPARATIONS TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT

Months after the murder of George Floyd, California became the first state in the nation to form a governmental Reparations Task Force to study and develop restitution and reconciliation proposals for African Americans. In June 2023, the committee released its final report with recommendations for how the state should atone for its history of racial violence and discrimination against Black residents. The committee Chair, attorney Kamilah V. Moore, discusses the committee's processes, findings, and recommendations.

WHEN: Ongoing

SITE: Online at the Hammer Channel

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Hammer Museum, UCLA

INFO: channel.hammer.ucla.edu/video/1845/the-california-reparations-task-force-final-report

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A GREAT DAY IN SOUTH LA

Explore South LA's Black history on a guided 4-hour van tour. Visit iconic neighborhoods, hear untold stories, and support local businesses. Tours run on Saturdays, offering an enriching, off-the-beaten-path experience celebrating culture, history, and community impact. Perfect for visitors of all ages.

WHEN: February 1, 10:00 a.m.
SITE: Tour Starts, 3860 S. Crenshaw Blvd. Suite 103, Los Angeles
COST: Check website for information
SPONSOR: A Great Day in South LA
INFO: 818.252.9169
agreatdayinsouthla.com

LEIMERT PARK VILLAGE STREET FESTIVAL

Every weekend, enjoy orientated activities, live music, and food vendors. Bring your instruments for the outdoor Drum Circle Workshop on Sundays and jam sessions at the World Stage. In Leimert Park, you'll find fresh-made ice cream, a massage table in a body therapy canopy, custom-crafted beautiful jewelry, clothing, art classes, free entertainment, and fun every weekend. Just remember to bring a chair; you'll not want to leave.

WHEN: February 1 - March 30, Saturdays and Sundays, 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
SITE: Leimert Park, 4343 Leimert Blvd, Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSORS: African Village Vendors Association; Inner City Cultural Center II; and, The Leimert Park Village Merchants Association
INFO: iccc2.wootick.com/events/leimert-park-village-street-festival-E80002631728320

CRENSHAW EAT AND SEE: FOOD AND SHOPPING TOUR

The Crenshaw Eat and See Tour explores South LA's cultural and culinary highlights. Begin with a scenic drive through historic neighborhoods, including Crenshaw, Leimert Park, Hyde Park, and View Park-Windsor Hills. Enjoy brunch at Dulan's, shop at Leimert Park Village and Afrocity Marketplace, indulge in a wine experience at Adams Wine Shop, and conclude with a visit to the Reparations Book Club.

WHEN: February 2, 11:00 a.m.
SITE: Tour Starts, 3860 S. Crenshaw Blvd. Suite 103, Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: A Great Day in South LA
INFO: 818.252.9169
agreatdayinsouthla.com

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Billy Monroe, *Natural Light, A Painter's Protégé*, Digital drawing, 9"x12", 2024

WOMEN AND BOOKS DISCUSSING ONE OF OUR KIND BY NICOLA YOON

Jasmyn and King Williams move their family to Liberty, California, seeking a community of like-minded people. While King quickly embraces the community's wellness culture, Jasmyn struggles to fit in, as she had hoped to find social justice activists, but instead discovers residents more interested in spa treatments than addressing the world's issues.

WHEN: February 4, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

SITE: West Hollywood Library - in person and online, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood

COST: Free, register at the website for the Zoom link

SPONSORS: West Hollywood Library; the City of West Hollywood Women's Advisory Board, Women and Books Book Club

INFO: 310.652.5340

visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/12239449



Djibril Drame, *Darou Keur Matar Cowboy*, Digital photography, 40 x 60 cm, 2023

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Jora Nelstein, *Passage Los Angeles I*, Acrylic on canvas, 48" x 90", 2024

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 7, the first Friday of the month, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
SITE: Robert Louis Stevenson Branch Library, 803 Spence St., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Public Counsel with the support of the Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: 323.268.4710
lapl.org/branches/rl-stevenson

EVENING BOOK CLUB: THE HOUSE OF EVE BY SADEQA JOHNSON

1950s Philadelphia: fifteen-year-old Ruby Pearsall is on track to becoming the first in her family to attend college. But a taboo love affair threatens to pull her back down into the desperation that has been passed on to her. Eleanor Quarles arrives in Washington, D.C. full of ambition and when she meets the handsome William Pride at Howard University, they fall madly in love. But William hails from one of DC's elite wealthy Black families, and his parents don't let just anyone into their fold.

- WHEN:** February 10, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
SITE: Manhattan Beach Library, 1320 Highland Ave., Manhattan Beach
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Manhattan Beach Library
INFO: 310.545.8595
visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/12045213

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BOOK CLUB: REDWOOD COURT

This is a breathtaking debut about an unforgettable southern Black family, seen through the eyes of its youngest daughter as she comes of age in the 1990s. Mika Tabor, the family baby, learns important lessons from the people who raised her: her hardworking parents, her older sister, her retired grandparents, and the community of Redwood Court.

WHEN: February 22, 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/12436551

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Our Annual Black History Month Event features entertainment, culture awareness, speakers, a small business marketplace, and a fashion show.

WHEN: February 22, 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.
SITE: South Bay Pavilion Mall, 20700 Avalon Blvd., Carson
COST: Free
SPONSOR: South Bay Pavilion Mall
INFO: LASouthChamber.com

INSPIRING JOURNEYS: AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIES

Join us for Inspiring Journeys: African American Histories, a day of celebration for African American Heritage Month. The lineup of speakers, workshops, entertainment, and family activities is sure to spark joy and insight. From health and wellness to genealogy and technology to arts and crafts for all ages, there is something for everyone. Don't miss out on this opportunity to celebrate African American history and culture.

WHEN: February 22, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
SITE: Los Angeles Central Library, 630 W. 5th St., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Central Library
INFO: 213.228.7250
lapl.org/branches/central-library

JAMES: A NOVEL BY PERCIVAL EVERETT

A book club discussion about Percival Everett's new novel, *James*; a retelling of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* from the perspective of Jim, an enslaved man. Jim overhears that he's going to be sold to a man in New Orleans and separated from his family. He flees to Jackson Island to plan his escape. Meanwhile, Huck Finn fakes his own death to escape his abusive father. The two meet on the island and begin a dangerous journey down the Mississippi River.

WHEN: February 22, 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/branches/durant

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Rosalyn Myles, *Bus Ride, Central Cuba*, Digital photography, 11" x 17", 2024

BLACK RESOURCE CENTER BOOK CLUB

Join us as we discuss three titles: *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, *Attack from Within*, and *Lovely One*. You can pick up your copies in advance to read at your leisure. Please see the front desk staff to check out titles.

WHEN: February 22, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

SITE: Black Resource Center, 150 E. El Segundo Blvd., Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Black Resource Center

INFO: 310.538.0059

visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/12288565



Douglas E. Nowling, *Zuri the Butterfly Messenger*, Acrylic on Canvas, 36" x 36", 2024

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MUSEUMS & EXHIBITIONS

SPIRIT OF THE ANCESTORS

This moving, seminal visual arts project was conceptualized and developed by the Watts Towers Arts Center Director, Rosie Lee Hooks, who commissioned 13 artists from the community to use shovels as a canvas to honor the legacy of our ancestors. Each of the world-renowned master artists who accepted the challenge has a history of building arts institutions in Watts and in the greater Los Angeles area.

- WHEN:** Permanent Exhibition, Wednesdays – Fridays 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
SITE: Noah Purifoy Gallery & Charles Mingus Art Gallery, 1727 East 107th St., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Watts Towers Arts Center
INFO: wattstowers.org/copy-of-exhibitions-2

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, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & 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: Broad Museum, 221 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free. Reserve tickets in advance at the website
SPONSOR: Broad Museum
INFO: 213.232.6200
thebroad.org/art

CELEBRATE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH WITH MOVIES ON KANOPY AND HOOPLA

Stream films on Kanopy or Hoopla, both on-demand streaming film services. They both have an extensive library of African American cinema and documentaries that are free with your Los Angeles City or Los Angeles County library card.

- 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

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HIP-HOP/RAP CONVERSATIONS AT THE GRAMMY

In conjunction with the Grammy Museum's exhibit *Hip-Hop America: The Mixtape*, the museum was thrilled to host interviews with Tierra Whack, Don Toliver, Common, Pete Rock, and many others.

WHEN: Ongoing
SITE: Online at the Grammy Museum
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Grammy Museum
INFO: watch.grammymuseum.org/rap-hip-hop

BEHIND BARS: INCARCERATION IN THE WEST

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

WHEN: Ongoing, 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, Griffith Park, 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

GRAMMY MUSEUM - COLLECTION

The Grammy Museum offers a variety of public programming so you can enjoy musicians and industry professionals in an intimate environment. Watch past public programs on COLLECTION: live, the official streaming service from the Museum featuring artist interviews, performances, and livestreams.

WHEN: Ongoing
SITE: Online at Grammy Museum
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Grammy Museum
INFO: watch.grammymuseum.org/collection-live-essentials-1

THE INFLUENCE OF DJS ON HIP-HOP + THE ART OF SAMPLING

A conversation and live demonstration surrounding the influence of DJs on Hip-Hop and the Art of Sampling with DJ Khalil and Serato's Sonny James, moderated by Schyler O'Neal, Grammy Museum Manager of Education and Community Engagement.

WHEN: Ongoing
SITE: Online at Grammy Museum
COST: Free
SPONSORS: Grammy Museum; and, Curren D. Price Jr. Councilmember, Ninth District
INFO: watch.grammymuseum.org/videos/the-influence-of-djs-on-hip-hop-the-art-of-sampling



Jora Nelstein, *At Night We Dream I*, Acrylic on canvas, 12" x 12", 2024

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Riea Owens, *Dear Daena*, Acrylic on canvas, 24"x 36", 2024

MICHAEL JACKSON: THE THRILLER YEARS, 1982-1984

Michael Jackson's fashion sense has always been iconic. Our display of original artifacts on loan from the Michael Jackson estate showcases memorable pieces, including beaded jackets Jackson wore during the Jacksons' 1984 Victory tour. Also featured is our original short film about making Jackson's *Thriller* music video.

