2020
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

PRESENTED BY THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
Cover: Bryan Tilford, Ms. Baker, Mixed media on canvas board, 11” x 14”, 2019
This work was inspired by many African American icons in the Civil Rights Movement such as Ella Josephine Baker and Fannie Lou Hamer, leading social justice advocates who fought for human rights, women’s rights, and voting rights.
Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, it is my pleasure to join all Angelenos in celebrating African American Heritage Month.

Black Angelenos have a rich history of triumph that has shaped the foundation of our city. Today - whether in the arts or academia, in our businesses or our neighborhoods – our African American sisters and brothers bring invaluable contributions to every corner of our communities, and commit us to the work ahead in the fight for equality.

This year we recognize the 70th anniversary of the city’s partnership with the Los Angeles Branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc. – Our Authors Study Club – to celebrate African American Heritage Month. Founded by Vassie D. Wright in 1945, the L.A. branch also celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, and we cannot thank all of the current and past members enough for conveying the history and heritage of the Black community in a powerful way all throughout our city and even across the United States.

I hope you will use this Calendar and Cultural Guide created by our Department of Cultural Affairs to learn about the many activities happening all over Los Angeles to celebrate this beautiful month. I also encourage you to enjoy the remarkable artwork we are showcasing from established and emerging Black artists.

I send my best wishes for a memorable month of celebration and continued success.

Sincerely,

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor
City of Los Angeles
Mel Davis, *Warrior Woman*, Oil on canvas, 30" x 40", 2008
Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Los Angeles City Council, it is my privilege to invite you to celebrate African American Heritage Month in Los Angeles! People from around the world have made this great city their home, and each culture contributes to the diversity that makes it one of the most iconic and culturally rich cities in the world.

This month we continue to honor the contributions and achievements of our City’s African Americans. With this calendar, the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) highlights the work of local artists who keep our shared African American traditions alive and thriving. DCA has curated a wide array of arts and cultural events for your enjoyment. Please refer to this calendar to find the numerous festivals, musical events, theatrical performances, films, literary events, and cultural activities in your neighborhood and beyond.

I encourage you to take part in the special events listed throughout these pages, and welcome you into our Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers to celebrate African American Heritage Month in the City of Angels.

It is sure to be a memorable celebration!

Sincerely,

NURY MARTINEZ
Los Angeles City Council President
Councilwoman, Sixth District
Toni Shaw, Larry Itliong, Stained glass on wood, 16" x 20", 2019
Dear Friends,

It is great to have the opportunity to work with Mayor Eric Garcetti, Our Authors Study Club, the Los Angeles City Council, the Department of Cultural Affairs, and the 2020 African American Heritage Month Committee to celebrate African American Heritage Month in the City of Los Angeles. We are fortunate to be part of a multicultural city where African families were among its earliest settlers. In fact, slightly over half of the 44 families that founded Los Angeles were of African influence.

Each year the theme for African American Heritage Month is announced from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History located in Washington, D.C. This organization was created by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of African American History Month. Dr. Woodson was the second African American to receive a doctorate degree in history from Harvard University.

This year’s national theme is: African Americans and the Vote. The theme reveals the ongoing challenge on the part of African American community for the right to vote without having to have these rights reviewed every 25 years by the government. Indeed, the movement for black voting rights continues today in the Halls of Congress and our courts. So as we celebrate, we remember the struggles that have gone before us as well as the rise of black elected officials and campaigns for equal rights legislation and the role blacks play in traditional and alternative politics today. We also honor the 75th Anniversary of Our Authors Study Club, saluting the present and past members who first partnered with the City 70 years ago in 1950 to celebrate our heritage.

This year we are thrilled to honor recording artist Jeffrey Osborne with the Living Legend Award and comedian and actress Tiffany Haddish with the Trailblazer Award. They have both made outstanding original contributions to the world of entertainment. In addition, our Hall of FAME Awardees are: Economic / Civil Rights Honoree, Michael Lawson, Esq., President of the Los Angeles Urban League; Business Honoree, Sandra Evers-Manly, President of the Northrop Grumman Foundation, and Education Honoree, Thomas Parham, Ph.D., President of California State University, Dominguez Hills.

The City of Los Angeles will celebrate this year with these inspiring leaders at our City Council presentation, opening ceremonies, round table discussion, evening with authors, and closing ceremonies hosted by the Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel. This calendar and cultural guide also lists the many other events that our friends in the arts and cultural communities are hosting for African American Heritage Month.

I hope you can join us and look forward to your participation and enjoyment!

DR. MICHAEL R. DAVIS
President, Pro Tem, Los Angeles Board of Public Works
Chair, African American Heritage Month
Dear Friends,

The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) is pleased to present this calendar of events celebrating the vibrant African American cultural traditions that continue to shape the unique heritage of our great City. These events honor the extraordinary range of African American experiences, from ancient traditions, to the contemporary voices of our artists and storytellers.

This publication showcases engaging artworks produced by Los Angeles artists honoring the past while looking towards the future with a contemporary edge. Combined with the work of other artists of African descent around the City, these artists and their work truly represent the heart and soul of this year’s African American Heritage Month Celebration.

DCA provides services, like this calendar and cultural guide, to enrich the quality of life for our residents and visitors. Since our City knows few boundaries, we collaborated with our colleagues in neighboring cities to include events around the Los Angeles area. We engaged our partners and community leaders to support these events, and want to acknowledge our appreciation for their ongoing generosity.

We also extend our thanks to the members of Our Authors Study Club, celebrating their 75th anniversary this year as well as the 70th anniversary of their partnership with the City of Los Angeles in celebrating African American Heritage Month. We also thank the teams in the offices of the Mayor, the Council President, and the Board of Public Works, in addition to the many nonprofit organizations, community groups, and arts organizations whose efforts helped us create this impressive listing of fun, educational, and exciting events.

What better place to see fantastic art, experience a taste of African American culture, and honor a City’s great heritage than Los Angeles? We hope you will join in the festivities and celebrate with us!

DANIELLE BRAZELL
General Manager
City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs

Kraig King, Blue Queen, Acrylic-foam paper-silicone-varnish- stretched canvas, 24” x 48”, 2019
Adeola Davies-Aiyaloja, Maiden Dancers, Mixed media painting on canvas, 20” x 32”, 2008
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2020 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH COMMITTEE

Mike Davis
President, Pro Tem, Los Angeles Board of Public Works
Chair, African American Heritage Month

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Brian Baltazar
Department of General Services

Danielle Brazell
Department of Cultural Affairs

Will Caperton y Montoya
Department of Cultural Affairs

Tonya Durrell
Board of Public Works, Public Affairs Office

Yvonne Farrow
Department of Cultural Affairs

Sarah Franks
Board of Public Works

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Office of Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr.

Andrea Greene
Office of Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr.

Jacquelynn Hawthorne
Commission on Community and Family Services

Albert Lord
Office of Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr.

Niesha C. Louis
Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel

Agnes Miranda
Board of Public Works

David Price
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti

Pierre Riotoc
Department of General Services

Janeshia Robinson
Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel

Eric Robles
Department of General Services

Rosa Russell
Human Relations Commission

Eduardo Soriano-Hewitt
Office of Councilmember Jose Huizar

OUR AUTHORS
STUDY CLUB (OASC)

Jacqueline Arkord
Lura Ball
Albertine Brown
Mary Cotton
Caroline Culpepper
Theresa Curtis
Keta Davis
Laura Farwell
Ernestine Janet Gordon
Mildred M. Gordon
Ernestine Huff
Toni Humber
Charmaine Jefferson
M. Stephene Johnson
Maude Johnson
Beatrice Jones
Tonia Lucas
Dr. Toni Mokjaefji-Humber
Mordena M. Moore
Christine Nelson
Mary Louise Reeves
Helen Steward
Kenneth Wyrick

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

John Acosta
Najee Ali
Ayuko Babu
Robin Carter
Marilyn Cole
Myran Cotton
Dr. Ayanna Davis
Lena Echols
Donna Grayson
Clifton Johnson
Oduduwa Olutunji
Karen Ramey
Miriam Schneider
Ethel Shapiro
Joel Shapiro
Michael Simpson
Sarah Singer
Alvetia Smith
Andrew Williams, Jr.
Lillian Wilson
Jeffrey Osborne was the youngest of 12 children and was surrounded by music as he was growing up. He had five brothers and six sisters, some of whom went on to have music careers. His father, Clarence “Legs” Osborne, was a popular trumpeter who sat in with the likes of Lionel Hampton and Duke Ellington and turned down many top band offers during his career to be with his family; he passed away when Jeffrey was only 13. At the age of 15, Jeffrey sat in with the O’Jays when the drummer was unable to perform to their standards, and went on to play with them for two weeks. That was all the inspiration Osborne needed to pursue a musical career.

It was at another Providence nightclub that fate brought him together with the band Love Men Ltd. It was only after receiving his mother’s encouragement that Jeffrey left for Los Angeles to play with Love Men Ltd. who later changed their name to L.T.D. Osborne was originally brought on as the drummer and eventually became the lead vocalist. After more than ten years with the band, he decided to pursue a solo career, which produced such Top 40 hits as Really Don’t Need No Light, Don’t You Get So Mad, Stay With Me Tonight, You Should Be Mine (The Woo Woo Song), and a duet with Dionne Warwick, Love Power.

Osborne’s solo career has brought him four Grammy nominations and five gold and platinum albums, including his debut self-entitled album, Jeffrey Osborne, Stay with Me Tonight and Only Human. He scored an international hit with On the Wings of Love in 1982. After his six albums released on A&M during the ‘80s, he moved to Arista for Only Human (1990), then switched to a series of independent labels. His releases during the 2000s included That’s for Sure (2000) and Music Is Life (2003), as well as cover albums From the Soul (2005) and A Time for Love (2013). His latest project entitled Worth It All was released in 2018 on Artistry Music. This project was written and produced by Jeffrey Osborne, with the exception of one song entitled Work It which was co-written with his son, Jeffrey Osborne Jr., who also performed on the track with him. This project, inspired by the late great George Duke, has taken Osborne back to his deep R&B roots.

Currently, Jeffrey Osborne is actively performing and touring around the world. In 2012 Osborne founded The Jeffrey Osborne Foundation and the Jeffrey Osborne Celebrity Classic. The primary mission is to benefit nonprofit organizations who support a continued push for music and arts to children and their families, as well as those who provide a safe haven for families in need. In the past six years, through his Celebrity Golf Tournament, the Jeffrey Osborne Foundation has donated over $750,000 to various charities in Rhode Island.
TIFFANY HADDISH
TRAILBLAZER AWARD

With multiple high-profile projects and buzzworthy appearances to her name, Tiffany Haddish has quickly established herself as one of the most sought-after comedic actresses and performers. She can currently be seen opposite Tracy Morgan on the TBS comedy series *The Last O.G.* and as host of *Kids Say The Darndest Things* on ABC. She stars next to Salma Hayek and Rose Byrne in the film *Like A Boss*, released in theaters on January 10. Her additional upcoming film and television projects include *Down Under Cover* (opposite Chris Hemsworth), *Here Today* (opposite Billy Crystal) and *Madam C.J. Walker*. She also has a first-look deal with HBO for projects under her production company banner, She Ready Productions.


In June 2018, Haddish took the reins as the highly-anticipated host of the MTV Movie and TV Awards, a role that was met with critical acclaim and a significant ratings boost.

In addition to her acting work, Haddish continues to tour the country and perform to sold-out crowds. Her newest one-hour comedy special, *Tiffany Haddish: Black Mitzvah*, debuted on Netflix in December 2019 to critical acclaim. She also served as host and executive producer of the Netflix stand-up comedy collection *Tiffany Haddish Presents: They Ready*, a series of half-hour comedy specials that featured her friends and long-time comedic collaborators. Her first stand-up special, *Tiffany Haddish: She Ready! From the Hood to Hollywood*, was released on Showtime in August 2017. Just three months after the special’s release, Haddish made history by becoming the first black female stand-up comedian to host *Saturday Night Live*, a role that earned her the 2018 Emmy Award for “Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series.”

Haddish’s first book, a memoir called *The Last Black Unicorn*, was released the following month. The book made the *New York Times* Best Sellers List and the subsequent audiobook, narrated by Haddish, was nominated for a 2019 Grammy Award for “Spoken Word Album.”

Haddish’s journey and life experiences have inspired her comedy and sense of humor both on and off the stage. While growing up in foster care in South Central Los Angeles, her excessive talking and imaginary friends prompted her increasingly-flustered social worker to steer her into stand-up comedy by enrolling her in the Laugh Factory’s Comedy Camp, a place for at-risk and underprivileged children to transform negative energy into something positive. The experience was just the beginning of her comedy career.
LP Ækili Ross, Blue Sights - More People Than You Know, Digital stencil collage, 34" x 27", 2019, Commissioned by Metro Art & Design for a Line Light Rail
2020

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2020 HALL OF FAME AWARD WINNERS

ECONOMICS / CIVIL RIGHTS

Honorable Michael Lawson, Esq.
President
Los Angeles Urban League

BUSINESS

Sandra Evers-Manly
President
Northrop Grumman Foundation

EDUCATION

Thomas Parham, Ph.D.
President
California State University, Dominguez Hills
OFFICIAL EVENTS
2020 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH PRESENTATION IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER AND OPENING CEREMONY

Join Mayor Eric Garcetti; Our Authors Study Club; Nury Martinez, Los Angeles City Council President and Councilwoman, Sixth District; the Los Angeles City Council; Board of Public Works President, Pro Tem Mike Davis and the Board of Public Works; the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); and the 2020 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 presentation in City Hall’s Council Chamber, DCA’s 2020 African American Heritage Month Calendar and Cultural Guide will be officially unveiled, and Los Angeles elected officials will present: the Living Legend Award to Jeffrey Osborne; the Trailblazer Award to Tiffany Haddish; and the Hall of Fame Awards to: Honorable Michael A. Lawson, Esq., President, Los Angeles Urban League (Economics / Civil Rights); Sandra Evers-Manly, President, Northrop Grumman Foundation (Business); and Thomas Parham, Ph.D., President, California State University, Dominguez Hills (Education).