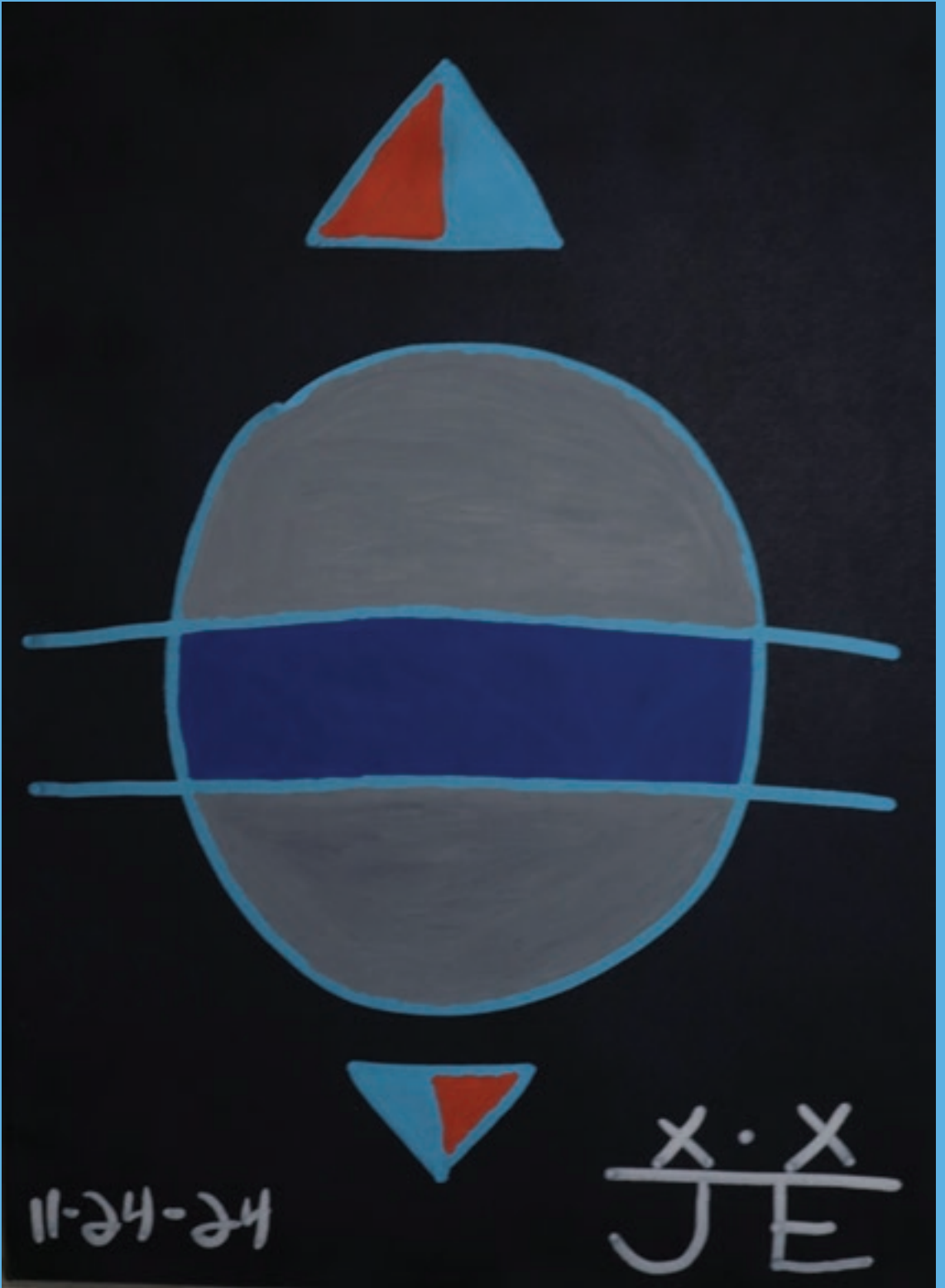
WHEN: Ongoing Exhibition, Sundays - Mondays, Wednesdays - Fridays 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.,
Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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

COST: Check website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: Grammy Museum

INFO: 213.725.5700
grammymuseum.org/exhibits



Joseph Emmanuel, *Bi-Polar Opposites*, Acrylic on canvas, 12" x 16", 2024

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Jasimen Phillips, *Family Reunion*, Acrylic on canvas, 18" x 24", 2024

THE WILLIAM GRANT STILL ARTS CENTER - THE 44TH ANNUAL BLACK DOLL SHOW

The 44th Annual Black Doll Show, titled *In need of good folk... MAGIC FOLK LIKE US*, is curated by the Aiysha Sinclair. This year's theme invites visitors to journey through a magical world where Black folklore and fairytales are celebrated, woven together through the power of storytelling and art. The show is an homage to the oral tradition and its limitless possibilities, seen through the lens of Black artists and doll makers.

- WHEN:** Through February 14, Tuesdays - Saturdays, 12 noon - 5:00 p.m.
SITE: William Grant Still Arts Center, 2520 S. West View St., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: William Grant Still Arts Center
INFO: 323.734.1165
wgsac.wordpress.com/the-44th-annual-black-doll-show

FREE THE LAND! FREE THE PEOPLE!

The Crenshaw Dairy Mart (CDM) is thrilled to announce its forthcoming exhibition, *Free the Land! Free the People!* a study of the abolitionist pod, as part of the *PST ART: Art & Science Collide*. This groundbreaking exhibition showcases CDM's innovative approach to addressing systemic issues through art, architecture, and science. In 2021, CDM began prototyping and building abolitionist pods - autonomously irrigated, solar-powered gardens within modular geodesic domes - with communities impacted by food insecurity, housing insecurity, and the prison industrial complex.

- WHEN:** Through February 15, Thursdays - Sundays 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
SITE: The Crenshaw Dairy Mart, 8629 Crenshaw Blvd., Inglewood
COST: Free
SPONSOR: The Crenshaw Dairy Mart
INFO: 310.671.2709
crenshawdairymart.com/exhibitions

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D.M. Eason, *Motion*, I pen digital hand drawing, 2022

HIP-HOP AMERICA: THE MIXTAPE EXHIBIT

This sprawling exhibit explores the profound impact and influence that hip-hop music and culture have had on the United States and the world since it burst forth in the Bronx 50 years ago. *The Mixtape Exhibit* delves deep into the sounds, scenes, and history of hip-hop music, dance, graffiti, fashion, business, and activism. On view are rarely displayed artifacts from Tupac Shakur, Notorious B.I.G., MC Lyte, Lil Wayne, Slick Rick, Egyptian Lover, Eminem, and many others, and visitors can make their own hip-hop music with five unique interactives.

WHEN: Through February 17, Sundays & Mondays, Wednesdays - Fridays, 11:00 a.m. - 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

WORLD WITHOUT END: THE GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PROJECT

George Washington Carver was a pioneer of plant-based engineering and one of the nation's earliest proponents of sustainable agriculture. In the early 1900s, he built his "Jesup Wagon," a moveable school to share soil and plant samples, equipment, and other agricultural knowledge with farmers. Carver's then-radical ideas—including organic fertilizers, crop rotation, and plant-based medicines, and construction materials—are now recognized as the forerunners of modern conservation.

WHEN: Through March 2, 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



Douglas E. Nowling, *Cowboy Albert*, Acrylic on wood, 11" x 14", 2024

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KAOS THEORY: THE AFROKOSMIC MEDIA ARTS OF BEN CALDWELL

Ben Caldwell envisioned cinema as an instrument that could heal and emancipate. In 1984, he opened KAOS Network, the media arts hub that has helped steward Leimert Park Village's traditions of Black artistry, fellowship, and love for over four decades. This multimedia exhibition explores Caldwell's varied practices of photography, film, video, music, performance, community-based design, and interactive media and celebrates the creative life and communities of KAOS Network.

WHEN: Through March 8, 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

TATYANA FAZLALIZADEH: SPEAKING TO FALLING SEEDS

Tatyana Fazlalizadeh is a Brooklyn-based interdisciplinary artist whose practice considers Black image making as a site of protest, contestation, affirmation, and possibility. At CAAM, Fazlalizadeh will present a series of portraits of Black Angelenos wheat-pasted across the atrium's monumental walls. Based on photographs and conversations that took place this spring while the artist was living in Los Angeles, the portraits ask how safety is inferred, built, and felt for the city's Black residents.

WHEN: Through August 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

IMAGINING BLACK DIASPORAS: 21ST-CENTURY ART AND POETICS

Imagining Black Diasporas: 21st-Century Art and Poetics finds aesthetic connections among 60 artists working in Africa, Europe, and the Americas. The exhibition and its catalogue are among the first to examine nearly a quarter century of production by Black artists. The project debuts new acquisitions for LACMA and expands the Pan-African exhibition canon, historically focused on the Black Atlantic, by showcasing artists working along the Pacific Rim.

WHEN: Through August 3, 2025, Mondays, Tuesdays & 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 (LACMA)

INFO: 323.857.6010
lacma.org/currentexhibitions

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Tamika Quillard, *Radical Care for Black People*, Digital collage, 11" x 17", 2024

RETRO BLAKESBERG: THE MUSIC NEVER STOPPED

Explore 30 years of music history, from blues, folk, and rock 'n' roll to hip-hop and alternative music, through the lens of photographer Jay Blakesberg. Featuring more than 150 photographs shot on film between 1978 and 2008, *Retro Blakesberg* captures three decades of pivotal moments in music history. The dynamic exhibit showcases multiple genres and iconic musicians, ranging from Snoop Dogg, B-40, and Bob Dylan to PJ Harvey, Pearl Jam, and the Grateful Dead.

WHEN: Through June 15, Sundays & Mondays, Wednesdays - Fridays 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.,
Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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

COST: Check website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: Grammy Museum

INFO: 213.725.5700

grammymuseum.org/exhibit

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Melissa Phillips, *On the Beginning: Part One*, Pen, pencil, marker, blue foil, 18" x 24", 2024

LUTHER VANDROSS: ARTISTRY AND ELEGANCE

Luther Vandross: Artistry and Elegance celebrates the extraordinary life and legacy of Luther Vandross, an eight-time Grammy winner, revered songwriter, arranger, producer, performer, and one of the most gifted vocalists in music history. The exhibit offers an intimate glimpse into Vandross' creative process and showcases his ornate stage wardrobe, exclusive performance footage from his popular tours, and a never-before-heard recording of him in the studio.

WHEN: Through June 15, Sundays & Mondays, Wednesdays - Fridays 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.,
Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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

COST: Check website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: Grammy Museum

INFO: 213.725.5700
grammymuseum.org/exhibit

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SIGNIFICANT MOVIES AND MOVIEMAKERS

The *Boyz n the Hood* gallery explores the movie's groundbreaking depiction of Black life in South Central Los Angeles and its lasting impact on popular culture. It spotlights the cast and crew—including Cuba Gooding, Jr., Ice Cube, Morris Chestnut, Laurence Fishburne, Nia Long, and Angela Bassett—showing the pivotal role the film played not only in their careers but also for a new generation of Black talent in Hollywood.

WHEN: Through January 26, 2026, Sundays and Mondays, Wednesdays - Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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

COST: Adults - \$25, Seniors (62+) - \$19, Students (18+ with current ID) - \$15, Children (17-) and Members - Free

SPONSOR: Academy Museum of Motion Pictures

INFO: 323.930.3000

academymuseum.org/en/exhibitions/boyz-n-the-hood

EVENING FOR EDUCATORS - A FOCUS ON AFRO-BRAZILIAN ARTIST VITÓRIA CRIBB

The program will dive deeply into the fascinating work of Afro-Brazilian artist Vitória Cribb. In this session, we will discuss the confluence of physical and digital life, her work in AR, and how to use open-source 3D blenders for animated films.

WHEN: February 4, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

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

COST: RSVP at the Website

SPONSOR: Museum of Latin American Art

INFO: 562.437.1689

molaa.org/evening-for-educators

ARTFEST - THE PAN AFRICAN FILM & ARTS FESTIVAL

The PAFF ArtFEST 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 unique crafts.

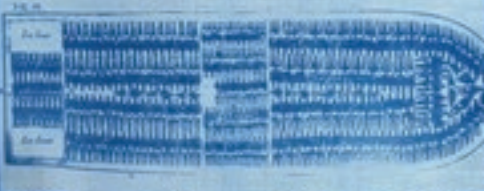
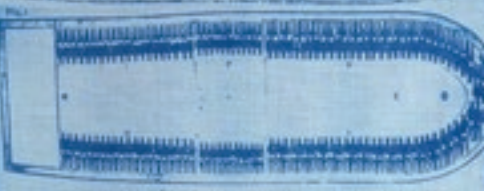
WHEN: February 4 - 17, Mondays - Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., Sundays, 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

SITE: Westfield Culver City Mall, 6000 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City

COST: Free

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

INFO: paff.org/artfest



We walk in the footprints of giants past,
Their echoes guide us, strong and steadfast
In every breath, their spirit ignites,
A legacy of struggle, now our light.

We carry their torch through night and day,
With resilience, we'll pave our way.
Staying woke, we honor their fight,
In their strength, we find our light.

With resilience we march, hearts wide awake,
For the dreams they nurtured, we won't forsake.