WHEN: Wednesday, February 5, 2020
WHERE: Presentation in the City Hall Council Chamber at 10:00 a.m.
Followed by Opening Ceremony on the South Lawn with Mistress of Ceremonies Leslie Sykes, Co-Anchor of the ABC7 Morning Show
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street (Public Entrance on Main Street)
Los Angeles, CA 90012
COST: Free
SPONSORS: Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti; Our Authors Study Club; Nury Martinez, Los Angeles City Council President and Councilwoman, Sixth District; Los Angeles Board of Public Works and Mike Davis, President, Pro Tem; City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs; 2020 African American Heritage Month Committee; and the Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel, Inc.
INFO: Please RSVP at 323.871.5801
2020 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH EXHIBITION - STAND UP: THE ART AND POLITICS OF COMEDY


The exhibition will honor past African American stand-up comedians and feature current African American comedians of achievement. In addition, local African American comedy club owners, writers, and producers will also be highlighted. The exhibition will provide a glimpse into the comedy world from an African American perspective to include the origins of *Jump Jim Crow* and its influence on American culture. A review of performing venues, segregated social clubs, theaters, and policies to desegregate performing venues will also be presented.

**WHEN:** Exhibition on view through March 10, 2020

**WHERE:**
Department of Cultural Affairs’ Henry P. Rio Bridge Gallery at City Hall
Los Angeles City Hall, 3rd Floor
200 North Spring Street (Public Entrance on Main Street)
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**COST:** Free

**SPONSORS:** Nury Martinez, Los Angeles City Council President and Councilwoman, Sixth District; Council President Emeritus Herb J. Wesson, Jr., Council District 10; Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr., Council District 9; Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Council District 8; Los Angeles City Council; Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti; Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel, Inc.; Department of Cultural Affairs; Our Authors Study Club; Los Angeles Public Library; and the 2020 African American Heritage Month Committee
2020 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION – AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE VOTE: ISSUES OF FREEDOM, JUSTICE, AND RESILIENCE

Participate in an engaging Round Table Discussion with moderator Marc Brown, co-anchor of ABC7 Eyewitness News, and local scholars: Dr. Maulana Karenga, Dr. Francille R. Wilson, Dr. Donna Nicol, Dr. Brenda Stevenson, and Dr. Boris Ricks who will discuss the Association for the Study of African American Life and History’s 2020 national theme for African American Heritage Month, African Americans and the Vote. A reception follows in the City Hall 3rd Floor Rotunda.

WHEN: Thursday, February 6, 2020, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
WHERE: Board of Public Works Chambers
Los Angeles City Hall, 3rd Floor
200 North Spring Street (Public Entrance on Main Street)
Los Angeles, CA 90012
COST: Free
SPONSORS: Los Angeles Board of Public Works; Our Authors Study Club; and the 2020 African American Heritage Month Committee
INFO: Please RSVP at 213.978.0254
PARKING: Free in City Hall East (enter on Los Angeles Street)
2020 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
WORSHIP SERVICE

Rev. “J” Edgar Boyd, Senior Pastor, First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Los Angeles and Mayor Eric Garcetti cordially invite you to the 2020 African American Heritage Month Worship Service featuring the Fame Unity Choir with special guest performance by recording artist, Jennifer Holliday.

WHEN: Sunday, February 9, 2020, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
WHERE: First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Los Angeles
2270 South Harvard Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90018
COST: Free
SPONSORS: First African Methodist Episcopal Church; Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti; Los Angeles Board of Public Works; Our Authors Study Club; and the 2020 African American Heritage Month Committee
INFO: Please RSVP at 213.978.0254
EVENING WITH AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS

Mayor Eric Garcetti and Our Authors Study Club cordially invite you to an Evening with African American Authors, a discussion with local authors including: Tsehai Essiebea Farrell, author of *Woven into the Fabric*; Rachel Howzell Hall, author of the Detective Elouise Norton series; Jozanne Marie, author of *Beautiful: Unashamed and Unafraid*; Larry Pye, author of *The Twinkle Box*; Pamela Samuels Young, author of *Failure to Protect*; Dr. Jeffrey Stewart, author of *The New Negro: The Life of Alain Locke*; and Arlene L. Walker, author of *Seeds of Deception*. Join us for an evening of thoughtful conversation with the authors followed by a reception in the 3rd Floor Rotunda.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Board of Public Works Chambers
Los Angeles City Hall, 3rd Floor
200 North Spring Street (Public Entrance on Main Street)
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**COST:** Free

**SPONSORS:** Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti; Our Authors Study Club; Los Angeles Board of Public Works; and the 2020 African American Heritage Month Committee

**INFO:** Please RSVP at 213.978.0254

**PARKING:** Free in City Hall East (enter on Los Angeles Street)
2020 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH STRATEGIC MATCH-MAKING EVENT

The City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works Bureau of Contract Administration cordially invites you to a Strategic Match-Making Event to create opportunities for small and emerging minority businesses to pursue contracting opportunities with the City of Los Angeles.

WHEN: Thursday, February 27, 2020, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
WHERE: Roy Anderson Recreation Center
3980 Bill Robertson Lane
Los Angeles, CA 90037
COST: Free
SPONSORS: City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works Bureau of Contract Administration; the Los Angeles Professional Managers Association; and the 2020 African American Heritage Month Committee
INFO: Please RSVP at 213.978.0254

Sharon J. Williams, *Massachusetts March Snow Flurry Roadside*, Digital Photography, 12” x 9”, 2019
2020 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
CLOSING CEREMONIES AND AWARDS RECEPTION

The Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel, Inc. (LAABP) invites you to the 2020 African American Heritage Month Closing Ceremonies and Awards Reception to acknowledge the collaborative efforts between Honorable Mayor Eric Garcetti and Los Angeles African American residents and city employees.

Several outstanding African American City of Los Angeles employees will be honored, with the 2020 LAABP Trailblazer Award for their exceptional service to the City of Los Angeles and the African American community.

LAABP will also award its annual Career Development awards to City of Los Angeles employees pursuing higher education, certifications, or conference sponsorships.

Reception followed by live music from the Lowery Brothers.

WHEN: Thursday, February 27, 2020, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
WHERE: City Hall Tower - Tom Bradley Room
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street (Public Entrance on Main Street)
Los Angeles, CA 90012
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel, Inc.
INFO: 310.648.5026
laabp.org
biesha.louis @lacity.org
laabp.org@gmail.com
PARKING: Free in City Hall East (enter on Los Angeles Street)

2020 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
POETRY READING - ROBIN COSTE LEWIS ON BETYE SAAR

Poet laureate of Los Angeles Robin Coste Lewis reads a selection of poems inspired by the exhibition Call and Response. She will read from her own works as well as writings by the artist Betye Saar.

WHEN: February 27, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
WHERE: Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)
5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Free, RSVP online
SPONSOR: Los Angeles County Museum of Art
INFO: 323.857.6010
lacma.org
Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, *Harp-Strum*, Oil on canvas, diptych: 71” x 79”, 2016, Courtesy of the Huntington
Akinsanya Kambon, *Learn Me To Read*, Oil on canvas, 36” x 48”, 2000
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
2020

OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB
LOS ANGELES BRANCH OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY, INC.

OASC CELEBRATES 75 YEARS OF HISTORY
2020 THEME: AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE VOTE

2020 OFFICERS
Ernestine J. Gordon
   President
Dr. Toni-Mokjaetji Humber
   Vice President
Mordena Moore
   Executive Director

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Jacqueline Arkord
Albertine Brown
Mary C. Cotton
Caroline Culpepper
Theresa Curtis
Lura Daniels-Ball
Keta Davis
Laura Farwell
Leona “Haiba” Franklin
Mildred Gordon
Ursula Hill
Ernestine Huff
Charmaine Jefferson
Maude Johnson
Beatrice Jones
Tonia Lucas
Mildred Midkiff
Gretchen Morris
Christine Nelson
Karen Ramey
Mary Louise Reeves
Brenda Tyson
Helen Steward

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
Stephanie Johnson
Diana Kotzin
Christine Smith

Our Authors Study Club, Inc.
LA Branch of ASALH
Post Office Box 882025
Los Angeles, CA 90009-3019
Mr. Ford graduated from UCLA in 1992 with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Business Administration. He joined the Union Bank Management Training Program in January 1993 to become a Financial Services Officer in the Community Bank. After graduating from the 16-month program he accepted a position in the Bank’s Quality Assurance and Sales group in San Diego.

In 1996 Mr. Ford was given the opportunity to join the Bank’s Commercial Credit Training Program. Upon graduation in 1997 he joined the Bank’s Syndication & Placements group within Specialized Lending, assisting in the syndications of Energy, Oil & Gas, Entertainment, General Corporate, Communications Media, Real Estate, and Equity Sponsor transactions. He later took over as the lead syndicator for Oil & Gas, Entertainment, and Equity Sponsor Finance transactions.

In 2007 Gerald left Syndications to manage the Equity Sponsor Finance group (later called Structured Finance) which was part of National Banking. His responsibilities included managing business development officers, underwriters, and portfolio managers.

Currently, Mr. Ford manages the portfolio management team for Government Lending and the underwriting and credit management team for GTM Credit Management which includes financial institutions, labor unions, HOA, and other credits. Responsibilities include managing the bank’s $8 Billion in exposure in GTM, with nine direct reports in Los Angeles, Walnut Creek, and Atlanta.

Mr. Ford has served on the Board of Directors of the Urban Financial Services Coalition (formerly Urban Bankers) - LA Chapter and the fundraising golf committee for the Children’s Bureau in support of abused children in Los Angeles.

He is married and has two young children.
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
2020

OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB
LOS ANGELES BRANCH OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY, INC.

OASC CELEBRATES 75 YEARS OF HISTORY
2020 THEME: AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE VOTE

2020 HONORARY CHAIR

Gerald M. Ford
Managing Director and Unit Manager
Transaction Banking Credit
Union Bank

2020 HONORARY COMMITTEE

J. L. Armstrong
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Corporate Affairs
Toyota Motor Sales

Darrell R. Brown
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USBank

Danny J. Bakewell, Sr.
Executive Publisher / CEO
Los Angeles Sentinel

Charisse Bremond Weaver
President / CEO
Brotherhood Crusade

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President
SEIU United
Long Term Care Workers

Judge Mablean Ephriam
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Sandra Evers-Manly
President
Northrup Grumman Foundation

Belinda Fontenot-Jamerson
Board President
Museum of African American Art

Wendy Gladney
President / CEO
Personnel Services Plus

Clifton L. Johnson
Vice President
Union Bank
(Retired)
“A desire to know our history.” That’s what a group of Terminal Annex postal workers wanted to know in the early 1940’s. In our humble beginnings, Ms. Vassie D. Wright founded Our Authors Study Club on February 14, 1945. We were charted in 1950 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson to fulfill the mission to research, study, preserve, and most importantly, to disseminate the contributions and achievements of African Americans in the building of our nation.

Los Angeles has a rich Black History starting with the founding of the City where 26 of the 44 families were of African decent. Briggett “Biddy” Mason won her freedom here and became a California real estate entrepreneur who sold land for the building of our downtown. In 1950, Mayor Fletcher Bowron issued the first proclamation acknowledging OASC in a citywide event. And in 1959, General Chairperson of the City Council, Gilbert Lindsay, moved the Opening Ceremony to City Hall steps.

This year, 2020, marks the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment and the culmination of the women’s suffrage movement. The year 2020 also marks the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) and the right of black men to the ballot after the Civil War. Our theme speaks, therefore, to the ongoing struggle on the part of both black men and black women for the right to vote. This theme has a rich and long history, which begins at the turn of the nineteenth century, i.e., in the era of the Early Republic, with the states’ passage of laws that democratized the vote for white men while disfranchising free black men. Thus, even before the Civil War, black men petitioned their legislatures and the US Congress, seeking to be recognized as voters.
Tensions between abolitionists and women’s suffragists first surfaced in the aftermath of the Civil War, while black disfranchisement laws in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries undermined the guarantees in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments for the great majority of southern blacks until the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The important contribution of black suffragists occurred not only within the larger women’s movement, but within the larger black voting rights movement. Through voting-rights campaigns and legal suits from the turn of the twentieth century to the mid-1960s, African Americans made their voices heard as to the importance of the vote.

Indeed, the fight for black voting rights continues in the courts today. The theme of the vote should also include the rise of black elected and appointed officials at the local and national levels, campaigns for equal rights legislation, as well as the role of blacks in traditional and alternative political parties.

Los Angeles has made changes in the voting procedures. Our goal is: “Registration, Education, and Participation.” Every vote counts!
On September 9, 1915, Dr. Carter G. Woodson held a meeting in Chicago, Illinois with Alexander L. Jackson, Executive Secretary of the new Negro YMCA branch. In addition to Woodson and Jackson, three other men were present: George Cleveland Hall, W. B. Hartgrove, and J. E. Stamps. At this meeting they formed the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASALH) and appointed Dr. Woodson, Executive Director, a post he held until his death on April 3, 1950. Today, this organization is known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc. (ASALH). Its headquarters is currently on the campus of Howard University in Washington, DC.

In Los Angeles, a group of Terminal Annex postal workers brought their proposal to read the works of African American authors and learn the true history of Africans in the Americas to Mrs. Vassie Davis Wright, and Our Authors Study Club (OASC) was formed on February 14, 1945. Mrs. Wright recommended that the group affiliate itself with Dr. Woodson’s organization, and Dr. Carter G. Woodson, himself, chartered Our Authors Study Club as the Los Angeles Branch of ASALH in June 1945. OASC was incorporated as a California nonprofit organization in 1946.

Our Authors Study Club, Inc. (OASC) began citywide celebrations for what was Negro History Week in 1947. In 1950, Los Angeles Mayor Fletcher Bowron issued the first proclamation acknowledging Our Authors Study Club, Inc. as the primary sponsor of Negro History Week and invited citizens of Los Angeles to join the celebration. In 1959, while serving as General Chairperson for Negro History Week, the late Gilbert Lindsay moved the Opening Ceremony to City Hall steps where the celebration now takes place every year, weather permitting. In the year of the nation’s Bicentennial, 1976, the celebration was expanded to the entire month of February and is now known as African American Heritage Month.

OASC continues its original mission and now offers programs that include: a reading program for elementary school students; an oratorical contest for high school students; scholarships for deserving college students seeking a Bachelor’s Degree; and a fellowship for Ph.D. candidates researching African American history, literature, and/or culture. Additional activities include an annual tour of African American landmarks in Los Angeles and the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Scholarship and Awards Luncheon where the accomplishments of extraordinary African Americans are recognized.

Our Authors Study Club, Inc. also supports the restoration of Dr. Carter G. Woodson’s home in Washington, DC, now declared a National Historic Site, and partners with community organizations including the Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center (BHERC) and the Sigma Sigma Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

For more information about the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, visit their website at asalh.org.