Their wisdom flows through our veins,
In their name, we'll break every chain.



In the echoes of time, I hear their call,
Voices that rise from the depths of it all.
They carved the path with hands worn
and true,

with love the choices for me and for you.

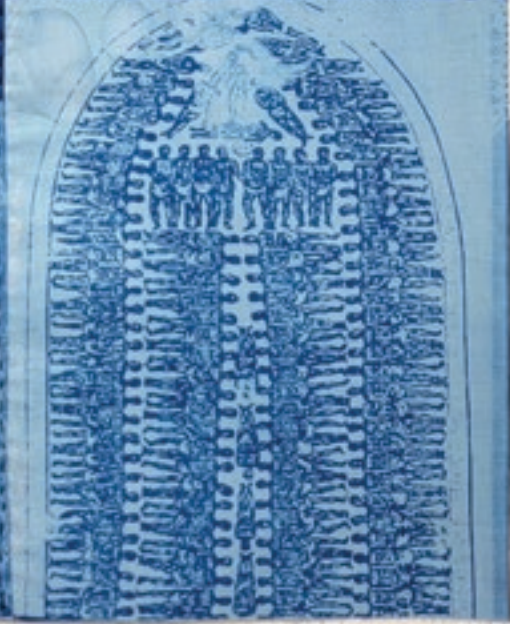
Now in the shadows of hope and steel,
I carry their fire, their indomitable will.

In every step, in every breath I take,
I honor the choices, the choices I make.

With each dawn, their breaks, with each
night, their calls.

I am in the shadow, their light still
glows in the heart of the present, the past
still resides.

And through me, their legacy never
alters.





Cola Smith-Adabachi, *Abstract Masks*, Digital illustration, 8" x 11", 2024

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COMPTON ART & HISTORY MUSEUM

The Compton Art & History Museum opened to the public this year, just months after its two founders, the husband-and-wife duo Abigail Lopez-Byrd and Marquell Byrd, came together with a vision for the space. “We have archives from Compton from the 1960s and 1970s that the youth can now come and see without having to go to neighboring cities or somewhere deep in LA that don’t represent who they are or where they come from,” says Co-founder Marquell Byrd.

WHEN: February 4, Tuesdays - Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
SITE: Compton Art & History Museum, 306 W Compton Blvd #104, Compton
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Compton Art & History Museum
INFO: 310.554.4429
[youtube.com/watch?v=AYejXuSjVck&t=39s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYejXuSjVck&t=39s)

A WOMAN IN CHARGE

A one-woman show highlighting the cumulative work of Robin Strayhorn using various mediums. Strayhorn is a multidisciplinary artist residing in Los Angeles for the past 40 years. Some other most recent work reflects time spent living and studying in India. There will be an Artist Talk/Reception on February 9, check the website for details.

WHEN: February 5 - March 8, Wednesdays – Fridays, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
SITE: Watts Towers Arts Center, Noah Purifoy Gallery & Charles Mingus Art Gallery, 1727 East 107th St., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Watts Towers Arts Center
INFO: wattstowers.org/copy-of-exhibitions-2

TELESCOPE NIGHT WITH SIDEWALK ASTRONOMERS

Come see the Moon, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Venus close-up through telescopes. Weather permitting, the Sidewalk Astronomers will set up telescopes outside the library for everyone to view the night sky. Bring your questions.

WHEN: February 6, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
SITE: Memorial Branch Library, 4625 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Memorial Branch Library
INFO: 323.938.2732
lapl.org/branches/memorial

LOS ANGELES’ PIONEERING BLACK FIREFIGHTERS

Learn the history of LA’s pioneering Black Firefighters! Join us for a conversation with the museum historian and Co-founder retired Fire Captain Brent Burton.

WHEN: February 9, 2:00 p.m.
SITE: African American Firefighter Museum, 1401 South Central Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free, register at Eventbrite beginning January 2025
SPONSOR: African American Firefighter Museum
INFO: 213.744.1730
eventbrite.com/e/sundays-african-american-firefighter-museum-tickets-509975007977

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ALICE COLTRANE, MONUMENT ETERNAL

The exhibition *Alice Coltrane, Monument Eternal* is inspired by the life and legacy of jazz musician, devotional leader, and mother Alice Coltrane. The title takes its name from her book *Monument Eternal* (1977), which reflected her newfound spiritual beliefs, the loss of her husband, the saxophonist John Coltrane, and the path to healing and self-discovery. The exhibition presents work by contemporary American artists paired with ephemera from Coltrane's personal archive.

WHEN: February 9 - May 4, Tuesdays - Sundays, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
SITE: Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Hammer Museum
INFO: 310.443.7000
hammer.ucla.edu/exhibitions

MARÍA MAGDALENA CAMPOS-PONS: BEHOLD

Cuban-born Campos-Pons creates vivid photographs, watercolors, installations, and performances that explore the cultural and personal impacts of migration and memory. Her work reflects the histories of labor affecting her family, emphasizing resilience and honoring her Nigerian and Chinese ancestors. This 35-year survey highlights the interconnectedness between people and their environments, offering a rich, sensory experience.

WHEN: Feb. 11–May 4, 2025, Tuesdays – Fridays & 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: The Getty Center
INFO: 310.440.7300
getty.edu/exhibitions

EVENING FOR EDUCATORS: BETYE SAAR AND ASSEMBLAGE ART WITH LAUREN CROSS

Learn about Los Angeles-based artist Betye Saar's assemblage art and discover how to integrate her work into your K-12 curriculum. Hear from curator Lauren Cross about Betye Saar's recent installation at The Huntington, *Drifting Toward Twilight*. Explore her artistic process and the meaning behind the work, which speaks to racial oppression, mysticism, family, memory, and identity.

WHEN: February 18, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
SITE: The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens - Online
COST: Free with registration
SPONSOR: The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens
INFO: 626.405.2100
huntington.org/calendar



Christopher Samaroo, *Lady with Louis Vuitton Hat*, Oil on canvas, 36" x 24", 2022

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Gina Russell Williams, *Scarlet Rage*, Mixed media, 41" x 10", 2021

BLACK EDUCATION EXPO

The Black Education Expo (BEE) is a family-friendly event designed to empower K-12 students and their families. With over 60 exhibitors, including colleges, libraries, and tech centers, the expo offers valuable resources for academic and personal success. Explore the BEE Teen Zone Powered by Intuit for Education, featuring workshops on entrepreneurship, scholarships, and financial literacy. Connect with education leaders and community organizations focused on student success.

WHEN: February 22, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
SITE: Magic Box at the Reef, 1933 S. Broadway, Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Black Education Expo
INFO: 323.475.6293
blackeducationexpo.com





Sylvia Woolridge, *Searching*, Acrylic, 24" x 30", 2024

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MUSIC AND DANCE

CELEBRATE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH WITH GREAT MUSIC

The Los Angeles Public Library and the Los Angeles County Library cards give you access to many resources, including two amazing online music collections. Freegal features unlimited songs and Hoopla lets you check out full albums. These two databases have endless amounts of music from the African and African American diaspora to explore, from famous hits to underground sounds.

WHEN: Ongoing

SITE: Online

COST: Free

SPONSORS: Los Angeles City Library; and, Los Angeles County Library

INFO: 310.434.3200

hoopladigital.com/search?q=African+American+music&scope=everything&type=direct&kindId=6
freegalmusic.com

HONDA BATTLE OF THE HBCU BANDS

Honda Battle of the Bands has served as the blueprint for showcasing one of the most recognizable and celebrated examples of HBCU culture and tradition to the rest of the world. Check out the band lineup on the website. Watch a four-part docuseries on the HBCU bands at hondabattleofthebands.com/drive-the-legacy.

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

SITE: SoFi Stadium, 1001 S. Stadium Drive, Inglewood

COST: Check the website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: American Honda Motor Co, SoFi Stadium

INFO: 424.541.9100

hondabattleofthebands.com

PACIFIC JAZZ ORCHESTRA WITH EVA NOBLEZADA

Pacific Jazz Orchestra (PJO) opens the Jazz at Naz Festival's fourth season, headlined by Grammy Award-winning and two-time Tony-nominated Broadway and West End star Eva Noblezada. Following her riveting performances in London's revivals of *Miss Saigon* and *Les Misérables*, she dazzled Broadway as Eurydice in the original production of the mega-hit *Hadestown* and is currently wowing audiences as Daisy Buchanan in the new Broadway musical adaptation of *The Great Gatsby*.

WHEN: February 1, 8:00 p.m.

SITE: The Soraya, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge

COST: Check the website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts

INFO: 818.677.3000

thesoraya.org/en/whats-on-search

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Yohannes Yamassee, *Kings Affirmation*, Wood, oil, gold leaf, 9' x 3'

IMANI WINDS

Recent Grammy-winning wind ensemble Imani Winds performs Grooves and Meditations. With over 25 years of captivating audiences, they present dynamic performances and imaginative programming. Their program features works by modern composers, including a newly commissioned piece inspired by contemporary issues. *The Philadelphia Inquirer* claims, “Imani’s got it all.”

WHEN: February 1, 7:30 p.m.
SITE: Broad Stage, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica
COST: Check the website for ticket price
SPONSOR: Broad Stage
INFO: 310.434.3200
broadstage.org/2425-season

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER PRESENTS NEW ORLEANS SONGBOOK

Jazz at Lincoln Center brings the soul of New Orleans and the spirit of Mardi Gras to this amazing evening, celebrating the composers and inspired songs of the Crescent City, the historic epicenter of jazz. From Jelly Roll Morton and Louis Armstrong to Ellis Marsalis and James Black, New Orleans has long been an apex of innovation and inspiration. Led by pianist Luther S. Allison and vocalists Quiana Lynell and Milton Suggs, the New Orleans Songbook immerses audiences in this vibrant city’s captivating and timeless spirit.

WHEN: February 1, 8:00 p.m.
SITE: Luckman Fine Arts Complex, Cal State Los Angeles, 5151 State University Dr., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: The Luckman
INFO: 323.343.6600
theluckman.org/category/events

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Amina AmXn, *Smile from Soweto: African Diaspora Travels*, Digital photography, 16" x 20", 2024

LAKECIA BENJAMIN & PHOENIX

One of the most sought-after and revered saxophonists of her generation, Lakecia Benjamin, was voted 2020 *Downbeat* Critics Poll Rising Star Alto Saxophonist and was nominated for three 2024 Grammy Awards. Benjamin is known for her charisma and ability to fuse jazz, hip-hop, and soul. This intimate onstage Jazz Club performance will be highlighted with selections from her four studio albums performed by her quartet, Phoenix.

WHEN: February 5 - 6, 8:00 p.m.
SITE: The Soraya, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts
INFO: 818.677.3000
thesoraya.org/en/whats-on-search

SAMARA JOY

Samara Joy sings with a young person's passion and an experienced artist's wisdom. "It's spooky," the great bassist Christian McBride has said of the musician. "She sounds and tells stories like an elder." Joy's refined, distinctive style has been compared to Sarah Vaughan, Billie Holiday, and Ella Fitzgerald—all legendary singers who also recorded for Verve Records—but her perspective on her Grammy-winning album *Linger Awhile* is all her own.

WHEN: February 7, 8:00 p.m.
SITE: Walt Disney Concert Hall, 111 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket price
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Philharmonic Association
INFO: 323.850.2000
laphil.com/events/performances

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Marc Broyard, *Beacon*, Mixed media assemblage, 28" x 20" x 6", 2002

CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE & URSA MAJOR

Revered master of the upright bass, Christian McBride is also the foremost master of finding new talent and surrounding himself with young musicians. His New Quintet is precisely that. Jazz Club audiences have a rare opportunity to be up close with the acclaimed bandleader, composer, and educator alongside his fresh crop of next-gen superstars.