Our Authors Study Club, Inc. is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization. For more information, write Our Authors Study Club, Inc. at Post Office Box 882025, Los Angeles, California 90009-3019.
Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson was born on December 19, 1875 in New Canton, Buckingham County, Virginia. His parents were former slaves Anne Eliza (Riddle) and James Henry Woodson. He died suddenly on April 3, 1950. He was the second African American to receive a Ph.D. degree from Harvard University (Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois was the first). Dr. Woodson and four supporters organized the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History on Thursday, September 9, 1915 in the Wabash Avenue YMCA office located on the south side of Chicago, Illinois.

His dream for ASALH was to archive sociological and historical data, publish books, promote the study of African American life and history, and encourage racial harmony through the organization and the work of clubs and schools. In 1916, ASALH published the first issue of the *Journal of Negro History*, a highly respected and scholarly digest that was followed in 1937 by the *Negro History Bulletin*, a widely circulated historically-oriented magazine. In 1920, Dr. Woodson founded the Associated Publishers, the for-profit arm of the association. Associated Publishers is responsible for the publication and circulation of ASALH’s renowned African American History Month Kits. Additionally, Associated Publishers sells books and other literature authored by Dr. Woodson and other prominent scholars in the field of African American history.

In February 1926, Dr. Woodson announced the institution of Negro History Week, which coincided with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. In 1976, the observance was expanded to “National African American History Month,” in honor of the nation’s bicentennial. Beginning in 1975, U.S. Presidents have paid tribute to the mission of the association and urged all Americans to celebrate African American History Month. Since 1926, ASALH has established the national theme for the month-long celebration of African American History Month. The association maintains the Carter G. Woodson Home in Washington, D.C., where Woodson operated ASALH from 1923 until his death in 1950. The Woodson Home is a National Historic Landmark.

The work of the organization has historically been to promote, research, preserve, interpret, and disseminate information about African American life, history, and culture to the global community.
Mrs. Wright and a group of Terminal Annex Postal Employees founded Our Authors Study Club, Inc. on February 14, 1945 for the purpose of studying the biographies of African American authors, reading and reviewing their books, and learning the true history of African American people in the Diaspora. In June of 1945, Dr. Carter G. Woodson chartered the group to become members of his Association for the Study of African Life and History, Inc. Mrs. Wright also helped to establish lending libraries in the YMCA, YWCA, and at the Second Baptist Church's Henderson Community Center. Other notable achievements included the first citywide celebration of Negro History Week in Los Angeles and initiating a Black History curriculum in the Los Angeles Unified School District Adult Schools.

Mrs. Wright was educated in the public schools of Denver, Colorado. She graduated from Western University in Kansas City, Kansas and did her graduate work in Teaching at the University of Kansas. After moving to California, she attended the University of Southern California Extension and completed courses in Sociology and Business Administration. Mrs. Wright became well-known for her abilities as an organizer, socialite, and civic worker.

Mrs. Wright was a real estate broker, community activist, a Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. member, and a very active member of Second Baptist Church. In addition, she was an organizing member of many community groups.

Mrs. Vassie D. Wright was born in Paola, Kansas on December 6, 1899, the daughter of Samuel Davis and Lula Ann (Pertilla) Davis. She died on March 20, 1983, in Los Angeles, California. On June 5, 1985, the Los Angeles Jefferson Branch Library was renamed the “Jefferson-Vassie D. Wright Memorial Library.” The library is located at 2211 West Jefferson Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, 90018.
OASC CELEBRATES 75 YEARS OF HISTORY

2020 THEME: AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE VOTE

OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB EVENTS

2020 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH OPENING CEREMONY WITH OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB

Join Mayor Eric Garcetti and Our Authors Study Club, Inc. to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of African Americans in the community.

WHEN:           Wednesday, February 5, 2020
WHERE:          Presentation in the City Hall Council Chamber at 10:00 a.m.
                Followed by Opening Ceremony on the South Lawn
                Los Angeles City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles
COST:           Free
SPONSORS:       Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti; Our Authors Study Club; Los Angeles Board of Public Works; Council President Nury Martinez and the Los Angeles City Council; Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs; 2020 African American Heritage Month Committee; Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel, Inc.; and the Los Angeles Professional Managers Association
INFO:           Please RSVP at 213.978.0254

Andres Montoya, Under a Golden Moon, Mixed media on paper, 14” x 6”, 2019
ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY BUS TOUR OF LOS ANGELES
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. This year’s theme is “African Americans and the Vote.”

WHEN: February 1, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
SITE: Consolidated Realty Board of Southern California, 3725 Don Felipe Drive, Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Our Authors Study Club, Inc.
INFO: Ms. Ernestine J. Gordon
323.759.1939

BLACK HISTORY RECEPTION
Join Our Authors Study Club, Inc. to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of African Americans in our community.

WHEN: February 7, 1:00 - 3:00pm
SITE: Jefferson - Vassie D. Wright Memorial Branch Library, 2211 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Our Authors Study Club of Los Angeles, Inc.
INFO: 323.734.8573
lapl.org/branches/jefferson
Jerry Weems, At top: Juke Joint, Oil on board, 26” x 38.5”, 2016, At bottom: The chopping cotton blues, Oil on board, 20” x 29.5”, 2016
DR. CARTER G. WOODSON SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS LUNCHEON
This OASC annual luncheon with the community and OASC corporate sponsors supports OASC’s scholars and honors outstanding Community Icons.

WHEN: February 8, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
SITE: The Music Center, 135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
COST: TBA
SPONSOR: Our Authors Study Club of Los Angeles, Inc.
INFO: Ms. Ernestine J. Gordon, 323.759.1939

ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH ORATORICAL CONTEST
This contest showcases students in grades 10 through 12 attending Los Angeles County High Schools. These students will compete for Scholarship prizes by reciting their speeches based on the 2020 African American History Month theme: “African Americans and the Vote.”

WHEN: March 21, Time TBA
SITE: TBA
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Our Authors Study Club of Los Angeles, Inc. and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Sigma Sigma Chapter
INFO: ursula_a_hill@yahoo.com

Kelvin Belt, The Dark Castle, Etching print, 15” x 11”, 2019
YoYo Lander, Legacy, Acrylic on canvas, 89” x 55”, 2017
Betye Saar, *Red Signs of Transformation*, Mixed-media assemblage, 21” × 13” × 13”, 2015, Courtesy of CAAM
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MARK BRADFORD: 150 PORTRAIT TONE

Mark Bradford’s 150 Portrait Tone, is a mural-size composition that contains elements of both abstraction and realism based on an idea for a work that the artist conceived after the fatal shooting of Philando Castile by a police officer in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

WHEN: Ongoing
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Fridays 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.,
Saturdays & Sundays 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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

COST: Adults - $15, Seniors - $10, Members, Students with valid ID, and Children Free,
LA County residents Free after 3 p.m. weekdays

SPONSOR: Los Angeles County Museum of Art

INFO: 323.857.6010
lacma.org
April Bey, At top: Earth History (Weave Gradient), At bottom: Earth History (Wrap Gradient), Both: Mixed media, 38" x 38", 2019
LA BLACKSMITH
This exhibition highlights how, for decades, black artists in Los Angeles have worked with metal for its historic and symbolic significance, as well as for other sociocultural, political, and practical considerations.

WHEN: Through February 16, Tuesdays - Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sundays 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
SITE: California African American Museum (CAAM)
600 State Dr., Exposition Park, Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: California African American Museum
INFO: 213.744.7432
caamuseum.org

39TH ANNUAL BLACK DOLL SHOW: PSYCHEDOLLIA
This year’s theme, Psychedollia showcases a revolutionary movement in joy, through Black life, music, art, fashion, and popular culture. On a deeper level this year’s theme seeks to explore cultural image as depicted through the beauty and diversity of dolls.

WHEN: Through February 16, Tuesdays - Saturdays, 12 noon - 5:00 p.m.
SITE: William Grant Still Arts Center
2520 S. West View St., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSORS: William Grant Still Arts Center and City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs
INFO: 323.734.1165
wgsac.wordpress.com

DUST MY BROOM: SOUTHERN VERNACULAR FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION
This exhibit features works from CAAM’s permanent collection. Learn about black artists from the American South, and find out how the Southern vernacular reached California through migration, ancestral ties, and peer influence.

WHEN: Through February 16, Tuesdays - Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sundays 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
SITE: California African American Museum (CAAM)
600 State Dr., Exposition Park, Los Angeles.
COST: Free
SPONSOR: California African American Museum
INFO: 213.744.7432
caamuseum.org
BALTHAZAR—A BLACK AFRICAN KING IN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE ART

Early medieval legends reported that one of the three kings who paid homage to the newborn Christ child in Bethlehem was African. But, it would be nearly one thousand years before artists began representing Balthazar, the youngest of the Magi, as a Black African.

WHEN: Through February 16,
Tuesdays – Thursdays & Sundays 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.,
Fridays & Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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

COST: Free

SPONSOR: The Getty Center

INFO: 310.440.7300
getty.edu

THROUGH POSITIVE EYES
A large-scale photography and storytelling project created in collaboration with more than 130 people living with HIV/AIDS. Includes photography and video by artist-activists from 10 cities across the globe and a sculpture installation by Los Angeles–based multimedia artist Alison Saar.

WHEN: Through February 16, Wednesdays 12:00 noon - 8:00 p.m., Thursdays - Sundays 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.
SITE: Fowler Museum
       UCLA, 308 Charles E. Young Dr. N., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSORS: UCLA Art & Global Health Center with the Fowler Museum at UCLA
INFO: 310.825.9672 fowler.ucla.edu

UNTIL THE FLOOD
Pulitzer Prize finalist and celebrated performer Dael Orlandersmith explores the social uprising in Ferguson, Missouri following the shooting of teenager Michael Brown. Pulling from her extensive interviews with Missouri residents she crafts a stunning must-see theatrical experience.

WHEN: Through February 23, Tuesdays - Saturdays 8:00 p.m.; Saturdays at 2:00 p.m.; Sundays at 1:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
SITE: Kirk Douglas Theatre
       9820 Washington Blvd., Culver City
COST: $25 - $75
SPONSOR: Kirk Douglas Theatre
INFO: 213.628.2772 CTGLA.org

MAKING MAMMY: A CARICATURE OF BLACK WOMANHOOD, 1840–1940
Explore how the mammy figure was produced to temper the atrocities of enslavement and serve southern interests domestically, economically, and politically. Bringing together films, photographs, and artifacts, the exhibit examines the legacy of the institutionalized stereotype.

WHEN: Through March 1, Tuesdays - Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sundays 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
SITE: California African American Museum (CAAM)
       600 State Dr., Exposition Park, Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: California African American Museum
INFO: 213.744.7432 caamuseum.org
CROSS COLOURS: BLACK FASHION IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Working in the golden age of Hip Hop in the late 1980s and 1990s, Cross Colours incorporated bright colors and graphic designs that reflected not just trends in fashion, but also a cultural embrace of Afrocentrism in response to unjust Reagan-era policies, rising poverty, police brutality, and substandard educational opportunities.

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

**SITE:** California African American Museum (CAAM)
600 State Dr., Exposition Park, Los Angeles

**COST:** Free

**SPONSOR:** California African American Museum

**INFO:** 213.744.7432
camuseum.org
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
2020 COMMUNITY EVENTS

TIMOTHY WASHINGTON: CITIZEN/SHIP
Washington’s very first installation project, Citizen/Ship is a powerful yet playful collection of works that meld American patriotism with Afrofuturistic narratives of fantasy and science fiction. Through references to technology, utopia, and mysticism, the exhibit speaks to both the negative and positive aspects of American culture.

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

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

COST:
Free

SPONSOR:
California African American Museum

INFO:
213.744.7432
caamuseum.org

Julie Mehretu, Stadia, Ink and acrylic on canvas, 108” x 144”, 2004, Courtesy of LACMA
ON DISPLAY IN THE WALLED CITY: NIGERIA AT THE BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION

In 1924, the British Empire Exhibition opened in London featuring installations of material and trade wealth created by Britain’s global colonies. The exhibition showcases 38 objects from the Fowler’s collection that were originally displayed in the Nigerian pavilion called “The Walled City.”

WHEN: Through March 8, Wednesdays 12:00 noon - 8:00 p.m., Thursdays - Sundays 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.

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

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Fowler Museum, UCLA

INFO: 310.825.9672
fowler.ucla.edu

BERNARD HOYES PRESENTS—“SPIRIT OF THE LAND THROUGH CLIMATE CHANGE”

An exhibition of large scale watercolor paintings that speak to the ecological life of the Desert. The works evokes beauty and spirituality, ultimately observing the transformation of the land by climate change over the past ten years.

WHEN: Through March 8, Tuesdays through Sundays from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

SITE: San Bernardino County Museum
2024 Orange Tree Ln, Redlands

COST: $10

SPONSOR: San Bernardino County Museum

INFO: sbcounty.gov/museum, bit.ly/BERNARDHOYES

BETTYE SAAR: CALL AND RESPONSE

Call and Response looks at the relationship between preliminary sketches in small sketchbooks, which Saar has made throughout her career, and finished works. In addition, the show includes approximately a dozen small travel sketchbooks with more finished drawings—relating to motifs seen throughout Saar’s work—that she has made over a lifetime.

WHEN: Through April 5, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Fridays 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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

COST: Adults - $15, Seniors - $10, Members, Students with valid ID, and Children - Free, LA County residents free after 3 p.m. weekdays

SPONSOR: Los Angeles County Museum of Art

INFO: 323.857.6010
lacma.org
JULIE MEHRETU

A mid-career survey that unites nearly 40 works on paper with 35 paintings dating from 1996 to the present. The first-ever comprehensive retrospective of Mehretu’s career, it covers over two decades of her examination of history, colonialism, capitalism, geopolitics, war, global uprising, diaspora, and displacement through the artistic strategies of abstraction, architecture, landscape, movement, and, most recently, figuration.

WHEN: Through March 22, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Fridays 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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

COST: Adults - $15, Seniors - $10, Members, Students with valid ID, and Children - Free, LA County residents free after 3 p.m. weekdays

SPONSORS: Los Angeles County Museum of Art and The Whitney Museum of American Art

INFO: 323.857.6010
lacma.org
Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, *Greenhouse Fantasies*, Oil on canvas, 28” x 24”, 2014, Courtesy of the Huntington
Clairfoster Josiah Browne, *Dirty art club GOD city*, Acrylic painting on canvas, 60" x 60", 2019
NO CRYSTAL STAIR: THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF JOHN SIMMONS
Images selected from Simmons’ vast archive of photographs from the 1960s and 1970s that highlights the enduring profoundness of Simmons’ early works.

WHEN: Through March 29,
Thursdays - Sundays, 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.