WHEN: February 7 - 8, 8:00 p.m.

SITE: The Soraya, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge

COST: Check the website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts

INFO: 818.677.3000

thesoraya.org/en/whats-on-search

JASON MORAN

Moran's fourth Soraya appearance celebrates the Duke's enduring legacy and his 125th birthday. The year-long tour started at the Kennedy Center. Moran has invited the CSUN Jazz "A" band to join him, pairing the timeless music with iconic images of Ellington from photographer Gordon Parks.

WHEN: February 13, 8:00 p.m.

SITE: The Soraya, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge

COST: Check the website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts

INFO: 818.677.3000

thesoraya.org/en/whats-on-search

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Valena Broussard Dismukes, *Argentine Vista*, Digital photography, 11" x 14", 2005

COLBURN PRESENTS: ADRIAN DUNN SINGERS

Adrian Dunn, Colburn's Director of Choral Programs, leads a joyous musical celebration of Black History Month featuring a capella spirituals and original compositions for the chorus. The program will be performed by the Adrian Dunn Singers, an all-Black professional ensemble founded by Dunn and dedicated to transforming classical music and the music industry at large.

- WHEN:** February 15, 7:00 p.m.
SITE: Zipper Hall, 200 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: Colburn School
INFO: colburnschool.edu/calendar

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Nia Simone, *Rise*, Oil paint on canvas, 40" x 60", 2021

SHAMEL PITTS | TRIBE

Black Hole—Trilogy and Triathlon is the final part of Shamel Pitts' BLACK Series triptych, brought to life by the Brooklyn-based arts collective TRIBE. This multidisciplinary performance, enriched by Afrofuturism, weaves together dance, sound, video, and light into a narrative celebrating vitality, tenderness, and the power of unity and progress. Through the journey of three performers of African heritage, *Black Hole* explores themes of transformation and potential, transcending the darkness into a metaphorical space of empowerment.

WHEN: February 15, 8:00 p.m.

SITE: Gloria Kaufman Dance Theater, Kaufman Hall, 120 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles

COST: Check the website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: Center for the art Performance UCLA

INFO: 310.825.4401

cap.ucla.edu/calendar



Rosalyn Myles, *Untitled (mask, girl and boy)*, Casa Tomada, Central Cuba, Digital photography, 11" x 17", 2024



Jora Nelstein, *Passage Los Angeles 7*, Acrylic on canvas, 36" x 36", 2024

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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Community Events

TERRI LYNE CARRINGTON + SOCIAL SCIENCE

Grammy-Award winner, drummer, and composer Terri Lyne Carrington blends jazz, indie rock, and hip-hop with her multi-talented sextet Social Science. This fresh ensemble thoughtfully confronts urgent social and societal issues through a suite of powerful compositions, inspiring a deep regard for humanity and freedom while never forgetting to excite on a purely musical level.

WHEN: February 15, 7:30 p.m.
SITE: Broad Stage, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica
COST: Check the website for ticket price
SPONSOR: Broad Stage
INFO: 310.434.3200
broadstage.org/2425-season

KURT ELLING CELEBRATES WEATHER REPORT

A double bill featuring two debuts! L.A.'s Yellowjackets bring four decades and headline status to open the evening. "The standout male vocalist of our time" (*The New York Times*), Kurt Elling reimagines Weather Report tunes with original band member Peter Erskine. Featuring works by Wayne Shorter, Weather Report is the defining modern jazz act of the 1970s and 1980s.

WHEN: February 15, 8:00 p.m.
SITE: The Soraya, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts
INFO: 818.677.3000
thesoraya.org/en/whats-on-search

AT WAR WITH OURSELVES - 400 YEARS OF YOU - KRONOS QUARTET & TONALITY

At War with Ourselves – 400 Years of You features a text by National Book Award-winning poet Nikky Finney inspired by her 2013 poem *The Battle of and for the Black Face Boy*. The music was composed by Pulitzer Prize winner Michael Abels, composer for the Jordan Peele films *Us* and *Get Out*. This powerful new work for string quartet, narrator, and chorus explores race relations, social justice, and civil rights in 21st century America.

WHEN: February 15, 7:30 p.m.
SITE: Bram Goldsmith Theater at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills
COST: Check the website for ticket price
SPONSOR: The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
INFO: 310.746.4000
thewallis.org/season2425

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

Community Events



Tamika Quillard, *Things are Looking Up*, Digital collage, 11" x 17", 2024

CIRQUE KALABANTÉ

Cirque Kalabanté presents *Afrique en Cirque*, a show by Yamoussa Bangoura, inspired by daily life in Guinea. A colorful show beyond its scenery, costumes, and staging – it showcases the strength and agility required to perform its gravity-defying acts. Accompanied by live Afro-jazz, percussion, and kora.

WHEN: February 16, 6:00 p.m.

SITE: Luckman Fine Arts Complex, Cal State Los Angeles, 5151 State University Dr., Los Angeles

COST: Check the website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: The Luckman

INFO: 323.343.6600

theluckman.org/category/events

CHUCHO VALDÉS: IRAKERE 50

The 1973 band changed Latin music forever. Irakere lives again with two of its original band members, legends without equal – Chucho Valdés and Arturo Sandoval. Few American venues today can compare to The Soraya's history celebrating the musical greatness of Cuba.

WHEN: February 20, 8:00 p.m.

SITE: The Soraya, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge

COST: Check the website for ticket prices

SPONSOR: Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts

INFO: 818.677.3000

thesoraya.org/en/whats-on-search

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

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Cola Smith-Adabachi, *Sankofa*, Digital illustration, 13.5" x 10.5", 2024

LULA WASHINGTON DANCE THEATRE: CULTURE, HERITAGE, AND RESILIENCE THROUGH DANCE

This year's concert will feature a dynamic program that honors the legacy of Black dance pioneers while showcasing new works by visionary choreographers. The evening promises to be a deeply moving and uplifting celebration of African American history and resilience through the art of dance.

- WHEN:** February 23, 7:00 p.m.
SITE: Lula Washington Dance Theatre, 3773 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: Lula Washington Dance Theatre
INFO: 323.292.5852
lulawashington.org/performances-tickets/events

CHA WA

Cha Wa, known for their Grammy-nominated albums *Spyboy* and *My People*, offers a vibrant celebration of New Orleans' heritage. *My People* reflects the city's enduring spirit and the struggles for freedom that shape its joy. Described by PopMatters as "a grand gumbo of singing, intoxicating rhythms, and deep funk grooves," Cha Wa's music captures the unstoppable energy of New Orleans. Join them for a memorable journey through the streets, where every beat tells a story of resilience and unity.

- WHEN:** March 1, 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/calendar



AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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MAHLERTHON: PART ONE

Youth ensembles from across Los Angeles celebrate Gustav Mahler's legacy with a marathon of his music.

WHEN: March 2, 12:00 noon - 3:30 p.m.
SITE: Walt Disney Concert Hall, 111 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket price
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Philharmonic Association
INFO: 323.850.2000
laphil.com/events/performances

TO THE FULLEST: THE MUSIC OF JULIUS EASTMAN AND ARTHUR RUSSELL

The music of legendary collaborators Julius Eastman and Arthur Russell is singular and boundless. Their profound and personal sounds demand that performers become unabashedly themselves, merging and getting lost in the notes and rhythms, finding themselves again and again, and emerging whole and newly committed to self. This intrapersonal endeavoring is matched externally with musical structures that create profound belonging within a group.

WHEN: March 4, 8:00 p.m.
SITE: Walt Disney Concert Hall, 111 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket price
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Philharmonic Association
INFO: 323.850.2000
laphil.com/events/performances

HARLEM QUARTET WITH ALDO LÓPEZ-GAVILÁN

Broad Stage presents the mesmerizing combination of Grammy Award-winning Harlem Quartet and Cuban pianist and composer Aldo López-Gavilán, who shares a special bond with the quartet as the brother of violinist Ilmar Gavilán. Harlem Quartet has been hailed in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* for “bringing a new attitude to classical music, one that is fresh, bracing and intelligent,” and Aldo López-Gavilán has been praised by *The Seattle Times* for his “dazzling technique and rhythmic fire.” This collaboration promises a joyously energetic concert that you don’t want to miss.

WHEN: March 15, 7:30 p.m.
SITE: Broad Stage, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica
COST: Check the website for ticket price
SPONSOR: Broad Stage
INFO: 310.434.3200
broadstage.org/2425-season

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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ANGEL BLUE IN CONCERT

Two-time Grammy Award-winning soprano Angel Blue is renowned for her captivating voice and performances in iconic operatic roles, including Violetta in Verdi's *La Traviata*, Bess in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, and Mimí in Puccini's *La Bohème*. She debuted as Musetta in LA Opera's 2007 production of *La Bohème* and later performed the same role at Teatro alla Scala in Milan in 2015.

WHEN: March 15, 7:30 p.m.
SITE: Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Check the website for ticket prices
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Opera
INFO: 213.972.0711
laopera.org/performances

REV'S ROOTS REVIVAL WITH BEAUCOUP BRASS BAND

Mardi Gras-meets-blackbox! Experience an evening of roots music, circus performance, and joyful blues at The Rev's Roots Revival. The Los Angeles-based Beaucoup Brass Band will join the Rev, who pay homage to the lively New Orleans jazz tradition with their energetic brass band tunes. This exciting collaboration promises to infuse The Plaza with contagious rhythms and vibrant melodies, blending jazz, funk, and brass music for an unforgettable experience.

WHEN: March 22, 8:00 p.m.
SITE: Broad Stage, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica
COST: Check the website for ticket price
SPONSOR: Broad Stage
INFO: 310.434.3200
broadstage.org/2425-season

HERBIE HANCOCK

One of the most inventive artists in the history of American music, the brilliant and always-innovating Herbie Hancock returns for a night of freewheeling, thought-provoking, mind-expanding, galactic-traveling jazz, and funk.

WHEN: March 30, 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 Philharmonic Association
INFO: 323.850.2000
laphil.com/events/performances



Mark7, *Rare Findings*, Watercolor, 11" x 14", 2019



AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

presents

1950-2025

AN HISTORIC TIMELINE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

For over 75 years, **Our Authors Study Club** (OASC) has woven an extraordinary tapestry of Black history, culture, and achievement in Los Angeles. What began in 1945 with Vassie D. Wright's visionary leadership has blossomed into one of America's most enduring celebrations of Black history.

This remarkable journey begins in post-war Los Angeles, when Wright and a dedicated group of educators and community leaders recognized the vital importance of preserving and celebrating Black history. In 1949, they introduced Negro History Week to Los Angeles, planting the seeds for what would become a transformative civic tradition.

The 1950s marked a watershed moment when **Mayor Fletcher Bowron** formally partnered with OASC, inaugurating an unbroken chain of mayoral support that continues to this day. Through the civil rights era, urban transformation, and into the new millennium, OASC has remained a steadfast beacon of cultural preservation and education.

What makes this organization truly exceptional is not just its longevity, but its profound impact on Los Angeles's cultural landscape. From launching groundbreaking Black history tours and educational programs to hosting luminaries like **Marian Anderson, Ossie Davis, and Ruby Dee**, OASC has consistently elevated Black voices and stories. They've celebrated historic firsts - from **Dr. Ralph Bunche's Nobel Peace Prize** to **Tom Bradley's mayoral victory** - while nurturing future generations through oratorical contests and youth programs.