SITE: The Museum of African American Art
Macy’s 3rd Floor, Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza, 4005 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSOR: The Museum of African American Art

INFO: 323.294.7071
maaala.org

THE HILTON ALS SERIES: LYNETTE YIADOM-BOAKYE
Recent paintings by contemporary British artist Lynette Yiadom-Boakye are displayed adjacent to the historic Portrait Gallery at The Huntington. Yiadom-Boakye’s studies of fictional characters create a dialogue with The Huntington’s collection of highly formal 18th-century British portraits. Drawn from the world of found images and imagination, the figures seem familiar but also mysterious.

WHEN: Through May 11,
Mondays - Sundays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

SITE: The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Garden
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino

COST: $25 weekdays, $29 weekends

SPONSORS: Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, the Yale Center for British Art

INFO: 626.405.2100
huntington.org

LA #UNSHUTTERED
The exhibit showcases the photography of young artists advocating for social justice. Featured are works by ten Los Angeles-based, high-school students who have been learning about, engaging in, and working for causes greater than themselves.

WHEN: Through July 1,
Tuesdays – Thursdays & Sundays 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.,
Fridays & Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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

COST: Free

SPONSOR: The Getty Center

INFO: 310.440.7300
getty.edu
ANIKE TOURSE PRESENTS “AIN’T I A WOMAN” THE STORY OF SOJOURNER TRUTH

Anike Tourse is the writer and performer of this one-woman-show.

**WHEN:** February 1, 3:30 p.m.

**SITE:** Malabar Branch Library, 2801 Wabash Ave., Los Angeles

**COST:** Free

**SPONSOR:** LAPL Library Foundation

**INFO:** 323. 263.1497
lapl.org/branches/malabar

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF LULA WASHINGTON DANCE THEATRE @ THE WALLIS

The Lula Washington Dance Theatre uses dance to explore social and humanitarian aspects of African American history, culture, and life. The company returns to The Wallis following their debut performance in 2018, which celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**WHEN:** February 1, 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:** $29 and up, check website for details

**SPONSOR:** National Endowment for the Arts

**INFO:** 310.746.4000
thewallis.org

FABULOUSLY FUNNY COMEDY FESTIVAL

The Fabulously Funny Comedy Festival features Mike Epps, Gary Owen, Lavell Crawford, Tommy Davidson, and Sommore.

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

**SITE:** Microsoft Theater
751 Chick Hearn Court, Los Angeles

**COST:** $64 and up, check website for details

**SPONSOR:** Microsoft Theater

**INFO:** 213.763.6030
microsofttheater.com
SELMA WITH LIVE SCORE BY JASON MORAN AND THE NEW WEST SYMPHONY

The composer and jazz pianist will perform his Oscar-nominated score, accompanying Ava DuVernay’s 2014 film, Selma, on the large screen. Selma dramatizes the events leading up to King’s landmark 1965 march for voting rights.

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

**SITE:** The Soraya
18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge

**COST:** $36 and up, check website for details

**SPONSOR:** Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts

**INFO:** 818.677.8800
thesoraya.org/calendar/details/selma
COLORING THERAPY
Relax and destress while coloring images that come from African American history and culture.

WHEN:    February 3, 11:45 a.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

CINEMA TUESDAYS: EVE’S BAYOU
The Skirball presents a screening of the Kasi Lemmons-directed film Eve’s Bayou, a Southern
Gothic saga about a prosperous Creole family in 1962 Louisiana, told through the eyes of a curious ten-
year-old girl.

WHEN:    February 4, 1:30 p.m.
SITE:    Skirball Cultural Center
         2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles
COST:    Free
SPONSOR: Skirball Cultural Center
INFO:    310.440.4500
          skirball.org
THE MIXED MEDIA ARTWORK OF FAITH RINGGOLD
Learn about artist, author, and activist Faith Ringgold, best known for her narrative quilts that combine sewing, appliqué, and words to tell a story. Teens will then create their own mixed media narrative collages to be displayed in the library.

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

**SITE:** Sherman Oaks Branch Library
14245 Moorpark St., Sherman Oaks

**COST:** Free

**SPONSOR:** Sherman Oaks Library

**INFO:** 818.205.9716
lapl.org/branches/sherman-oaks
URBAN AFRICAN CINEMA: MOLY KANE

Shot and produced in the outskirts of Dakar, Senegal, the short films of Moly Kane are part of a new generation of work coming out of the country known as the birthplace of African cinema.

WHEN: February 4, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
SITE: Ray Stark Theatre
USC, George Lucas Building, 900 West 34th St., Los Angeles
COST: Free, reservations required
SPONSOR: USC Visions and Voices: The Arts and Humanities Initiative
INFO: calendar.usc.edu/event/urban_african_cinema_moly_kane

Teresa Tolliver, *Reflection of my Great Grandmother*, Mixed media, 3’ x 45”, 2019
ASCOT TEEN CHESS AND CHAT
Create arts and crafts relevant to famous persons such as Romare Bearden.

WHEN: February 5, 12, 19, and 26, 3:00 p.m.
SITE: Ascot Branch Library
120 West Florence Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Ascot Branch Library
INFO: 323.759.4817
lapl.org/branches/ascot

FILM SCREENING: “BLUE COLLAR”
This 1978 Richard Pryor film reveals another side of Pryor’s genius in a dramatic role as a Detroit autoworker who grows intolerant of mistreatment from upper management and union brass.

WHEN: February 6, 1:30 p.m.
SITE: Los Feliz Branch Library
1874 Hillhurst Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Friends of the Los Feliz Library
INFO: 323 913.4710
lapl.org/branches/los-feliz

YANGA: THE AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE IN MEXICO
An interactive presentation of Mexico’s African roots. The exhibit includes a slideshow featuring a set of 18th century interracial paintings and Afro-mestizo music.

WHEN: February 6, 6:00 p.m.
SITE: Pacoima Branch Library
13605 Van Nuys Blvd., Pacoima
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Dr. Gloria Arjona
INFO: 818.899.3188
lapl.org/branches/pacoima
THE LOGIC OF POETRY AND DREAMS—DANA WASHINGTON

In conjunction with Shirin Neshat: I Will Greet the Sun Again, Dana Washington will read, perform, and reflect upon Neshat’s works, and delve into the universality of these very themes.

WHEN: February 6, 7:00 p.m.
SITE: The Broad
221 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free, Reserve tickets in advance at website
SPONSOR: The Broad Art Foundation
INFO: 213.232.6200
thebroad.org

THROUGH THE BANKS OF THE RED CEDAR ~ FILM & DISCUSSION

Through the Banks of the Red Cedar is a powerful documentary about the first fully integrated college football team in America. The screening will be followed by a discussion about the themes and issues that the film explores, which still remain relevant.

WHEN: February 6, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
SITE: Annenberg Auditorium
USC, 3502 Watt Way, Los Angeles
COST: Free, Reservations required
SPONSOR: USC Visions and Voices: The Arts and Humanities Initiative
INFO: calendar.usc.edu/event

WHY IT MATTERS: CARLA HAYDEN AND KAREN R. LAWRENCE

Huntington President Karen R. Lawrence speaks with Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress, about why archives and libraries exist, and why they matter.

WHEN: February 6, 7:30 p.m.
SITE: The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens
Rothenberg Hall, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino
COST: Free
SPONSOR: The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens
INFO: 626.405.2100
huntington.org
Toni Shaw, *The Marathon Continues*, Stained glass on wood, 20” x 20”. 2019
LA BLACK FILM FESTIVAL
The LA Black Film Festival celebrates independent Black filmmakers and seeks to elevate Black voices and stories in the film community.

**WHEN:** February 6 - 9, Check website for details

**SITE:** Let Live Theater
916 N. Formosa Ave., Los Angeles

**COST:** Varies, check website for details

**SPONSOR:** LA Film Festivals

**INFO:** lafilmfestivals.com
SHANA TUCKER

Cellist/singer-songwriter Shana Tucker weaves soulful folk, acoustic pop, jazz, and a touch of R&B into a distinctive self-described genre of ChamberSoul™. Hear crisp jazz and bluesy originals along with new arrangements, as well as classics from the American songbook.

WHEN: February 7, 7:00 p.m.
SITE: Grand Annex
434 W. Sixth St., San Pedro
COST: $22 - $32
SPONSOR: Grand Vision Foundation
INFO: 310.833.4813
grandvision.org/grand-annex
BLACKBOX @ THE EDYE: JOSHUA WHITE

For the last several years, Joshua White has been in demand as a creative and technically accomplished pianist. The Joshua White Quartet is a bi-coastal group focused on interpreting original compositions, as well as exploring the boundaries of collective improvisation.

**WHEN:** February 7, 8:00 p.m.
**SITE:** The Broad Stage
Santa Monica College’s Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica
**COST:** $29
**SPONSOR:** Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center
**INFO:** 310 434 3200
thebroadstage.org
GREGORY PORTER
Gregory Porter rose to acclaim with his earthy, cross-pollinated brand of jazz, soul, and gospel. A gifted singer of standards as well as more contemporary soul material, Porter has earned favorable comparisons to his idols Nat King Cole, Donny Hathaway, and Stevie Wonder.

WHEN: February 7, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.
SITE: Royce Hall
UCLA, 10745 Dickson Ct., Los Angeles
COST: $43 - $185
SPONSOR: Center for the Art of Performance - UCLA
INFO: 310.825.2101
cap.ucla.edu
ADEOLA DAVIES-AYELOJA: ECHOES OF SHADOWS REVEALED

*Echoes of Shadows Revealed* is a metaphor for peeling the surface, revealing and coming into light, to learn about the true self.

**WHEN:** February 7 - 29,
3:00 - 6:00 p.m., Thursday - Saturday

**SITE:** The Progress Gallery
300 S. Thomas St., Pomona

**COST:** Free

**SPONSOR:** Arteco Partners Community Project

**INFO:** 951-202-0059
theprogressgallery.org

VIVER BRASIL: CELEBRATING SAMBA

This family-friendly program takes audiences on a cultural journey to Salvador, Bahia, with electrifying Afro Brazilian dance and music. This performance includes the *royal orixa* dances, riveting *capoeira*, *samba* and a Bahian carnival.

**WHEN:** February 8, 11:00 a.m.

**SITE:** The Broad Stage
Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica

**COST:** $5

**SPONSOR:** Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center

**INFO:** 310.434.3200
thebroadstage.org
GET OUT! SCREENING

Director Jordan Peele smoothly balances out horror with a social commentary on the issue of racism. American race relations are satirized in a fresh way.

**WHEN:** February 8, 2:30 p.m.

**SITE:** Ascot Branch Library
120 West Florence Ave., Los Angeles

**COST:** Free

**SPONSOR:** Ascot Branch Library Staff

**INFO:** 323.759.4817
lapl.org/branches/ascot

CINEMA TUESDAYS: COMPENSATION

A screening of the film *Compensation* directed by Zeinabu irene Davis. In two parallel Chicago love stories from different time periods, this moving film considers the ephemeral nature of love and life, while illustrating the enduring challenges of racism.

**WHEN:** February 11, 1:30 p.m.

**SITE:** Skirball Cultural Center
2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles

**COST:** Free

**SPONSOR:** Skirball Cultural Center

**INFO:** 310.440.4500
skirball.org
Sharon J. Williams, At top: Massachusetts March Snow Flurry Red Barn Massachusetts, At bottom: March Snow Flurry Green Tree, Both: Digital Photography, 12” x 9”, 2019
THE LOGIC OF POETRY AND DREAMS - SHONDA BUCHANAN
In conjunction with *Shirin Neshat: I Will Greet the Sun Again*, Shonda Buchanan will read, perform, and reflect upon Neshat’s works, and delve into the universality of the exhibition’s themes.

**WHEN:** February 13, 7:00 p.m.
**SITE:** The Broad
221 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
**COST:** Free, Reserve tickets in advance at website
**SPONSOR:** The Broad Art Foundation
**INFO:** 213.232.6200 thebroad.org

PAN AFRICAN FILM AND ARTS FESTIVAL
America’s largest black film festival showcasing over 150 new films from Africa, the United States, Europe, the Caribbean, the South Pacific, South America, and Canada. This event also features fine artists and craftspeople, poetry, fashion shows, free forums, and panel discussions.

**WHEN:** February 13 - 23,
Check website for details
**SITE:** Cinemark Baldwin Hills and Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza
3650 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Los Angeles
**COST:** Varies, check website for details
**SPONSOR:** Pan African Film & Arts Festival
**INFO:** paff.org

CHARLIE WILSON
Charlie Wilson with special guests Stephanie Mills & The Con Funk Shun Band.

**WHEN:** February 14, 8:00 - 11:00 p.m.
**SITE:** Microsoft Theater
751 Chick Hearn Court, Los Angeles
**COST:** $49 and up
**SPONSOR:** Microsoft Theater
**INFO:** 213.763.6030 microsofttheater.com
GENEALOGY GARAGE: FINDING YOUR ENSLAVED ANCESTORS

Experienced researcher Charlotte Bocage of the Southern California Genealogical Society will help you unravel the mysteries behind your slave ancestors. This session goes beyond basic ancestry research and digs deep into the challenges of African American research.

WHEN: February 15, 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
SITE: Los Angeles Central Library - Adult Literacy Center (ERTC)
       630 W. 5th St., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: LAPL History & Genealogy Department
INFO: 213.228.7250
       lapl.org/branches/central-library

ELLA BAKER AND HER SISTERS

Lauren Buisson, writer, lecturer, social critic, and co-host of the Intersections podcast will discuss the life and contributions of Ella Baker, U.S. Civil Rights Movement leader.

WHEN: February 15, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
SITE: Palms - Rancho Park Branch Library
       2920 Overland Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Palms - Rancho Park Branch Library
INFO: 310.840.2142
       lapl.org/branches/palms-rancho-park
CSUN ACASOLA A CAPELLA

Acasola is a diverse group of students who aim to deliver a fun and unique musical experience to its community through the art of a cappella. The audience will gain the knowledge of the art of a cappella and see Pitch Perfect come to life.

**WHEN:** February 15, 1:30 p.m.

**SITE:** Eagle Rock Branch Library
5027 Caspar Ave., Los Angeles

**COST:** Free

**SPONSOR:** Eagle Rock Branch Library

**INFO:** 323.258.8079
lapl.org/branches/eagle-rock
BLACK HISTORY MONTH TRIVIA COMPETITION

Teens are invited to test their knowledge in a trivia competition honoring Black History Month.

WHEN: February 18, 4:00 p.m.
SITE: Edendale Branch Library
       2011 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Edendale Branch Library
INFO: 213.207.3000
       lapl.org/branches/edendale
ANITA HILL FROM SOCIAL MOVEMENT TO SOCIAL IMPACT: PUTTING AN END TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT

A women’s rights icon, attorney, and powerful advocate for equality, Anita Hill brought the issue of sexual harassment to the forefront of our national conversation 28 years ago in her testimony during the Supreme Court confirmation hearings of Judge Clarence Thomas.

WHEN: February 19, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
SITE: Campbell Hall
University of California, Santa Barbara, Mesa Road, Santa Barbara
COST: $20 - $35
SPONSORS: UCSB Feminist Futures Initiative, the UCSB Women’s Center
INFO: 805.893.3535
artsandlectures.ucsb.edu/AllEvents.aspx

CELEBRATING AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE WITH STORYTIME

Join us for a special story time celebrating African American Heritage Month. We will read aloud books that share the African American experience. Stay afterwards for arts and crafts!

WHEN: February 20, 3:30 p.m.
SITE: Ascot Branch Library
120 West Florence Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: 323.759.4817
lapl.org/branches/ascot

FREDERICK DOUGLASS WITH SOJOURNER TRUTH REENACTMENT

Actors Darrel Walton and Dr. Lana Walton transport the audience back to the 1800’s to an Anti-slavery and Women’s Suffrage Convention. The present-day audience becomes abolitionists, freedmen, women, and protesters. Hear Frederick Douglass, with Sojourner Truth, speak out on issues of the day, abolishing slavery, and granting women their rights.

WHEN: February 20, 7:00 - 8:45 p.m.
SITE: Cerritos Library,
Skyline, 3rd Floor, 18025 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Cerritos Library
INFO: 909.675.4255
cerritoslibrary.us
LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBazo
For more than 50 years, South Africa’s five-time Grammy Award winners Ladysmith Black Mambazo have warmed the hearts of audiences worldwide with their uplifting vocal harmonies, signature dance moves, and charming onstage banter.

**WHEN:** February 20, 8:00 p.m.
**SITE:** Royce Hall,
UCLA, 10745 Dickson Ct, Los Angeles
**COST:** $39 and up, check website for details
**SPONSOR:** Center for the Art of Performance - UCLA
**INFO:** 310.825.2101
cap.ucla.edu

FRIDAY MOVIE AT THE LIBRARY: GREEN BOOK
2019’s Oscar-winning feature film is about an African American classical pianist on tour through the Southern States in the 1960s, starring Mahershala Ali and Viggo Mortensen.

**WHEN:** February 21, 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
Timothy Washington, *Energy Source (detail)*, Mixed media assemblage, 89” x 29” x 2”, 2000, Courtesy of CAAM
Terry Miller, *Diamond & Pearl*, Digital photography, 8” x 10”, 2019
TELL ME A STORY
A concert of stories celebrating the lives and memories of the participating storytellers. Stories were developed by participants in a storytelling workshop conducted by professional storyteller Barbara H. Clark.

WHEN: February 21, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
SITE: Baldwin Hills Library
2906 S. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSORS: Professional storyteller, Barbara H. Clark, Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: 323.733.1196
lapl.org/baldwinhills

TALKING DRUMS
Sunshine Storyteller Ina Buckner-Barnette presents African and African American folktales, poetry and songs.

WHEN: February 21, 4:00 p.m.
SITE: Goldwyn Hollywood Regional Library
1623 Ivar Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: 323.856.8260
lapl.org/branches/hollywood

AFRICAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL
Join the Aquarium of the Pacific as it hosts its 18th annual African American Festival, celebrating the rich diversity of African American and African cultures.

WHEN: February 22 - 23, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
SITE: Aquarium of the Pacific
100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach
COST: Adults $34.95, Seniors $31.95, Children $24.95, Children under three and Members Free
SPONSOR: Aquarium of the Pacific
INFO: 562.590.3100
aquariumofpacific.org
INLAND EMPIRE AFRICAN AMERICAN BOOK FESTIVAL
Ginger M. Galloway and Katie McClendon are dedicated to encouraging reading and literacy in the community. They have teamed up with Women Achieving Success to put together the first African American Book Festival in the Inland Empire.

**WHEN:** February 22, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**SITE:** Moreno Valley Conference Center
14075 Frederick St., Moreno Valley

**COST:** Free, RSVP on Eventbrite

**SPONSORS:** Ginger M. Galloway and Katie McClendon, Women Achieving Success

**INFO:** eventbrite.com/e/african-american-book-festival-inland-empire-tickets-76693258601

AFROLATINIDAD: MI CASA, MY CITY
Explore the presence of Los Angeles’s Afro-Latinx community, beginning with the pre-American founding of LA by the *pobladores*, a group of settlers of mixed African, Indigenous, and Spanish descent. It will continue with the contemporary experiences of residents identifying as Black and Latinx.

**WHEN:** February 22 - July 20,
Mondays - Thursdays, 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m., Fridays - Sundays, 12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.

**SITE:** LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes
501 N. Main St., Los Angeles

**COST:** Free

**SPONSOR:** LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes

**INFO:** 213.542.6200
lapca.org

DOROTHY AND OTTO: THE DOROTHY DANDRIDGE AFFAIR
The 1950s love affair between Otto Preminger and Dorothy Dandridge.

**WHEN:** February 22, 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.

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

**COST:** Free, RSVP at tiny.cc/dorothyandotto

**SPONSOR:** West Hollywood Library

**INFO:** 310.652.5340
colapublib.org/libs/whollywood
Catherine Russell
The vocal dynamo dazzles her audiences, interpreting jazz favorites and blues treasures with soul, humor, and stunning range.

**WHEN:** February 22, 7:30 p.m.

**SITE:** The Broad Stage
Santa Monica College’s Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica

**COST:** $49 and up, check website for details

**SPONSOR:** Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center

**INFO:** 310.434.3200
thebroadstage.org

Linda Ternoir, **Hello**, Acrylic painting, 30" x 24", 2019
CICLAVIA SOUTH - WATTS
Over 5.8 miles of Los Angeles Streets will be completely closed to vehicular traffic. Along the route there will be numerous stops with music, games, vendors, food, and much more. All forms of non-motorized transit are welcome; this includes pedestrians, scooters, bicycles, wheelchairs, skateboards, wagons, strollers, rollerblades, and more.

WHEN: February 23, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
SITE: South Los Angeles
Download the route map online
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Open Streets Events Presented by Metro
INFO: ciclavia.org

LEIMERT PARK ARTWALK
Share a day of art exhibitions, music, fashion, food, drumming, spoken word, and shopping. Cultural spaces, artist studios, and storefronts will have a wide variety of offerings.

WHEN: February 23, 2:00 - 8:00 p.m.
SITE: Leimert Park Village
3333 43rd Place, Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Leimert Park Artwalk
INFO: facebook.com/leimertparkartwalk

STEP AFRIKA! DRUMFOLK
This African American dance company blends their percussive dance with story-telling and music. Their new show, Drumfolk, is a celebration of human will and perseverance.

WHEN: February 23, 3:00 p.m.
SITE: The Soraya
18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge
COST: $36 and up, check website for details
SPONSOR: Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts
INFO: 818.677.8800
thesoraya.org/calendar/details/step-afrika-drumfolk
WAYNE MARSHALL

British-born Wayne Marshall is a triple threat, appearing around the world as an organist, pianist, and conductor. His abilities in jazz as well as classical music make him particularly well suited for his glittering improvisations on Bernstein and Beethoven.

WHEN:  February 23, 7:30 p.m.
SITE:  Walt Disney Concert Hall
       111 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
COST:  $20 - $64
SPONSOR:  Los Angeles Philharmonic
INFO:  323.850.2000
       laphil.com
SINGING THE BLUES
Create your own 12-bar blues song while listening to Lead Belly and Bessie Smith at this special heritage month program.

WHEN: February 25, 2:30 p.m.
SITE: Alma Reaves Woods - Watts Branch Library
10205 Compton Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Alma Reaves Woods - Watts Branch Library
INFO: 323.789.2850
lapl.org/branches/watts

FOWLER OUT LOUD: UCLA AFRO-CUBAN ENSEMBLE
This well-known ensemble focuses on music from Cuba, exploring such genres as son cubano, rumba, cha-cha, and salsa. This performance will feature dance music, so bring your dancing shoes!

WHEN: February 26, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
SITE: Fowler Museum
UCLA, 308 Charles E. Young Dr. N., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: UCLA Office of Residential Life
INFO: 310.825.9672
fowler.ucla.edu

FAMILY ARTS & CRAFTS—SELF PORTRAITS INSPIRED BY BASQUIAT
Please join us as we celebrate African American Heritage Month with Family Arts & Crafts as we create self-portraits inspired by Basquiat. All ages are welcome.

WHEN: February 27, 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: lapl.org/branches/westchester
Feliz Mc Innis, Mealtime Lunch #2, When Snacks are Not Enough, Acrylic on Canvas, 11” x 14”, 1992
MALIMBA MUSIC IS HOPE

In an 8-act one man show, Makinto educates the audience through a performance about the history of African and African American music.

WHEN: February 27, 4:00 p.m.

SITE: Granada Hills Branch Library
10640 Petit Ave., Granada Hills

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Granada Hills Branch Library

INFO: 818.368.5687
lapl.org/branches/granada-hills

Zak Ové, The Invisible Man and the Masque of Blackness, (detail), Graphite figure, 2016, Courtesy of LACMA
MARLON JAMES
In *Black Leopard Red Wolf*, Marlon James explores Jamaican history through the perspectives of multiple narrators and genres.

**WHEN:** February 27, 8:00 p.m.
**SITE:** Royce Hall
UCLA, 10745 Dickson Ct, Los Angeles
**COST:** $29 and up, check website for details
**SPONSOR:** Center for the Art of Performance - UCLA
**INFO:** 310.825.2101
cap.ucla.edu

OMAR SOSA & YILIAN CAÑIZARES AGUAS TRIO
Cuban pianist Omar Sosa and violinist-vocalist Yilian Cañizares have come together to create Aguas Trio, an inventive and engaging mix of the artists’ Afro Cuban roots, Western classical music and jazz.

**WHEN:** February 28, 8:00 p.m.
**SITE:** Royce Hall
UCLA, 10745 Dickson Ct, Los Angeles
**COST:** $29 and up, check website for details
**SPONSOR:** Center for the Art of Performance - UCLA
**INFO:** 310.825.2101
cap.ucla.edu

FOR FREEDOMS CONGRESS
*For Freedoms*—a platform for creative civic engagement, discourse, and direct action founded by artists Hank Willis Thomas and Eric Gottesman—takes over Warehouse Programs at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA with a weekend of workshops, actions, and programming to fortify, maintain, and activate the civic infrastructure of creativity.

**WHEN:** February 28 - March 1,
Times vary, check website for details
**SITE:** The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA
152 N. Central Ave., Los Angeles
**COST:** Free
**INFO:** 213.621.1732
moca.org/visit/geffen-contemporary, forfreedoms.org
ASCOT TEEN CHESS AND CHAT
Create arts and crafts relevant to famous persons such as Romare Bearden.

**WHEN:**
March 4, 11, 18, and 25
3:00 p.m.

**SITE:**
Ascot Branch Library
120 West Florence Ave., Los Angeles

**COST:**
Free

**SPONSOR:**
Ascot Branch Library

**INFO:**
323.759.4817
lapl.org/branches/ascot
POWER TO THE PEOPLE! HERBIE HANCOCK

Music has always had a role to play in the movements that shift attitudes and shape nations. Join Gustavo Dudamel, Herbie Hancock, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic for the continuation of Power to the People! a celebration of the music that moves mountains.

**WHEN:** March 5, 8:00 p.m.

**SITE:** Walt Disney Concert Hall
111 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles

**COST:** Check website for details

**SPONSORS:** Los Angeles Philharmonic, Frank Gehry Fund for Creativity, National Endowment for the Arts

**INFO:** 323.850.2000
laphil.com

BLACK VIOLIN

*Black Violin* is led by classically trained string players Wil B. (viola) and Kev Marcus (violin). Joining them onstage are DJ SPS and drummer Nat Stokes. The band uses their unique blend of classical and hip-hop music to overcome stereotypes while encouraging people of all ages, races, and economic backgrounds to join to break down cultural barriers.

**WHEN:** March 5, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.

**SITE:** The Theatre at Ace Hotel
929 South Broadway, Los Angeles

**COST:** $32 - $59

**SPONSORS:** Emporium and Live Nation

**INFO:** 213-235-9614
theatre.acehotel.com

OUTFEST FUSION LGBT PEOPLE OF COLOR FILM FESTIVAL

The only multi-cultural LGBT film festival in the country. Outfest Fusion has reached an array of diverse Los Angeles audiences, creating social change through media with both screenings and filmmaking workshops.

**WHEN:** March 6 - 10, 7:00 p.m.

**SITE:** Check website for venues

**COST:** $12

**SPONSOR:** Outfest

**INFO:** outfest.org
BOOK CLUB: “BORN A CRIME” BY TREVOR NOAH
Group discussion of Trevor Noah’s 2016 memoir that tells the story of his upbringing in South Africa during apartheid.

WHEN: March 7, 11:00 a.m.
SITE: Los Feliz Branch Library
1874 Hillhurst Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Feliz Branch Library
INFO: 323.913.4710
lapl.org/branches/los-feliz

IMANI UZURI: REVOLUTIONARY CHOIR
Join vocalist and composer Imani Uzuri’s Revolutionary Choir salon—a freedom and protest song teach-in of historical and new songs of resistance and resilience. Learn and sing liberation songs.

WHEN: March 7, 2:00 p.m.
SITE: California African American Museum (CAAM)
600 State Dr., Exposition Park, Los Angeles
COST: Free, RSVP on website
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Philharmonic
INFO: 213.744.7432
caamuseum.org

AFRICAN DRAWINGS AND CRAFTS WORKSHOP
Relax while creating intricate patterns and crafts from African and African American Culture.

WHEN: March 7, 1:30 p.m.
SITE: Eagle Rock Branch Library
5027 Caspar Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Eagle Rock Branch Library
INFO: 323.258.8079
lapl.org/branches/eagle-rock
REVEREND TALL TREE’S BLUES OPERA

Reverend Tall Tree returns with his original 21-song blues opera backed by guitar, harmonica, upright bass, and drums. Part concert and part “tent-revival,” Reverend Tall Tree’s Blues Opera follows the journey of a fictional street preacher, many years ago in the American Deep South.