The organization's evolution from Negro History Week to Black History Month, and now African American Heritage Month, reflects its ability to grow and adapt while maintaining its core mission. Through the dedicated leadership of presidents from **Vassie Wright** to current president **Lura Daniels-Ball**, OASC and the City of Los Angeles have maintained what is believed to be the nation's longest-running continuous official city-wide Black history celebration.

This is more than just a timeline - it's a testament to the power of community, dedication, and the unwavering belief that understanding our history is crucial to building our future. As OASC hails this city-wide diamond anniversary, its legacy stands as an inspiration and a reminder that celebrating Black history is not just about remembering the past, but about continually writing new chapters in the ongoing story of Black excellence in Los Angeles.

We invite you to explore this rich timeline and discover the remarkable moments that have shaped this organization and our city. Each entry offers a fascinating glimpse into Los Angeles's cultural evolution and OASC's vital role in preserving and celebrating Black history. Whether you're a longtime Angeleno or new to our city's story, you'll find inspiration in these pages and perhaps see your own role in continuing this powerful legacy.

At top: 1957 photo of Councilman George Hahn and Mayor Kenneth Hahn present the Biddy Mason plaque to Mason's granddaughter and OASC President Mrs Vassie Wright, at bottom: Group portrait taken at the presentation of the plaque at the Natural History Museum, Los Angeles, President Vassie D. Wright seated in the front with Biddy Mason's granddaughter, Councilmember Hahn is in the back row.

Photo credits on page 226.

1950

1955

1960

1965

1970

1975

1980

1985



OASC Partnership established with Mayor Fletcher Bowron, beginning decades-long collaboration



Gilbert Lindsay and Tom Bradley, first Black city councilmembers elected in the City of Los Angeles



OASC celebrates the opening of California African American Museum



OASC supports introduction of Black History studies in Los Angeles Unified School District



Tom Bradley elected first Black mayor in the City of Los Angeles



Marian Anderson performs with Los Angeles Philharmonic closing Negro History Week



First OASC Black History Tour launched, highlighting original First AME Church site



Negro History Week opening ceremony moves to City Hall steps



Dr. Ralph Bunche (Jefferson High School and UCLA graduate) becomes first Black Nobel Peace Prize recipient



Mayor Bradley hosts first official Black History Month celebration



Gilbert Lindsay and OASC honor Negro History Week



Winner 4th Anniversary of the OASC Oratorical Contest: Virgil Morrow, Carver Junior High



Choir performs at Negro History Week Opening Celebration at City Hall



City-wide program acknowledging Medgar Evers' assassination



Mayor Norris Poulson continues mayoral proclamation tradition honoring Negro History Week with OASC



Jefferson-Vassie D. Wright Memorial Branch library reopens

1950

1955

1960

1965

1970

1975

1980

1985

1990

1995

2000

2005

2010

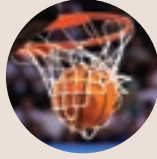
2015

2020

2025



Mayor Bradley continuing the tradition honoring OASC and African American Heritage Month



Laker's win third National Championship in as many years, their 14th national win at that time



Karen Bass elected mayor of the City of Los Angeles



Mayor Richard Riordan and OASC members honoring African American Heritage Month



Mayor Villaraigosa presents Spirit of Los Angeles Awards at African American Heritage Month ceremony



Mayor Bass and current OASC President Lura Ball kick off African American Heritage Month



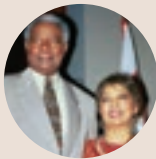
Yvonne Brathwaite Burke wins a seat on the LA County Board of Supervisors



Herb Wesson elected to City Council, later becoming first Black City Council President



Mayor Garcetti and City Councilmembers at African American Heritage Month Opening Ceremony



Our Authors Study Club hosts Ossia Davis and Ruby Dee



OASCI honors Buffalo Soldiers at City Hall Opening Ceremony



OASCI honors artist Mark Steven Greenfield with the Trailblazer Award



Ballard Mountain named for John Ballard, a pioneering Black homesteader



Marqueece Harris-Dawson named LA City Council President

1990

1995

2000

2005

2010

2015

2020

2025



Taylor Thomas, *Beverly Weave #4*, Collage - Photo paper, found commercial street poster, mirror & spray paint, 30" x 40", 2024

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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75 Years Celebrating Black Heritage in the 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.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

Martin Luther King, Jr.—Early Readers



Imani Tolliver, *Fairytween*, Mixed media, 8" x 8", 2024

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. You can be a King. Beat the drum for justice. March to your own conscience. Featuring a dual narrative of the key moments of Dr. King's life alongside a modern class as the students learn about him, 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.



Brandon Barry Brown, *Trust the Journey*, Oil on canvas, 48" x 48", 2024

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

Martin Luther King, Jr.—Middle Readers



Shell Amega, *Midnight Sri Yantra*, Acrylic, crystals, gold spheres, gold pin lining, copper & gold leaf, 16" x 16", 2019

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

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

When Martin Luther King Jr. landed 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 Day King Died* 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.

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.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

Martin Luther King, Jr.—High School Readers



Mark 7, *Jazz Topia*, Watercolor, 12" x 18", 2019

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 non-fiction 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.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

Martin Luther King, Jr.—High School Readers



Edward Ewell, *Great Commission - Santa Monica*, Digital photography, 16" x 20", 2000

DEAR MARTIN

Written by **Nic Stone**

Publisher: Crown Books for Young Readers

Justyce McAllister is top of his class and set for the Ivy League—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 journal to Dr. King to find out. 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.



Samuel Pace, *Satchel Page*, Acrylic on canvas, 33.5" x 40", 2009



Jasimen Phillips, *Imani*, Acrylic on canvas, 18"x24", 2024

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

Martin Luther King, Jr.—Adult Readers



Urith Walker, *Horizon*, Acrylic, 16" x 20", 2012

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

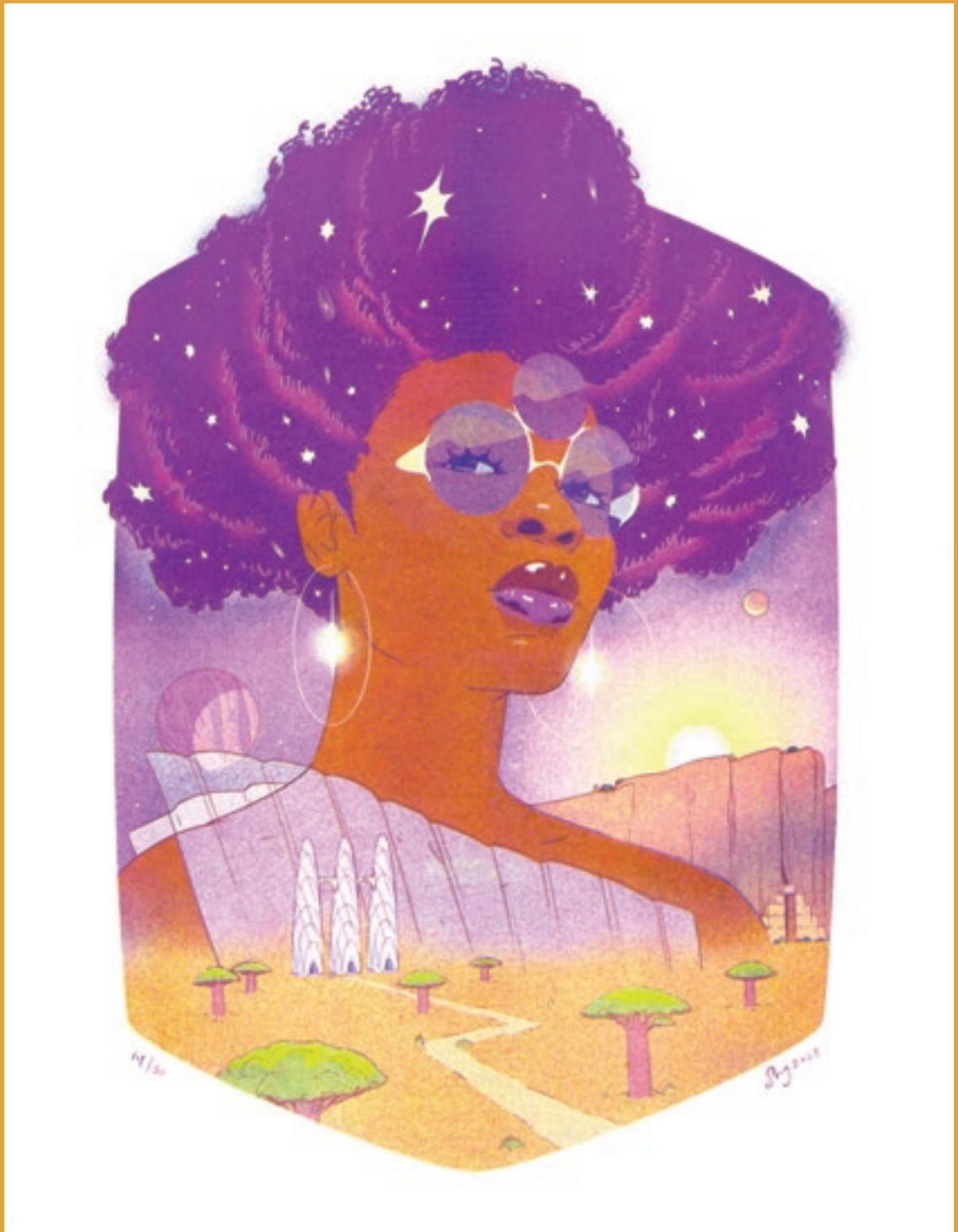
The defense lawyer for Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, the Selma marchers, and other civil rights heroes reveals the true story of the historic trial that made Dr. King a national hero. Fred D. Gray was just twenty-four years old when he became the defense lawyer for Dr. King, a young minister who had become the face of the bus boycott that had rocked the city of Montgomery, Alabama. In this incredible history, Gray takes us behind the scenes of that landmark case, including such unforgettable moments as: Martin Luther King's courageous response to a bomb threat on his own home; Poignant, searing testimony that exposed the South's racist systems to an worldwide audience; The conspiracy to destroy Gray's career and draft him into the Vietnam War; and the unforgettable moment when a Supreme Court ruling brought the courtroom to a halt. *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 an MLK 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.



Schessa Garbutt, *Afro Nebula (Galactic Girl)*, Risograph print, 3 colors, 8.5" x 11", 2023

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

Civil Rights & Slavery—Early Readers

FIGHTING WITH LOVE: THE LEGACY OF JOHN LEWIS

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

The story of a groundbreaking civil rights leader, John Lewis. Lewis left a cotton farm in Alabama to join the fight for civil rights as just 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

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

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 to chill 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.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

Civil Rights & Slavery—Middle Readers



Sylvia Woolridge, *Sista*, Soft Pastel, 24" x 30", 2024

BARRACOON: 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.

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. It meant she didn't have the same opportunities as white children, and that meant her dream of playing music onstage one day 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.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

Civil Rights & Slavery—Middle Readers



Melissa Phillips, *On the Beginning: Part Two*, Pen, pencil, marker, blue foil, 18" x 24", 2024

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 time line, notes from the author and illustrator, and a bibliography.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

Civil Rights & Slavery—High School Readers



Gina Russell Williams, *In Perpetuity*, Mixed media, 8.5' x 3', 2024

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. Readers will 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. Major players and key events are discussed in depth. Compelling text and informative sidebars also cover the history of slavery in the US and its territories, the Amistad case, the Missouri Compromise, and the Civil War. *Dred Scott v. Sanford* forever influenced laws on black citizenship and slavery in the territories.

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. In addition, this compelling book illuminates the stories of notable women throughout history—from queens and freedom fighters to warriors and spies—and the progressive movements led by women that have shaped history, including abolition, suffrage, labor, civil rights, LGBTQ liberation, reproductive rights, and more.