**WHEN:** March 7, 7:00 p.m.
**SITE:** Grand Annex
434 W. Sixth St., San Pedro
**COST:** $22 - $32  
**SPONSOR:** Grand Vision Foundation
**INFO:** 310.833.4813  
grandvision.org/grand-annex/
Eze N’Ughogbe, At top: Throne Room, Chief Priest seated with Sister Queen, At bottom: Madame Aigbovia, Igiohen, Sacred Chalk Drawing. Both: slide photography 1989
OCTAVIA E. BUTLER’S PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Based on the novels *Parable of the Sower* and *Parable of the Talents* by Octavia E. Butler, this genre-defying work of political theater features an ensemble of 20 singers, actors, and musicians that give musical life to Butler’s acclaimed science fiction novels.

**WHEN:** March 7, 8:00 p.m.
**SITE:** Royce Hall
UCLA, 10745 Dickson Ct, Los Angeles
**COST:** $29 and up
**SPONSOR:** Center for the Art of Performance - UCLA
**INFO:** 310.825.2101
cap.ucla.edu

POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

From subversive statements to songs of solidarity, music has always had a role to play in the movements that shape nations. Join Gustavo Dudamel and the Los Angeles Philharmonic for the continuation of *Power to the People!,* a celebration of the music that moves mountains.

**WHEN:** March 8, 2:00 p.m.
**SITE:** Walt Disney Concert Hall
111 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
**COST:** Tickets start at $72
**SPONSORS:** Los Angeles Philharmonic. National Endowment for the Arts
**INFO:** 323.850.2000
laphil.com

THE FERTILE RIVER

Join us for a staged reading of the *Fertile River* set in 1958, as an impoverished African American family takes an unwanted journey of discovery as they await and then confront the sugar-coated demands of the eugenics agent.

**WHEN:** March 9, 8:00 p.m.
**SITE:** NoHo Senior Arts Colony
10747 W. Magnolia Blvd., Los Angeles
**COST:** Pay what you can
**SPONSOR:** The Road Theatre Company
**INFO:** 818.761.8838
roadtheatre.org
MOVIE SCREENING: GREEN BOOK
A showing of the movie Green Book. This a true story about music, friendship, and navigating “Jim Crow” in America.

WHEN: March 12, 2:30 - 5:00 p.m.
SITE: Alma Reaves Woods - Watts Branch Library
10205 Compton Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Alma Reaves Woods - Watts Branch Library
INFO: 323.789.2850
lapl.org/branches/watts

TERENCE BLANCHARD—SONGVERSATION
Terence Blanchard has been a consistent artistic force for making powerful musical statements. Join him as he discusses his legendary career and nearly three decades-long collaboration with director Spike Lee.

WHEN: March 12, 7:00 p.m.
SITE: California African American Museum (CAAM)
600 State Dr., Exposition Park, Los Angeles
COST: Free, RSVP online
SPONSORS: California African American Museum, American Cinematheque, A Noise Within, and Power California.
INFO: 213.744.7432
caamuseum.org

POWER TO THE PEOPLE - LA PHIL
A Noise Within and the LA Phil join forces to present a staged reading of potent political theater designed to incite and inspire.

WHEN: March 13, 8:00 p.m.
SITE: A Noise Within
3352 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena
COST: Free, RSVP online
SPONSORS: California African American Museum, American Cinematheque, A Noise Within, and Power California
INFO: 626.356.3100
anoisewithin.org
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2020 COMMUNITY EVENTS

AFRICAN AMERICAN COMPOSERS SERIES

William Grant Still Arts Center presents its annual African American Composers Series Exhibition and Music Education Program. The program will focus on teaching music through the music created by Dr. William Grant Still.

WHEN: March 14 - May 31,
Tuesday - Saturday, 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.

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

COST: Free

SPONSORS: The William Grant Still Arts Center, Department of Cultural Affairs

INFO: 323.734.1165
wgsac.wordpress.com
POWER TO THE PEOPLE! THE MOVIE MUSIC OF SPIKE LEE & TERENCE BLANCHARD

This event showcases the long and fruitful collaboration between the uncompromising filmmaker and the brilliant trumpeter and bandleader whose lush scores augment the humanitarian spirit and political heart of Lee’s movies.

WHEN:  March 14, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.
SITE:   Walt Disney Concert Hall
       111 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
COST:  $47 - $127
SPONSORS:  Los Angeles Philharmonic, National Endowment for the Arts
INFO:   323.850.2000
        laphil.com

Julie Mehretu, Untitled 2, Ink and acrylic on canvas, 60" x 84", 2001, Courtesy of LACMA
POWER TO THE PEOPLE! CÉCILE McLORIN SALVANT PRESENTS OGRESE

“There’s a woman lived in the woods on the outskirts of town. Her skin was chocolate brown. Upon her head she wore a crown of bones.” With these powerful words, begins the extraordinary song cycle Ogresse, a stunning fairy-tale suite with very real implications.

WHEN: March 15, 7:30 p.m.
SITE: Walt Disney Concert Hall
111 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
COST: $60 - $127
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Philharmonic
INFO: 323.850.2000
laphil.com

DR. ANGELA DAVIS- POWER TO THE IMAGINATION: THE ROLE OF ART AND CREATIVITY IN SOCIAL CHANGE

Acclaimed scholar and activist Dr. Angela Davis offers a cultural perspective on the role art has played in social justice movements and its potential to effect change today.

WHEN: March 18, 8:00 p.m.
SITE: Walt Disney Concert Hall
111 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
COST: $10
SPONSORS: California African American Museum, American Cinematheque, A Noise Within, and Power California.
INFO: 323.850.2000
laphil.com

NORTON SIMON FILM SCREWING: Daughters of the Dust

The first wide release by a black female filmmaker, Daughters of the Dust was met with critical acclaim in 1991. At the dawn of the 20th century, a family in the Gullah community of coastal South Carolina—former West African slaves who adopted many of their ancestors’ Yoruba traditions—suffers a generational split.

WHEN: March 20, 5:30 – 7:20 p.m.
SITE: Norton Simon Museum
411 W. Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena
COST: Adults $15, Seniors $12, Children (ages 18 and under), Students with ID, and Active Military with ID Free
SPONSOR: Norton Simon Museum
INFO: 626.449.6840
nortonsimon.org
SETH PARKER WOODS AND SPENCER TOPEL: ICED BODIES

A melting obsidian ice cello takes center stage in this performance installation that pays tribute to an avant-garde past while reflecting on the black bodies lost to mental illness and violence in the African American community.

WHEN: March 21, 2:00 p.m.
SITE: Walt Disney Concert Hall
111 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
COST: RSVP at laphil.com/events
SPONSORS: California African American Museum, American Cinematheque, A Noise Within, and Power California
INFO: 323.850.2000
laphil.com

ORGANIZATION OF BLACK SCREENWRITERS: OUR VOICES

The Organization of Black Screenwriters assists writers in creating screenplays and scripts for film and television, and in presenting their work to the industry. Learn more about OBS and enjoy a performance of scenes written by several promising screenwriters.

WHEN: March 21, 2:00 p.m.
SITE: John C. Fremont Branch Library
6121 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Organization of Black Screenwriters
INFO: 323.962.3521
lapl.org/branches/john-c-fremont

JERRY QUICKLEY: WHISTLEBLOWER

Employing an original text set against a score performed live, spoken word artist Jerry Quickley and legendary contemporary composer Philip Glass share their personal and visceral musings, reflections, and emotions as they struggle to understand this moment in history.

WHEN: March 21, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.
SITE: The Theatre at Ace Hotel
929 South Broadway, Los Angeles
COST: $39 - $99
SPONSOR: CAP UCLA
INFO: 213-235-9614
theatre.acehotel.com
Zak Ové, Both: The Invisible Man and the Masque of Blackness, 40 Graphite figures, 2016, Courtesy of LACMA
FLY HIGHER: CHARLIE PARKER AT 100
Charlie Parker was arguably the greatest saxophonist of all time. Celebrate one of the most innovative and influential artists in modern musical history and examines his impact.

**WHEN:** March 26, 8:00 p.m.

**SITE:** Royce Hall, UCLA, 10745 Dickson Ct, Los Angeles

**COST:** $29 - $59

**SPONSOR:** Center for the Art of Performance - UCLA

**INFO:** 310.825.2101
cap.ucla.edu

LOS ANGELES WOMEN’S THEATRE
Performances of solo plays, poetry, and solo dance by female artists. Opening night will feature awards recognition of women who have made distinguished contributions to the theatre.

**WHEN:** March 26 - 29, Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Friday, 8:00 p.m., Saturday at 3:00 and 8:00 p.m., Sunday at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m.

**SITE:** Theatre 68
5112 Lankershim Blvd, North Hollywood

**COST:** $25 - $50

**SPONSOR:** Los Angeles Women’s Theatre

**INFO:** lawtf.org

*Adeola Davies-Aiyeloja, *Lineage I*, Mixed media on canvas, 24” x 36”, 2019*
BLACK WRITERS ON TOUR
The tour gives exposure to authors and inspires new writers. The event includes workshops for children and adults, poetry jam competitions, a children’s writing contest, and exhibit booths.

**WHEN:** March 28, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
**SITE:** Carson Community Center
801 E. Carson St., Carson
**COST:** Free
**SPONSOR:** Black Writers on Tour
**INFO:** 323.750.3592
blackwritersontour.com

LEIMERT PARK ARTWALK
Leimert Park Village is inviting the public to share a day of art exhibitions, music, fashion, food, drumming, spoken word, and local shopping. Cultural spaces, artist studios, and storefronts will also have offerings ranging from specialty vendors to film screenings or live bands.

**WHEN:** March 29, 2:00 - 8:00 p.m.
**SITE:** Leimert Park Village
3333 43rd Place, Los Angeles
**COST:** Free
**SPONSOR:** Leimert Park Artwalk
**INFO:** facebook.com/leimertparkartwalk
Both: Betye Saar, At top: I’ll Bend but I Will Not Break, Mixed media tableau, 80” x 96” x 36”, 1998, At right: Supreme Quality, Mixed media on vintage washboard and tub, 37.5” x 22.25” x 20, 1998, Courtesy of LACMA
In celebration of African American Heritage Month, we present the following reading selections for elementary, middle, and high school readers.

Bibliography compiled by: Gabriel Cifarelli
City of Los Angeles
Department of Cultural Affairs
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR // EARLY READERS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DR. KING!
Written by Kathryn Jones
Illustrated by Floyd Cooper
Publisher: Simon & Schuster

After getting in trouble at school for fighting with another boy because he wanted to sit in the back of the bus, fourth-grader Jamal gets in trouble again at home when his Grandpa Joe learns about the scuffle. Grandpa Joe explains the story of Rosa Parks and the Montgomery bus boycott to help Jamal understand the history associated with sitting in the back of the bus. Jamal is so impressed with the story that he leads his class in a skit about the historic incident, which they stage in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday.

MY DREAM OF MARTIN LUTHER KING
Written and Illustrated by Faith Ringgold
Publisher: Dragonfly Books

The author tells the story of Martin Luther King, Jr. from the perspective of her own childhood dream. As her dream opens, she sees a world of people carrying bags full of prejudice, hate, ignorance, violence, and fear, and exchanges them for bags of hope, freedom, peace, awareness, and love. Her dreams reflect real and imagined glimpses of the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. to tell the story of his vision and civil rights leadership. By visualizing the story as the author tells it, young readers will be able to understand Dr. King's mission.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR // MIDDLE READERS

FREE AT LAST: THE STORY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
Written by Angela Bull
Publisher: DK Children

*Free at Last!* is a biography of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., who encouraged nonviolent protest to fulfill his dream of an America where people would be judged by the content of their character, not by the color of their skin.

WHO WAS MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.?
Written by Bonnie Bade
Illustrated by Elizabeth Wolf
Publisher: Penguin Workshop

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was only 25 when he helped organize the Montgomery Bus Boycott and was soon organizing black people across the country in support of the right to vote, desegregation, and other basic civil rights. Maintaining nonviolent and peaceful tactics even when his life was threatened, King was also an advocate for the poor and spoke out against racial and economic injustice. *Who Was?* celebrates the vision and the legacy of a remarkable man.
MARTIN LUTHER KING
Written by Rosemary L. Bray
Illustrated by Malcah Zeldis
Publisher: William Morrow

The life and works of Martin Luther King, Jr. are captured in over-sized pages of text and bright folk art in this exceptional book. The text begins by covering Martin’s early life, when his childhood experiences began to shape his sensibilities. The major events of Martin’s life are touched upon, including the day he became aware of and embraced Gandhi’s philosophy of nonviolent protest, and his marriage to Coretta Scott. Every significant civil rights event during Martin’s adult life is detailed, framing a young reader’s understanding of the era and of King’s leadership role.
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. // HIGH SCHOOL READERS

A TESTAMENT OF HOPE: THE ESSENTIAL WRITINGS AND SPEECHES OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Written by Martin Luther King, Jr.
Edited by James Melvin Washington
Publisher: Harper San Francisco

An exhaustive collection of the speeches, writings, and interviews with the Nobel Prize-winning activist, this book contains Martin Luther King, Jr.’s essential thoughts on nonviolence, social policy, integration, black nationalism, the ethics of love, hope, and more.
A TIME TO BREAK SILENCE: THE ESSENTIAL WORKS OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., FOR STUDENTS

Written by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Introduction by Walter Dean Myers
Publisher: Beacon Press

The first collection of King’s essential writings for high school students and young people. *A Time to Break Silence* presents Martin Luther King, Jr.’s most important writings and speeches—carefully selected by teachers across a variety of disciplines—in an accessible volume. Arranged thematically, the collection includes nineteen selections and is introduced by award-winning author Walter Dean Myers. Included are some of Dr. King’s most well-known and frequently taught classic works, including “Letter from Birmingham Jail” and “I Have a Dream,” as well as lesser-known pieces such as “The Sword that Heals” and “What Is Your Life’s Blueprint?” that speak to issues young people face today.
CIVIL RIGHTS + SLAVERY // EARLY READERS

I AM HARRIET TUBMAN

Written by Brad Meltzer
Illustrated by Christopher Eliopoulos
Publisher: Dial Books

This friendly, fun biography focuses on the traits that makes our heroes great—the traits that kids can aspire to in order to live heroically themselves. The book focuses on Harriet Tubman’s brave heroism as part of the movement to abolish slavery. As one of the key players in the Underground Railroad, she helped enslaved African Americans escape and find freedom.
A BAND OF ANGELS: A STORY INSPIRED BY THE JUBILEE SINGERS
Written by Deborah Hopkinson
Illustrated by Raul Colon
Publisher: Atheneum, Simon & Schuster

This is the inspirational story of nine young people who in 1871 brought the Fisk School (later to become Fisk University) back from the brink of financial failure. Ella Sheppard, born into slavery in 1851, travels to Nashville after the emancipation to pursue her dream of attending Fisk. While there, she joins the choir. The group takes their show on the road, singing white songs to white audiences to try to earn money for the struggling school. Just when it seems that the school is going to fail, Ella decides to change the program leading her peers in rousing black spirituals from their slave heritage. The audiences are so moved by the soulful sounds that word spreads and the group, who become known as the Jubilee Singers, becomes an international sensation, saving the school from bankruptcy.