Kamali Gilbert, *Daughter of the Sun*, Mixed Media, 2024

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Civil Rights & Slavery—Adult Readers



Tamika Quillard, *Back to Me*, Digital collage, 11" x 17", 2024

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.

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

Written by **Gregg Hecimovich**
Publisher: Ecco

A study of the first Black female novelist and her life as an enslaved person, by the biographer who solved the mystery of her identity, with an introduction by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Crafts's book, *The Bondwoman's Narrative*, is the only known novel by an enslaved woman. It was never published during her lifetime and 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 story of the fascinating, fraught alliance among Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, and Maria Weston Chapman—and how its breakup led to the success of America's most important social movement. 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, as acclaimed historian Linda Hirshman reveals, this misses the woman in power. Through incisive, original analysis, Hirshman convinces that the breakup had many causes, and, was in fact a successful failure. 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

A highly original history of American portraiture that places the experiences of enslaved people at its center. Revisiting the origins of portrait painting in the United States, the 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 also shaped the trajectory of African American art post-emancipation. The book is not only a significant intervention in the fields of American art and history but also an important contribution to the reexamination of racial constructs on which American culture was built.

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 in which the Underground Railroad 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 South Carolina, in a city that initially seems like a haven, but the city's placid surface masks an insidious scheme designed for its black denizens.

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Teacher MoMo, *Jazz Festival 2024*, Acrylic paint on canvas, 25" x 25", 2024

NIGHT FLYER: HARRIET TUBMAN AND THE FAITH DREAMS OF A FREE PEOPLE

Written by **Tiya Miles**

Publisher: Penguin Press

An intimate and revelatory reckoning with the myth and the truth behind an American everyone knows and few really understand. Harriet Tubman is, one of the ten most famous Americans ever born, yet often she's a figure more out of myth than history, almost a comic-book superhero—the woman who, despite being barely five-feet tall, illiterate, and suffering from a brain injury, managed to escape from her own enslavement, return again and again to lead others North to freedom, speak out powerfully against slavery, and then become the first American woman in history to lead a military raid, freeing some 750 people without loss of life. The author explores beyond the stock historical grid to weave Tubman's life into the fabric of her world. She probes the ecological reality of Tubman's surroundings and examines her kinship with other enslaved women and recorded those travels in profound and moving memoirs. What emerges is a story that offers us powerful inspiration for our own time of troubles.

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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.

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 picture book is a celebration of Black joy, outdoor play, and 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.

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Life & Culture—Middle Readers



Cola Smith-Adabachi, *Summer Breeze*, Digital illustration, 24" x 18", 2024

GHOST (TRACK SERIES BOOK #1)

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

Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could help qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. 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

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



Linda Ternoir, *Espiritu de Nuestra*, Acrylic painting, 24" x 20", 2023

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Life & Culture—Middle Readers



Nia Simone, *Dear Old Nia*, Oil paint on canvas, 48" x 60", 2024

LOUDS 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.

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 have the team swum their last lap—for good?



Karien Zachery, *Yamaya - Goddess of the sea*, Ceramic cast painted in bronze acrylic, 12" x 7", 2022



Taylor Thomas, *The Pioneers*, Collage - acrylic paint, mirror paint & sharpie, 30" x 40", 2024

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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 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.

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.

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Life & Culture—Adult Readers



Dmaria Woods, *Passion Dance*, Acrylic on paper, 14" x 20", 2024

KINETHIC CALIFORNIA: DANCING FUNK & DISCO ERA KINSHIPS

Written by **Naomi Macalalad Bragin**

Publisher: Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2024.

This book explores the making of black social and vernacular dance in the 1970s, precursor to today's global hip hop/streetdance culture, it documents the emergence of new forms of dance invented by youth living in 1970s California, who helped build the foundations of contemporary hip hop/streetdance culture. The stories in *Kinethic California* attend to the aesthetics of everyday movement, seen through the lens of young artists who, from childhood, listened to their family's soul and funk records, observed the bent-leg strolls and rhythmic handshakes of people moving through their neighborhoods, and watched each other move at house parties, school gyms, and around-the-way social clubs.

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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.

Gwendolyn DuBois Shaw 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.

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Suggested Reading



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Life & Culture—Adult Readers

SUCCESSFUL BLACK ENTREPRENEURS: HIDDEN HISTORIES, INSPIRATIONAL STORIES, AND EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS: CASE STUDIES BY HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL

Written by **Steven Rogers**

Publisher: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

In response to the question, what is the difference between Black and white entrepreneurs?, the author identified the following differences: Black entrepreneurs cannot easily access capital from traditional institutions including banks and private equity firms; many Black entrepreneurs must practice “racial concealment” to be successful; and, successful Black entrepreneurs are often virtually invisible in the minds of the general public. All of these reasons, and more, have a negative impact on Black entrepreneurship. Successful Black entrepreneurs create jobs, and companies that provide products and services that benefit the Black community. The book is largely comprised of case studies that Rogers wrote and have been published by Harvard Business School (HBS).

TITLE: SING, UNBURIED, SING

Written by **Jesmyn Ward**

Publisher: Scribner

This is a searing and profound Southern odyssey that brings the archetypal road novel into rural twenty-first century America. Jojo and his toddler sister, Kayla, live with their grandparents, Mam and Pop, and the occasional presence of their drug-addicted mother, Leonie, on a farm on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi. Leonie is simultaneously tormented and comforted by visions of her dead brother, that only come to her when she’s high. Mam is dying of cancer, and quiet, steady Pop tries to run the household and teach Jojo how to be a man. When the white father of Leonie’s children is released from prison, she packs her kids and a friend into her car and sets out across the state for Parchman farm, the Mississippi State Penitentiary, on a journey rife with danger and promise.

THE MYTH OF BLACK CAPITALISM

Written by **Earl Ofari Hutchinson**

Publisher: Monthly Review Press

In his 1970 book, *The Myth of Black Capitalism*, Earl Ofari Hutchinson lays out a rigorous challenge to the presumption that capitalism, in any shape or form, has the potential to rectify the stark injustices endured by Black people in America. Ofari engages in a diligent historical review of the participation of African Americans in commercial activity in this country, demonstrating conclusively that the creation of a class of Black capitalists has failed to ameliorate the extreme inequity faced by African Americans.

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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.



Mark Steven Greenfield, *Gullah Jack*, Acrylic and gold leaf on wood panel, 20" x 16", 2023



Teresa Tolliver, *Scream*, Mixed media, 69" x 13" x 23", 2024

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75 Years Celebrating Black Heritage in the City of Los Angeles



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

LITERATURE

The Department of Cultural Affairs is pleased to present the works of several fine writers in the *2025 African American Heritage Month Calendar and Cultural Guide*. The writers are:

Derek D. Brown, Helen Donato-Sapp, Ms. Drea the Poet, Earline M. Gentry, Ebony Gilbert, Janaci, Connie Johnson, Poet Larry Love, Feliz McClinnis, Joy Parris, Lee Pulley, Joy Robinson, KK Yelverton (AKA The Angelic One), and, Valerie Ayres Wallick.

Compilation curated by Erin Aguilar

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

Literature

Hey Beautiful Black Queen

by **KK YELVERTON** aka **THE ANGELIC ONE**

Hey beautiful Black queen
Do you know your worth and what it means?
To wear the color of your skin
Melanin rich body, bust, legs and butt
Some with thin and thick lips
They want to fool you and play tricks
Make you think you're not truly the God
Blissfully balanced in brilliance and bravery
Stop believing we began and came from slavery
You mothered earth from the birth of its foundation
 As God's gift and God's creation
You were chosen to carry and care for life
Nine months in the womb
Some premature being a little impatient
Filled with the task of beautifying the world
Growing inside of you
Demanding your time, love and patience
and understanding
Women are blessed With the blossoming bonus
 of birthing a human life Ready to take flight
 Being watched through a microscopic light
And I know it's hard at times for you to understand
 Consistently under attack
Music, movies, entertainment Political issues and views
 Religion and education
We are negatively labeled with negative reviews
Making it difficult to choose
When they calling us worthless b*ees and ho's
It's not just all on you
To avoid repetition
It takes Proactively listening,
You're told to be tough Suck it up
Because life gets rough blinding others from seeing
 The beautiful queen in you
'Cause we have been following
"Americas KKK.." beauty standards and qualifications
When their definition of beauty needs an explanation
I don't usually name names
But this is for the sake of our youth
Demanding to know the truth

Asking why the Kardashians get so much attention
Along with celebs and influencers with make believe
bodies and butt shots are these the new standards
of what's HOT absolutely NOT when we beautiful
queens Like Taraji, Mary J, Simone Biles, Sista Souljah,
Kee Kee Palmer, Ms. Badu, Jill Scott, Janelle Monae,
Kerry Washington, Kelly Rowland, Shacarri,
Queen Latifah, Rhianna, Solange and "B"

Beauty comes in all shapes, colors and sizes
Trust me, if you close your eyes
Try and imagine a world without you
The beauty of your bold and bubbling self
Brightening this dark world with the presence of your
 Smile, Your style, your swag, your laughter on display
Your Happiness makes them mad Questioning how you
 do what you do
Accomplishing any and everything you put your mind to
I have met so many beautifully blessed, brilliantly
 blazing, breathtaking fabulous women of color.
 You are one of them too
Beauty is a state of mind
What you see in the mirror is mirrored by what's
 in your mind
Continue Be extraordinary better than expected
 Go beyond fabulous Because in my eyes,
Sisters
I see nothing but beauty!!



Nia Simone, *Letting Love Go*, Oil paint on canvas, 36" x 48", 2024

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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Literature

Black Angeleno (I Love Los Angeles)

by Poet Larry Love

I love Los Angeles, and the city's evolution
Salute to Black Angelenos, and the many contributions
Cultural, industrial, educational, and Arts
From entertainment to the workplace, from the
classrooms to the Parks
Family roots trace back to migration from the south
In South Central Los Angeles, grandparents bought
a house
Born and raised in this city, from a boy to a man
It's the city of Angels, known as La La Land

Got Dulan's serving soul food, seasoned and hot
Johnny's Pastrami on Adams is a favorite spot
Leimert Park, is the heart, of the African vibe
African-American culture, heritage and pride
From the Hollywood sign to the towers of Watts
Dodger boys in blue, and black boys on the block
From the double dutchin' girls, jumping rope in the sun
To the low riders, cruising down Crenshaw for fun
Crypto Arena, was once called the Staples Center
Home of the L.A. Lakers, champions and winners
In 2028, the Olympics will arrive
All eyes on Los Angeles, the beaches and blue skies

City Hall is the home of council and committees
Tom Bradley was the first black Mayor of this city
Karen Bass is the first woman Mayor, and she's black
There's something quite significant and special about that
We remember Biddy Mason, a mogul in her day
From slavery to the woman who built downtown LA
So much history in this city, I'm proud to proclaim
A Black Angeleno, I will always remain
I love Los Angeles

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Literature

Public Noose-ance

by Derek D. Brown

My public-school education
was more accurately
a public-fool's execution
A hanging by a noose
'twined with white-washed hieroglyphs
and the murky tears of broken bucks
who were fool enough to exist
History books are merely Trojan horses
housing candy-coated forgeries
each turn of the page is a forcible swallow
down a throat that's whipped until it gulps
English class ...
a ritual sacrifice of our native tongues
to self-appointed gods
who chose to edit The Good Book
by whiting out its darkest mistakes

My Healer

By Lee Pulley

You're my healer
all the broken pieces
somehow you found a way to help me put them back together
when I was at my lowest and couldn't imagine anyone worth
 holding would wanna hold me
you came along
held me close and vowed to never let go
you accepted me for who I was and everything I wasn't
You're my healer

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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Literature

Dear Black Man

by Ms. Drea the Poet

Dear Black Man...
Strong Black Men Matter

In a world where the color of your skin is deemed a threat, You still walk with strength and grace, no regret. A pillar of power, courage resides in your soul, Your shoulders bear burdens, but you still stand whole.