FREEDOM ON THE MENU: THE GREENSBORO SIT-INS
Written by Carole Boston Weatherford
Illustrated by Jerome Lagarrigue
Publisher: Puffin Books

There were signs all throughout town telling eight-year-old Connie where she could and could not go. But when Connie sees four young men take a stand for equal rights at a Woolworth’s lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, she realizes that things may soon change. This event sparks a movement throughout her town and region. And while Connie is too young to march or give a speech, she helps her brother and sister make signs for the cause. Changes are coming to Connie’s town, but Connie just wants to sit at the lunch counter and eat a banana split like everyone else.

IF A BUS COULD TALK: THE STORY OF ROSA PARKS
Written and Illustrated by Faith Ringgold
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin

In an imaginative biographical story, young Marcie boards a bus and experiences an eerie event. The bus has no driver, but it is full of riders who are celebrating Rosa Park’s birthday. The riders tell Marcie the story of Rosa’s life from childhood through the events that followed her courageous refusal to give up her seat on this very same bus. Marcie’s enlightening bus ride climaxes when she actually meets Mrs. Parks, leaving her with a full understanding of why Rosa Parks is known as the mother of the civil rights movement.

TO BE A DRUM
Written by Evelyn Coleman
Illustrated by Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson
Publisher: Albert Whitman

Matt and Martha’s daddy tells them about their African ancestors who were so in tune with the earth that they captured its beat and translated it through their bodies onto their drums. When they were torn from their land and brought into slavery, their drums were taken away. But the people never lost their beat. Richly textured mixed-media paintings embellish the thought-provoking message.
Mel Davis, *Prize Fighter*, Charcoal on paper, 14” x 17”, 2008
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
RECOMMENDED READING FOR CHILDREN

LET’S CLAP, JUMP, SING & SHOUT; DANCE, SPIN & TURN IT OUT!
GAMES, SONGS, AND STORIES FROM AN AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILDHOOD

Written by Patricia C. McKissack
Illustrated by Brian Pinkney
Publisher: Schwartz & Wade

From Newbery Honor winner Patricia C. McKissack and two-time Caldecott Honor winner Brian Pinkney comes an extraordinary must-have collection of classic playtime favorites. This very special book is sure to become a treasured keepsake and will inspire joy in all who read it. Parents and grandparents will delight in sharing this exuberant book with the children in their lives. Here is a songbook, a storybook, a poetry collection, and much more, all rolled into one. Find a partner for hand claps such as “Eenie, Meenie, Sassafr sneeny,” or form a circle for games like “Little Sally Walker.” Gather as a family to sing well-loved songs like “Amazing Grace” and “Oh, Freedom,” or to read aloud the poetry of such African American luminaries as Langston Hughes, James Weldon Johnson, and Paul Laurence Dunbar. And snuggle down to enjoy classic stories retold by the author, including Aesop’s Fables and tales featuring Br’er Rabbit and Anansi the Spider.

CIVIL RIGHTS + SLAVERY // MIDDLE READERS

DRED SCOTT: A FICTIONAL SLAVE NARRATIVE
BASED ON THE LIFE AND LEGAL PRECEDENT OF DRED SCOTT

Written by Shelia P. Moses
Illustrated by Bonnie Christensen
Publisher: Margaret K. McElderry Books

Born into slavery in Virginia in the late 1700s, Dred Scott had little to look forward to in life. In 1846, Dred Scott and his wife, Harriett took the dangerous and courageous step to sue for their freedom, entering into legal battles that would last for eleven years. During this time Dred Scott would need all the help and support he could get—from folks in the community all the way back to the people with whom he had been raised. With a foreword by Dred Scott’s great-grandson this story chronicles Dred Scott’s experiences as a slave, as a plaintiff in one of the most important legal cases in American history. His is a life that should be known by—and should inspire—all Americans.

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

Written by James Weldon Johnson
Illustrated by Elizabeth Catlett
Publisher: Walker Books for Young Readers

Written by civil rights leader and poet James Weldon Johnson in 1899, “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing” is sung in schools and churches throughout America. The popular, timeless song is recognized as a testimonial to the struggle and achievements of African American people—past, present, and future.
MANY THOUSANDS GONE: AFRICAN AMERICANS FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM
Written by Virginia Hamilton
Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon
Publisher: Knopf, Random House

Thirty-four brief, true stories about slavery are powerfully told. Each story relates a small piece of the historical truth about slavery. This book would make a fine classroom text or can be shared with your child to raise his or her awareness of what has gone before.

NEXT STOP FREEDOM: THE STORY OF A SLAVE GIRL
Written by Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler & Carey-Greenberg Associates
Illustrated by Cheryl Hanna
Publisher: Silver Burdett, Simon & Schuster

Young Emily, a slave, dreams of freedom as she learns to read and write. Emily has heard about the Moses who led slaves to freedom. One night, Moses does come to escort her and others to freedom on the Underground Railroad. After a long and suspenseful trip, with slave catchers on their heels, the group is hidden by a Quaker family and then sent on to freedom in Pennsylvania.
Betye Saar, *The Divine Face*, Mixed media assemblage, 42” x 22.25” x .38”, 1971, Courtesy of LACMA
OH, FREEDOM!: KIDS TALK ABOUT THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT WITH THE PEOPLE WHO MADE IT HAPPEN

Written by Casey King and Linda Barrett Osborne
Illustrated by Joe Brooks
Publisher: Knopf, Random House

Kids conduct thirty-one interviews with adult friends, family members, and civil rights activists to learn firsthand about the days of the 1960s civil rights movement. Informative chapters thoroughly explore the Jim Crow era, non-violence, black power, and segregation. Three essays, and an important foreword by Rosa Parks, provide background information on various aspects of the era to help add perspective to the interviews.
THE YEAR THEY WALKED: ROSA PARKS AND THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

Written by Beatrice Siegel
Publisher: Four Winds, Simon & Schuster

Rosa Parks’ heroic act of nonviolent resistance, when she refused to give up her seat to a white rider on a bus, sparked the most widely watched civil rights demonstration in the history of the United States. A highly accessible, non-fiction account of the Montgomery bus boycott, this book describes in complete detail the call from black civic leaders to the African American community to unite for the boycott, and the strategies that the community used to hold their position for over a year, until they prevailed.
CIVIL RIGHTS + SLAVERY // HIGH SCHOOL READERS

THE BONDWOMAN’S NARRATIVE
Written by Hannah Crafts; Edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
Publisher: Warner Books

This novel was discovered some years ago, by distinguished Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. in an auction catalog. Gates realized that the novel, if genuine, would be the first novel known to have been written by a black woman in America, as well as the only one by a fugitive slave. He bought the manuscript (there was no competing bid) and began the exhilarating task of confirming the racial identity of the author and the approximate date of composition (circa 1855-59). Gates describes this detective work in the introduction to The Bondwoman’s Narrative. He also proposes a couple of candidates for authorship, assuming that Hannah Crafts was the real or assumed name of the author, and not solely a pen name. If Gates is right (his introduction and appendix should convince just about everyone), The Bondwoman’s Narrative is a tremendous discovery, and is well worth reading on literary and historical grounds. As Gates argues, these pages provide our first “unedited, unaffected, unglossed, unaided” glimpse into the mind of a fugitive slave.

INVISIBLE MAN
Written by Ralph Ellison
Publisher: Random House

Invisible Man is a nightmarish novel of a man trying to comprehend the confusion of myth, experience, and inner reactions that control his life. The nameless narrator describes growing up in a black community in the South, attending a Negro college from which he is expelled, moving to New York and becoming the chief spokesman of the Harlem branch of “the Brotherhood,” and retreating amid violence and confusion to his basement lair.

NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS, AN AMERICAN SLAVE: WRITTEN BY HIMSELF
Written by Frederick Douglass
Publisher: Yale University Press

Frederick Douglass was born a slave on a Maryland plantation, but learned to read. Mistreated because he knew too much, he finally escaped from slavery and gained fame as an orator. Published in 1845, just seven years after his escape from slavery, this book provides students with an accessible introduction to the work of Frederick Douglass, as well a vivid first-hand account of life as a slave. Students interested in pursuing the subject are encouraged to read his later autobiography, The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass, published in 1881.
Native Son deals with the problems an African American has attaining manhood in a society that conspires against him. The story begins by showing the difficulty of achieving normal human relations in the squalor of a Chicago slum. Bigger Thomas has what appears to be amazing luck when he gets a job as a chauffeur with a wealthy family. However, in fear and confusion, he accidentally kills the daughter. He tries to escape, but is caught and tried for murder. The events seem to be a long nightmare over which Bigger himself has little or no control.

Up From Slavery

Written by Booker T. Washington
Publisher: Doubleday

Born in 1856, this autobiography describes Washington’s struggles, after the emancipation, to gain an education and found Tuskegee Institute. This addition also includes selections from other slave narratives.
THE WATER PRINCESS

Written by Susan Verde and Georgie Badiel
Illustrator: Peter H. Reynolds
Publisher: G. P. Putnam’s Sons Books for Young Readers

“I am Princess Gie Gie. My Kingdom? The African sky. The dusty earth. And, someday, the flowing, cool, crystal-clear water. Someday...” Inspired by the childhood of African-born model Georgie Badiel, who, grew up in Burkina Faso. Georgie and the other girls in her village had to walk for miles each day to collect water. This vibrant, engaging picture book sheds light on this struggle that continues all over the world today, instilling hope for a future when all children will have access to clean drinking water.
RECOMMENDED READING FOR CHILDREN
THE BAT BOY AND HIS VIOLIN

Written by Gavin Curtis
Illustrated by E. B. Lewis
Publisher: Simon and Schuster

Young Reginald is a consummate musician who would rather play his violin than do anything else, much to his father’s chagrin. His father, who manages the Dukes, a losing team in the Negro National Baseball League, decides to recruit Reginald as a bat boy for the team. Reginald is a disaster as a bat boy, but the team finds his violin music inspirational. As Reginald plays the music of Mozart, Beethoven, and Bach in the dugout during the games, the team begins to perform to new heights. Finally, the Dukes are in the position to win a pennant against the hottest team in the league. Win or lose, Reginald has made a difference, earning the respect of the team and the gratitude of his father.

“Missionary” Mary Proctor, Music Heals, Mixed media on blue jeans, 42” x 35”, 2009, Courtesy of CAAM
EXPLORE BLACK HISTORY WITH WEE PALS

Written and Illustrated by Morrie Turner
Publisher: Just Us

The Wee Pals, comic-strip characters who first appeared in *Ebony* and *Black World* magazines in 1964, are the vehicle for delivering a dose of African American history to young readers. The accomplishments of over seventy prominent African Americans from all walks of life, including Angela Davis, Jesse Jackson, Thurgood Marshall, and James Farmer, are discussed by the Wee Pals in a series of short comic strips. The format and brevity of each vignette are sure to attract young readers.

I LOVE MY HAIR!

Written by Natashia Anastasia Tarpley
Illustrated by E. B. Lewis
Publisher: Little, Brown

Young Keyana is totally satisfied with her head of thick, soft hair. Even as she endures the sometimes painful combing and brushing process, she understands that her hair is special. It can be woven, braided, or beaded into beautiful styles that she loves, which fills her with pride.
READ FOR ME, MAMA
Written by Vashanti Rahaman
Illustrated by Lori McElrath-Eslick
Publisher: Boyds Mills

This sensitive story about a hard-working single mother and her loving son will touch young readers. Joseph loves to read and checks two books out of the library – one that can read by himself and another, more difficult one for his Mama to read to him. But every day Mama has a reason to avoid reading. On Mondays there was grocery shopping to do; on Tuesday, housecleaning; on Wednesday...

SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL
Written by Sharon Dennis Wyeth
Illustrated by Chris K. Soentpiet
Publisher: Doubleday

A young girl searches for something beautiful in her inner-city neighborhood, surrounded by graffiti, homelessness, broken glass, and trash. Through her neighbors she begins to recognize the small things in life that are beautiful such as good meals, friends, a small neighborhood garden, and the special love of her mother. Her mother has no trouble seeing the beauty in her own child, whose beaming face is seen on the book’s cover.

SOMEWHERE IN AFRICA
Written by Ingrid Mennen and Niki Daly
Illustrated by Nicolaas Maritz
Publisher: Puffin Unicorn, Puffin

A young boy named Ashraf lives in Africa, but not the Africa that might come to mind when young readers think about that continent. Ashraf’s home is a big city teeming with skyscrapers, bustling with cars, and alive with the energy of any large metropolitan area. Ashraf’s only view of the wilder side of Africa comes from books, whose pictures of lions, zebras, and crocodiles fascinate him. A young reader’s vision of Africa will broaden with the new knowledge that Africa has more than jungles and wild animals.

LIFE + CULTURE // MIDDLE READERS

BOOK OF BLACK HEROES: POLITICAL LEADERS PAST & PRESENT
Written by Gil Robertson
Publisher: Just Us Books

A wide range of black political leaders from reconstruction through the 2016 elections are introduced via a collection of biographies. The book introduces Municipal Leaders, State Leaders, U.S. Representatives, U.S. Senators, Governors, and the President. Also featured are inspirational quotes from some of the most impactful political icons of the 20th century, a timeline of African Americans in politics and a list of important political terms.
HIDDEN FIGURES YOUNG READERS’ EDITION
Written by Margot Lee Shetterly
Publisher: HarperCollins

An uplifting, amazing true story—a New York Times bestseller. This edition of Hidden Figures is perfect for younger readers. It is the powerful story of four African American female mathematicians at NASA who helped achieve some of the greatest moments in our space program. Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as “human computers” used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. This book brings to life the stories of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden, who lived through the Civil Rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War, and the movement for gender equality, and whose work forever changed the face of NASA and the country.
COMING TOGETHER: CELEBRATIONS FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILIES

Written by Harriette Cole
Illustrated by John Pinderhughes
Publisher: Jump At The Sun

African American families are dynamic and powerful. Celebrations play an important part in the fabric of the family. Coming Together is devoted to several of the very special occasions that many African American families honor. Filled with creative ideas for involving the entire family—from young children to grandparents and great-grandparents—this rich book provides everything you need to transform time together into compelling and memorable occasions. Coming Together is brimming with sample menus, easy-to-follow recipes, crafts, activities, and unique ideas to bring the value of these celebrations to life.