Oh, Black man, I honor the way you rise,

Your resilience unmatched, your strength in your eyes. You hold your family, your people, your tribe, With wisdom so deep, you let your love thrive.

Dear Black man, your presence strong In you, I see the stories of ancestors.

Your hands build homes, your mind dreams and you set goals , your love is a strength that forever will last.

You protect, you nurture, you provide with grace, A king in every form, in every space.

I see you, I value the way you survive, In a world designed to dim your light, you thrive.

So, let us return to we, to the days of pride, When we marched as one, standing side by side.

For Black history isn't just what's written in books, It's the way you love, the way your soul looks. To the Black man who carries the world on his back, You are seen, you are needed, no love you lack.

Black history lives in the steps you take, In every choice you make, in every heart you wake. So, rise, Black man, continue the fight, To the Black man who carries the world on his back, You are seen, you are needed, no love you lack. Black history lives in the steps you take, In every choice you make, in every heart you wake.

So, rise, Black man, continue the fight, For you are the history that keeps us alight.

In your hands, the future is written anew, Strong Black men, I see you, I love you.



Douglas E. Nowling, *I Count*, Acrylic on wood, 18" x 24", 2024



Marcus John Guillory, *Never Been Legal*, Oil, acrylic on wood panel, 36" x 48", 2024

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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Literature

On the Mic

by Janaci

I used to attend a writer's workshop
Most of the other artists did rap or hip-hop
Me, I just did my poetry...quietly
But the rap artists would feed us a lot of hype
about what it was going to be like
when they got on the mic
Said it was going to be down, be def, be dope, be tough
They said it so much they had me believing it
I couldn't wait to hear it
Then they would get up there and curse and swear
and speak of femininity totally disrespectfully
as if woman was the enemy
This situation became a huge irritation
and the inspiration for this piece of poetry

It seems like so many rappers want to get on the mic
and call me names that I don't like
So, this is for all those rappers on the mic
whose rhythm is tight, but your lyrics...they ain't right
This is for you who insist you can't resist
the temptation for degradation and lyrical, sexual
exploitation
This is for those who propose
to stir up dogged division between men and women
and stir up nagging negativity
demeaning every form of femininity
with the B word, the H word
and a few new words I had never heard
I hope you can see my identity in the multiplicity
of good names I'd love to hear you call me
and some of them start with a B
Let me see, I like Big, Beautiful, Bodacious
Bubbling-Brown sugar, Baby, Boo
As for the H word, Honey will do
If you prefer the more proper W
how about Wonderful, Woman or Wife?
You could call me any of those good names that I like
now that you're on the mic
Now that you're on the mic can't you call me what I like?
Do you have to disrespect? Why can't you just come
correct?
Did you know your words could heal? Come on now, let's
keep it real
Every man makes a choice of what to stir up with his voice

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

Literature

dirt-stained rose

By Ebony Gilbert

“ain’t
finna
be
nobody
talkin like dat
actin like dat
wit yo country ass talk
hood girl walk
that dialect
chewing gum poppin
inner-city projects.”
took all your curse words
and remixed them
sent them back to hell and eclipsed them
a rose. dirt-stained.
Reminiscent of the slave mother’s pain
Speaking in tongues, Southern twang.
Vernacular’s melodic.
Nina’s “spell on you” hypnotic.
Imma keep on black girl neck rollin
Laughin, clappin between words. Rejoicing.
And since Zora Neale’s eyes are watching
And Maya would want me to keep rising...
Imma keep country ass talking. Hood girl walking.
chewing gum poppin
Poppin that shit. On the corner. Concrete.
Where I grew. And rose.
Dirt-stained.
A dirt-stained rose.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

Literature

Journal – Writings of Love

By Valerie Ayres Wallick

I still remember the feel of my first yellow #2 pencil, gripped tightly in my small child's hand. Even back then, stories bubbled up inside me, begging to be set free. I'd scribble furiously, my imagination spilling out onto the page in wild tales of adventure and home.

As I grew up, my writing evolved with me. I poured my heart onto the page, chronicling the ups and downs of school, the nervous excitement of puppy love, and the challenges and triumphs of motherhood. My journals became my sanctuary, my safe space to make sense of the world and find my place in it.

My stories are infused with the rhythm of my backwoods heritage - the smooth notes of jazz, the kick of moonshine, and the soaring harmonies of gospel hymns echoing across the cornfields. They're stories of strong women and enduring love, of faith that lights the way through life's darkest moments.

I don't want to write about fairy tale love, all neat and tidy. I want to write about the real kind - messy, beautiful, and utterly life-changing. Love is about faith and trust, about that soul-deep flutter that never fades. It's about brutal honesty, about giving yourself fully and completely, no expectations attached.

Love is a journey, not a destination. It's about building dreams and a life side by side, about whispered prayers and joy that only the other can bring out in you. Love is knowing, deep in your bones, that you've found your person, your missing piece. It's a trust so rock-solid that nothing can ever shake it. That's what love means to me, what I crave and am willing to work for. That's what I believe love can be.

Until I find that love, I'll keep writing. I'll pour my hopes and dreams onto the page, telling stories of love in all its messy, beautiful forms. I'll keep faith with the words, and the words will keep faith with me. Until then, I write.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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Literature

Love's Offering

By Joy Parris

Behold this veil of love I offer you,
Let me drape it across your chest
And wrap you in the soft of each caress
Spare me the pain I will feel if I love you,
you with all that I have and more

Sit with me in the Garden of Paradise
So I can feed your sweet lips
With the fruits of my desire

Your song of love fills me
With the promise of a new day
Come, let me lay orange blossoms and violet roses
At your feet and juniper cherries for you to eat

Let's dance with the passion of the wind,
And sing love songs under a starlit sky.
Behold this veil of love I offer you
Let me shelter you from the world's harsh face
And allow me to embrace you in love, if only for a day.

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Literature

That Love...

By Earline M. Gentry

That love has no strings attached a love unmatched
Just think on that, let it marinate don't hesitate
It's my intension to communicate to reciprocate
That Love that brings peace...That Love that shines, shines
In the darkest of places that love gives you hope enables you to cope
That Love faces problems head on big or small remember love conquers all
That love that love never fails that Love heals that love reveals
Our inner most thoughts and weakness that love eases the hurts, the pains
That kind of love never changes that love always remains the same
That love forgives that love prays that love seeks forgiveness
That love makes us vulnerable yet accountable
That love does not reduce us to sympathy
But yields itself to compassion and empathy
That love is willing to choose that love is willing to step into your shoes
My shoes their shoes our shoes feeling the blues
That love encourages you to hang in there
That love cast out all fear that unconditional love is always right here...
That love that love that love...



Bernard Stanley Hoyes, *The Visitation*, Oils and oil pastels on paper, 20" x 30", 2021

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

Literature

I Am Arroiac

By Feliz Mc Innis

I HAVE BEEN IN DISguise even though you have been right next to me.
The moving bush, the branch that walked.
I am a survivor of centuries
Hunted while I hunted.
Consistent with the trees and bushes everywhere the canopies of lush green,
I am shielded
Explorers told stories about me to their children
Their children made me into a fairytale
And their children's children's, childrens children turned my image into an icon
for a vegetable brand.
In Disguise even though I am Right in front of you.

Joy I Proclaim

by Joy Robinson

Nefertiti's Aura.
Hathor's descendant.
Skin, golden brown and worn proud like a pendant.
However, my essence is more than my pigment.
Reminded daily, in life of the reasons I'm winnin'.
Strong hearted, light being.
Nurturing. Fruit feign.
Kind mind. Giving.
Respect for unseen and living.
Writer. Reader. Student. Teacher.
Poet. Singer. Healer. Truth seeker.
Been told I'm bold. My courage is natural.
Passed through the stars when I descended from the Astral.
Joy is my name and Joy I proclaim.
One day I may take seat to reign.
As I aspire to reach my higher self,
I expand in this dual domain.
Joy is my name and Joy I proclaim.
Everything and nothing, one in the same.

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2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

Literature

Simple Inspiration

by Connie Johnson

I should write a poem about that man I saw today
Just minding his own business / walking east on a
Downtown Street, not worrying about whether he
Resonated with anyone.

Just living.

It's said that we're all connected, so I'd like to feel
Some connection and kinship with you.

On this planet, important things ought to resonate
Inspiration residing in shadows and light; an utterance,
Even the unspoken ones that quietly assure:

yes, i see you

So delicate, this space between us all and what it means
To be human / to be seen / to leave an impression:

and i want to be able to find inspiration
in everything

I don't know what else to call it, my fellow man
Crossing the intersection at 6th & Spring

Poetry in your wake.

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Literature

A Tribute to African Americans and the Arts

By Helena Donato-Sapp

I am the art of teaching.
I am bell hooks. I am Bettina Love.
I am a writer and a scholar
Because I can
I am bold, Black, and brilliant

I am the art of keynote speaker
I am Kimberle Crenshaw
I am an intersectional activist
Speaking truth to power before thousands
I am bold, Black, and brilliant

I am the art of author
I am Chimamanda Adichie.
I am able to spin a tale with words
I am a rare purple hibiscus
I am bold, Black, and brilliant

I am the art of activism
I am Angela Davis
I am able to wage revolution
I will change the things I cannot accept
I am part of an ongoing historical moment
I am bold, Black, and brilliant

I am a fierce schoolgirl
I am Ruby Bridges and I am Linda Brown
Racism has no place in the heart of a child
Brown versus Board of Education is still not fulfilled
There is work to do now and I am here for it
I am bold, Black, and brilliant

I will be the art of cinema
I will be Ava Duvernay
I will be writer, director, producer
I claim it because
I am bold, Black, and brilliant

I am the art of engaged citizenship
I am proudly political
I am Shirley Chisholm
I am Kamala Harris
I am a leader
I am the first
I am bold, Black, and brilliant

I am Black and disabled
I am Fannie Lou Hamer
I am sick and tired of being sick and tired
I will work for justice
I am bold, Black, and brilliant

I am the art of science
I am Mae Jemison
I will take you off this planet with
My bold, Black brilliance

I am the art of painting
I am Kara Walker
I use art to confront racism, sexism, violence, and identity
I will paint for change
I am bold, Black, and brilliant

I am the art of feminism
I am Audre Lorde
I am not free while any woman is unfree
I am bold, Black, and brilliant

I am the art of poetry
I am Phillis Wheatley
I am June Jordan
I am Maya Angelou
I pen words that are both lovely and sharp
As they cut through injustice like a knife
I am bold, Black, and brilliant

I am art
I am Helena Donato-Sapp
Educator
Speaker
Author
Artist
Student
Aspirational filmmaker
Politician
Disability Justice Activist
Scientist
Painter
I am Poet Ambassador
I am Helena Donato-Sapp
I am bold, Black, and brilliant



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CELEBRATES

ROOTS OF CREATIVITY

Mapping the Artistic and Cultural Legacy of Historic South Los Angeles

What does “Cultural Treasure” bring to mind for you? Is it a community space that has served as a hub of connection for decades? Is it a restaurant that serves up neighborhood identity in addition to delicious food? An artist heralded for championing the permanence of local culture and inspiring successors to do the same? Or, is it a joyous festival that you look forward to every year? Or even, something as simple as a neighbor’s garden or a single tree at the end of a block, that for some unexplainable reason stirs your heart each time it comes into view?

No matter what comes to mind, South LA is full of Cultural Treasures waiting to be discovered. These Cultural Treasures run the gamut from major museums to mom and pop restaurants, famous and emerging artists, inspiring murals, vibrant community spaces, beloved festivals, and so much more. Each brings their own unique history, resonance with and connection to the South LA community, in addition to standing as an argument countering the narrative that this area represents only absence, when in fact there is incredible abundance to be found.

It is dynamic. It is diverse. It is iconic. And most of all, it is a place rich in culture. But, to uncover this culture one has to truly be invested in knowing this community. The history is too rich, too full of stories of overcoming against all odds, for its soul to be revealed in just an afternoon wander. It is a place that must be intentionally sought, and the **Cultural Treasures of South LA** initiative was developed to provide a guide.

Cultural Treasures of South LA reflects a living and ever evolving testimony to the rich history and complex nature of this vast and beautiful community, and provides a resource for those interested in authentically experiencing all that it has to offer. With the aim to uplift the indelible stories that paint an inviting and positive picture of the region, this program engages those with deep knowledge of the artistic and cultural highlights located in the federally designated South Los Angeles Promise Zone. Throughout the summer and early fall of 2022, residents and other frequenters of South Los Angeles participated in a survey to name what they deemed as Cultural Treasures, and as one might imagine, they spoke! Guided by the community at every step, the current database includes 230 South LA Cultural Treasures found mapped and described at SouthLACulture.org. This initiative has not only bridged community members with their local Cultural Treasures and the beauty of their neighborhoods, but it also served the extremely valuable purpose of providing a platform and space for the Cultural Treasures to grow in community with one another.

In the rapidly changing landscape of Los Angeles, we strongly believe that creating opportunities to highlight the South LA community’s cultural heritage is a very important way to preserve the cultural iconography of the region. Through the Cultural Treasures of South LA program, this is amplified with gallery curation, a monthly newsletter, and an Instagram feed with local event partnerships and activations.

Short documentary-style videos were created on some of the Cultural Treasures. Including, but not limited to, *In the Meantime Men*, *Leimert Park*, *Wilfandel Club*, *Noni Olabisi*, *Earle’s on Crenshaw*, and *Dunbar Hotel*. These

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Roots of Creativity



The Lula Washington Dance Theatre was founded by Lula Washington and her husband Edwin Washington, in 1980, to provide a creative outlet for minority dance artists in the inner city. Today, Lula and her Company are revered across the United States and around the world. The Company has danced in over 150 cities in the United States, as well as abroad in Germany, Spain, Kosovo, Mexico, Canada, China, and Russia.

institutions are of, by, and for South LA, and represent strong markers of the Black experience within this community. These videos explore the variety of sectors reflected by the Cultural Treasures from health services and queer advocacy, to arts and culture, to historic social clubs, to restaurants – and through these stories, they give voice to the names, and shared histories, for many, hidden until now.

Another highlight came to life in February of last year when the Cultural Treasures Markets at **Lula Washington Dance Theatre** provided a special opportunity to celebrate and bring together the artisans and craftspeople of South LA. This opportunity circulated dollars within the South LA economy, providing Black artisans and creators the opportunity to share their wares, bringing forward Cultural Treasures across other artistic spectrums on the site of a Cultural Treasure that has persisted for 45 years.

Pulsations LA, a global day of celebration in collaboration with the **Paris 2024 Cultural Olympiad**, took place on June 21, 2024, with a motto “From Leimert Park to the World.” South LA, and more specifically, Leimert Park, was tapped to represent the USA in a global “rhythmic relay” as a part of **Make Music Day** and the Paris 2024 Cultural Olympiad. The celebration brought together immense and wonderful acts such as **Kinnara Taiko**, **Dwight Tribble** backed by musicians of the **Fernando Pullum Community Arts Center**, poetry by **S. Pearl Sharp**, and another musical selection by Amazing Grace Conservatory alum, **Sha’Leah Nikole**. The event was hosted by **Wendy Raquel Robinson** in front of the historic Vision Theatre. Pulsations demonstrated the impact of the community’s Cultural Treasures, from the talent, to the vendors, to the artists presenting workshops, and to the community organizations tabling throughout the day.

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Roots of Creativity



One of the many vendors at the February 2024 Cultural Treasures Market at Lula Washington Dance Theatre. The market provided a special opportunity to celebrate and bring together the artisans and craftspeople of South LA.

The promise of this work is only getting started in South LA. There are communities of color throughout the country, and throughout the world that are in need of a tool for greater community storytelling, and this is but one vehicle for it. Cultural Treasures of South LA exists because of the support of a community that strongly believes in the goals - Preserving Cultural Heritage, Education and Curriculum, Technology and Engagement, Small Business Support, Cultural Tourism, and Multi-Platform Storytelling.

The Cultural Treasures of South LA is a partnership of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, LA Commons, South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone (SLATE-Z), Community Coalition, and USC's Neighborhood Data for Social Change.

For more information on the **Cultural Treasures of South LA**, check out our site, SouthLACulture.org, or visit us on Instagram at Instagram.com/SouthLACulture.

Contributed by Kaitwan Jackson, Program Manager, Promise Zone Arts South LA



Douglas E. Nowling, *Respite for Chad*, Acrylic, spackle, gold leaf on canvas, 30" x 27", 2024

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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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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Amina AmXn, *Beauty in Leimert Park: African Diaspora Travels*, Digital photography, 16" x 20", 2023

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

DCA FACILITIES (36 TOTAL):

- DCA manages and programs 24 Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers including: 8 Arts and Cultural Centers, 6 Performing Arts Theaters, 2 Historic Sites, and 7 Galleries.
- DCA oversees an additional 9 Public/Private Partnership Arts Facilities.
- DCA also manages 4 Prop K Facilities in Development.

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 (8)

Barnsdall Arts Center and
Barnsdall 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

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

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE



Edward Ewell, *L.A. Walkabout - Kenneth Hahn Park, Los Angeles*, Digital photography, 8" x 12", 2017

DCA MANAGED PERFORMING ARTS THEATERS (6)

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
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



Bernard Stanley Hoyes, *Diversity Metaphor*, Oil Pastel on Paper, 20" x 30" 2024



Billy Monroe, *Natural Light with a Sunny Smile*, Digital drawing, 9"x 12", 2024

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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DCA MANAGED HISTORIC SITES (2)

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 9002
323.913.4031

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

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

DCA MANAGED GALLERIES (7)

DCA's Galleries serve to promote the visual arts and artists of the culturally diverse Los Angeles region.

The Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG) at Barnsdall Park is the City's primary exhibition venue and is devoted to showcasing the work of local emerging, mid-career, and established artists in group and individual presentation formats.

Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG)
Barnsdall Park
4800 Hollywood Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90027
323.644.6269

The Barnsdall Junior Arts Center Gallery supports smaller exhibitions, many displaying works created in classes at Barnsdall Park.

Barnsdall Junior Arts Center Gallery
Barnsdall Park
4800 Hollywood Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90027
323.644.6275

DCA's Henry P. Rio Bridge Gallery at City Hall showcases the work of young people, adults, and seniors enrolled in City art programs, as well as themed exhibitions celebrating the City's Heritage Month Celebrations.

DCA's Henry P. Rio Bridge Gallery
at City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The galleries at the Watts Towers Campus include:

Noah Purifoy Gallery
Charles Mingus Gallery
Dr. Joseph and Bootsie Howard Gallery
1727 East 107th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90002
213.847.4646

Engaging exhibitions can also be viewed at DCA's gallery at the William Grant Still Arts Center:

William Grant Still Arts Center Gallery
2520 South West View Street
Los Angeles, CA 90016
323.734.1165



Riea Owens, *Les Sapeurs: New Orleans*, Oil on canvas, 18"x 24", 2023



Christopher Samaroo, *Butterfly Effect with Mask*, Oil on canvas, 36" x 24", 2022

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE



Taylor Thomas, *Happy Birthday (Stevie's Version)*, Collage - Photo paper, construction paper, spray paint & ink, 30" x 40", 2024

DCA PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP ARTS FACILITIES:

ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTERS (5)

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

Encino Arts and Cultural Center
(Previously the Center for Folk Music)
16953 Ventura Boulevard
Encino, CA 91316

McGroarty Arts Center
7570 McGroarty Terrace
Tujunga, CA 91042
818.352.5285

William Reagh - LA Photography Center
2332 West Fourth Street
Los Angeles, CA 90057
213.382.8133



Buena Johnson, *Pass It On*, Pencil, 28" x 21", 2024

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE



Djibril Drame, *Faloumbou*, Digital photography, 42 x 55 cm, 2022

DCA PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP ARTS FACILITIES:

PERFORMING ARTS THEATERS (2)

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 (4)

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

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

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

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

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE



Garland Kirkpatrick, *La Vivida*, Digital photography, 28" x 21", 2024

For more information, please visit or contact:



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Doug Pearsall, *Nkisi Shrine*, Mixed media, 17" x 22", 2024



Adeola Davies-Aiyeloja, *Wisdom of Ancestors III*, Cyanotype on hand stitched textile, 30" x 20", 2024

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

75 Years Celebrating Black Heritage in the 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.

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SHELLAUM.COM

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HELENALOURDES.COM

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DJIBRILDROME.COM

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AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

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Karien Zachery

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Courtesy of

Creative Love Network

[INSTAGRAM.COM/POETLARRYLOVE](https://www.instagram.com/poetlarrylove)

Poet Larry Love

Derek D. Brown

Ms. Drea the Poet

Joy Robinson

Jananci

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Ralph Bunche, by Jack Goren

Poulson proclaiming Negro History Week in 1956,
The Los Angeles Times Photo Library at UCLA

Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis, Kingkongphoto

Jefferson-Vassie D. Wright Memorial Branch Library,
LA Public Library

Hamilton High School, LAUSD



Valena Broussard Dismukes, *Ghost Tree*, Digital photography, 8" x 10", 2007

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2025 CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

2025 African American Heritage Month Cover Artist Spotlight



SYLVIA WOOLRIDGE

My featured artwork of the Dunbar Hotel is a tribute to my childhood. Growing up in the 1960's the main source of entertainment was going to the Bill Robinson Theater on Central Avenue with my mother and brothers. On the way to the theater we would walk past the Dunbar Hotel and my mother would tell stories of its importance. The hotel represents more than just a building—it was a sanctuary and hub for Black performers during a time of severe racial segregation in Los Angeles.

There are so many rich stories in our community, in our world, in our lives. We cannot do anything, have anything, be anything, without art; it is in every part of our human existence.

~ Sylvia Woolridge

Sylvia Woolridge was born and raised in Los Angeles. She began to study art in middle school under the tutelage of artist, teacher, and mentor, Melonee Blocker. But it was in elementary school where she was first inspired to become an artist, when a painting she made in kindergarten was hung on the wall in the library. Her brother told her it was there, and she ran down the hall to the library to see it. Seeing her painting of stripes hanging on the wall, even at that young age, she knew that that was special, and she was hooked.

As a child her teachers inspired her; life and God inspire her now. We live in a beautiful world, and she thinks people lose sight of that. If she can create art that helps people see that, then, amen; because art teaches, art inspires, and art heals. As a California native, Sylvia tries to capture the color and diversity of California, which is the culture and fiber of our sunshine state. She has a diverse, artistic expression. Sylvia Woolridge paints what she feels.



Adesina Cooper, *Wings of Choice: Silent Flight*, Ceramic earthenware, 7" x 8" x 4", 2024

1950-2025

75 Years Celebrating African American Heritage in the City of Los Angeles

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND LABOR

2025 NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH THEME

For information about the national theme: **African Americans and Labor**, please visit Our Authors Study Club online at oascla.org and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History at asalh.org.



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