THE EDUCATION OF MARY: A LITTLE MISS OF COLOR, 1832

Written by Ann Rinaldi
Publisher: Jump At The Sun

In 1832, Prudence Crandall, a Quaker educator in Connecticut, closed her Canterbury Female Seminary and reopened it as a school for young black women. This novel revolves around the formation of that school and the storm of controversy it created in town. Many historical forces come into play here: the abolitionist movement, endemic prejudice against free blacks, and the brutality of the early factory system.
HER STORIES: AFRICAN AMERICAN FOLKTALES, FAIRY TALES, AND TRUE TALES

Written by Virginia Hamilton
Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon
Publisher: Scholastic

Nineteen stories are expertly told about black female folk and fairy characters. This enticing work is dedicated to mothers, grandmothers, and aunts, who have often been the bearers of such stories from generation to generation. Each story is exquisitely illustrated and is punctuated with a short commentary that adds insight into the nature and origin of the tale. Mature children, especially your daughters, will love this immediate classic. (Nonstandard English)

THE MIDDLE OF SOMEWHERE: A STORY OF SOUTH AFRICA

Written By Shiela Gordon
Publisher: Orchard, Grolier

Young Rebecca, who lives in a black township in South Africa, is afraid of being forced out of her home. The government wants to relocate her family and neighbors to a less developed area in order to accommodate expansion for white suburbanites. The villagers protest the attempts to move them, and Rebecca’s father is arrested after a community-wide demonstration. The evils of apartheid come through strongly in this novel of a family’s determination to stay together.

REFLECTIONS OF A BLACK COWBOY: THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS

Written by Robert Miller
Illustrated by Richard Leonard
Publisher: Silver Burdett, Simon & Schuster

The stories of the African American Buffalo Soldiers, who served in the Ninth and Tenth Cavalries in the nineteenth century, are colorfully told in this entertaining book narrated by Old Cowboy. The Buffalo Soldiers played an important role in opening up the western frontier, yet their stories are not well known. In this book of five short stories, several of these brave soldiers are acknowledged for their historic achievements and battles. The Reflections of a Black Cowboy series also includes a volume on pioneers, as well as one on cowboys and one on mountain men.

STORYTELLER’S BEADS

Written by Jane Kurts
Publisher: Gulliver, Harcourt Brace

Two girls, Sahay and Rachel, are bonded together during their brave journey from their Ethiopian homeland to the Sudan, where they hope to find peace and food. The story takes place during the Ethiopian famine of the 1980s, a time when millions were dying of starvation and internal warfare. The two girls—one Jewish, one Christian—ultimately find that they have more in common than not, once they overlook their different ethnic upbringings and customs, superstitions, and traditions of two distinctly different Ethiopian groups. This book will appeal to young readers of historical fiction.
THE COLOR PURPLE
Written by Alice Walker
Publisher: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich

Celie is a poor black woman whose letters tell the story of 20 years of her life, beginning at age 14 when she is being abused and raped by her father and attempting to protect her sister from the same fate, and continuing over the course of her marriage to “Mister,” a brutal man who terrorizes her. Celie eventually learns that her abusive husband has been keeping her sister’s letters from her and the rage she feels, combined with an example of love and independence provided by her close friend Shug, pushes her finally toward an awakening of her creative and loving self.

THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD
Written by Zora Neale Hurston
Publisher: University of Illinois Press

Fair and long-legged, independent and articulate, Janie Crawford sets out to be her own person – no mean feat for a black woman in the 1930s. Janie’s quest for identity takes her through three marriages and into a journey back to her roots.
SONG OF SOLOMON
Written by Toni Morrison
Publisher: Knopf

*Song of Solomon* explores the quest for cultural identity through an African American folktale about enslaved Africans who escape slavery by fleeing back to Africa. The novel tells the story of Macon “Milkman” Dead, a young man alienated from himself and estranged from his family, his community, and his historical and cultural roots. Author Toni Morrison, long renowned for her detailed imagery, visual language, and “righting” of black history, guides the protagonist along a 30-year journey that enables him to reconnect with his past and realize his self-worth.

YELLOW BACK RADIO BROKE-DOWN
Written by Ishmael Reed
Publisher: Avon

Ishmael Reed has put together a collage of American pop culture, ancient Egyptian mythology, and voodoo ideals which becomes, in the reader’s mind, either an incomprehensible mess or hilarious satire. *Yellow Back Radio Broke-Down* is a novel about a black, voodoo cowboy, Loop Garoo, and his exciting adventures. It is a satire on the Western, and the American values that made the Western popular.

EDDIE GREEN: THE RISE OF AN EARLY 1900S BLACK AMERICAN ENTERTAINMENT PIONEER
Written by Elva Diane Green
Publisher: Bear Manor Media

Eddie Green was a pioneering Black filmmaker, movie star, Old Time Radio icon, and composer. In an era when Black entertainers struggled to gain a foothold in show business, he rivaled Oscar Micheaux for honors as a pioneering filmmaker. From poverty to prominence, he accomplished more than most people could dream. Discover Eddie’s rags-to-riches story as told by his daughter. The book received the *Foreword INDIES 2016 Bronze Book Award* winner.

THE STARS BENEATH OUR FEET
Written by David Barclay Moore
Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers

It’s Christmas Eve in Harlem, but twelve-year-old Lolly Rachpaul and his mom aren’t celebrating. They’re still reeling from his older brother’s death in a gang-related shooting just a few months earlier. His path forward isn’t clear—and the pressure to join a “crew,” as his brother did, is always there. When Lolly and his friend are beaten up and robbed, joining a crew almost seems like the safe choice. But building a fantastical project at the community center provides Lolly with an escape—and an unexpected bridge back to the world. A *Publisher’s Weekly* Best Book of the Year in 2017.
THE QUEEN OF KATWE: ONE GIRL’S TRIUMPHANT PATH TO BECOMING A CHESS CHAMPION

Written by Tim Crothers
Publisher: Scribner

The true story of Phiona Mutesi—a teenage chess prodigy from the slums of Uganda. One day while searching for food, nine-year-old Phiona followed her brother to a dusty veranda where she met Robert Katende. Katende had an improbable dream: to empower kids in the Katwe slum through chess—a game so foreign there is no word for it in their native language. By the age of eleven Phiona is her country’s junior champion, and at fifteen, the national champion. Now a Woman Candidate Master—the first female titled player in her country’s history—Phiona dreams of becoming a Grandmaster, the most elite level in chess. But to reach that goal, she must grapple with everyday life in one of the world’s most unstable countries.
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

RECOMMENDED READING FOR CHILDREN

Amazon.com


Teresa Tolliver, Lady walking the Dog, Mixed media, 16” x 18”, 2019
April Bey, At left: The DJ’s Gay, My Love (Gold), At right: You Can Heal Yourself When You Take Your Time (Gold), Both: Relief photopolymer plate print sewn into hand-drilled golden glittered resin on panel with golden metallic thread, 20” x 16”, 2019
TO ASK FREEDOM
FOR WOMEN IS NOT
A CRIME
SUFFRAGE PRISONERS
SHOULD NOT BE TREATED
AS CRIMINALS
Andres Montoya, CJ, Acrylic on canvas, 36” x 24”, 1994-2019
The Department of Cultural Affairs is pleased to present the works of several fine writers in the 2020 African American Heritage Month Calendar and Cultural Guide. The writers are Michelle Andrea Bracken, Tricia Cochee, S. Pearl Sharp, Imani Tolliver, Valerie Ayres Wallick, and Airnester Weems-Stewart.
MY DAUGHTER FRIEND

By Airnester Weems-Stewart

We met as strangers,
Instantly we were friends
We formed a bond that
can be called everlasting.

We have so much to share
With little time to spare
From the first we’ve been
An inseparable spare.

We read each other’s thoughts
Hundreds of miles apart,
We feel each other’s pains
Ininitely from the heart.

Telepathic waves find me
When you need me most
I rush to aid and assist
A sentinel at your post.

So much alike you and I
A real passion for life
To overcome adversities
And inequities
To shun insidious strife.

Who are we this passionate pair
Whose lives we intimately share
Mother and daughter, stranger and friend.
A love everlasting.
Frances Ampah, At top: Une Femme Noire, At bottom: A Self-Portrait, Both: Digital Photography, 36” x 24”, 2019
Teresa Tolliver, *Look at Me*, Mixed media, paper, markers, paint, 18” x 36”, 2019
how can we make love to the keys  
the fingers that pushed out  
the sweet melody  
that beat the kink  
right out of cicely’s neck

what happened to the oiled cotton courageous  
who did she become  
oddly silent  
her story the darker greek we’ve sung

we are not supposed to forgive miles  
supposed to give away his music  
to the tolerant masses  
who don’t mind the irony of this antihero  
the sneer that looks as if it holds a limerick  
holds a lullaby instead  
coaxing lovers to open and croon

should we keep miles at the gates, begging peter  
wishing the keys from his hands?

i think i can forgive him  
forgive him like i do my daddy  
a little every day

his hands did not always hurt  
did not always push  
no  
mostly they carried soil  
pipe tobacco and matches  
ink from fountain pens  
type for the books he’d set  
old books sold with mama  
brother from the hospital tears when  
his father died

love from daughters is complicated  
that without forgiveness  
there is nothing left  
no memory that is not stuck to his face  
a garden  
a record under the hi-fi  
sketches of spain, my father had

if i don’t forgive daddy  
than i miss all of miles  
all the sticky croon and silver tones  
that give the slow flicker of low light on water

both my daddy and miles are gone now  
but they are probably too cool  
to hang out with each other

as i pull out old photos  
of my father kneeling with eggplants  
i pull another tune from the anthology  
that is miles  
the puzzle of love these men lived

i keep them in just enough light  
to keep their shape, but not their color  
a kind of blue

By Imani Tolliver
GOOD MORNING MORNING

By Michelle Andrea Bracken

Good morning morning.
What have you got to say?
Good morning morning.
Bringing us a brand new day.

While this sleeping-eyed city
Shakes itself awake,
I know this day will be mine to make.
Good morning morning,
I’ve been waiting for you.
THE BOND

By Michelle Andrea Bracken

Before the world knew you, my eyes beheld you.
Before your name was known, I cherished you.

Then, through the years we shared our time together.
And when you told your secret thoughts, I listened.
And when you needed guidance, I was there.

I knew your hopes and dreams
And all your plans and schemes.
That sweet relationship was ours to share.

When I looked into your eyes on that Friday
I touched you, heard your voice, and saw your smile.
And though you didn’t tell me you were leaving,
I’m glad you stayed and talked with me a while.

Before you left this world, my eyes beheld you.
My face the last one that your eyes did see.
And though we’ll no more meet this side of heaven,
God knows that I loved you and you loved me.
Child Light makes mud dolls at the riverbed plants their faces on the Canada railroad hammered from our freedom tears Julia Shadd Shreve named her Art Artis Artist alabaster descendant from Mary Ann Shadd’s liberated souls a seeing child mother dust sparkling from her fingers All of God’s gods pay attention rush to find gifts to feed her

* 

Grown Light grows rainbows brushes reverence with a feather sculpts songs into painted parables confronts the color line with emerald gold icons All the Motherland’s spirits pay tribute unwind in joy plant a Cannon to fill the space around her

* 

Elder Light our identity found at the foundry fragments birthed break from the shell bend the binding wire inhale the mother dust emerge perfect in our being midwife to spiritual thought she is both event and witness translucent spark of discovery and delight drunk with wonder twirls on one leg balancing Art and God

* 

EMERGE

By S. Pearl Sharp

for Artis Lane
THE LAST PIECE OF PAPER

By S. Pearl Sharp

It says he was seventy-eight
born on a reservation
raised another place
I know the exact time
Nat Turner struck out
Sojourner Truth’s life history
when Phyllis Wheatley wrote
her first poem and why

But until they handed me
this last piece of paper
I didn’t know he was
a master musician
a legal licentiate not allowed to
perform in Justice’s courts

Perhaps I have been studying
the wrong brown faces
I knew only his pain and his love
Yet his moon and music are in me
His chess game with life is mine
So many questions I might have asked
Such treasures of memory unfolding
Now this paper holds more than I knew
Grief not for loss but for unknowing.
IN WANT

By Tricia Cochee

What of a name?
A vibration, a channel of what is seen,
spoken, heard,
touched, felt,
smelled, remembered.

A poem in want of a poet.

A bookplate, a bookmark, in want of a book.

A book in want of a reader because it too wants to be seen,
read, touched, felt, smelled, and remembered.
Drame Djibril, Moonlight, Color Coded Series, Digital photography, 2017
Reggie Martin, *Black Ballerina*, Watercolor and ink, 32.75" x 23", 2018
PopPop walked
barefoot all seasons
feeling mother's earth rhythm
through his lamb's leather soles ...
Her pulse beating through fingertips
birthing healing hands
cultivating love:
a flourishing herb garden
bottled shine from the cornfield
cured all ailments
produced high spirited songs
that kept the blues at bay

NO BLUES GROWN HERE

By Valerie Ayres Wallick

Jerry Weems, *The day the levee broke*, Oil on corrugated tin, 24"x 48", 2019
Amina AmXn, At left: Black Is Beautiful: Close-Up! 2, At right: Black Is Beautiful: Close-Up! 4, Both: Digital photography, 16” x 20”, 2019
Bryan Tilford, *Champions Wreath*, Mixed media collage on canvas board, 16” x 20”, 2019
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 culturela.org or follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/culturela, Instagram @culture_la, and Twitter @culture_la.
DCA FACILITIES (35 TOTAL):

- DCA manages and programs 22 Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers including: 9 Arts and Cultural Centers, 4 Performing Arts Theaters, 2 Historic Sites, and 7 Galleries.
- DCA oversees an additional 10 Public/Private Partnership Arts Facilities.
- DCA also manages 3 Prop K facilities in development.
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DCA NEIGHBORHOOD FACILITIES

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 (9)

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

MANCHESTER YOUTH ARTS CENTER
(AT THE VISION THEATRE)
3341 West 43rd Place
Los Angeles, CA 90008
213.202.5508

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
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.

**DCA MANAGED PERFORMING ARTS THEATERS (4)**

**BARNSDALL GALLERY THEATRE**
Barnsdall Park  
4800 Hollywood Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
323.644.6272

**MADRID THEATRE**
21622 Sherman Way  
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

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*Don Gibbs, 65 Buick Riviera, Acrylic paint, 22” x 30”, 2019*
Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, *Brothers to a Garden*, Oil on linen, 59” x 48”, 2017, Courtesy of the Huntington
Michael R. Moore, *Dolly Kimpiatu Checked*, Digital photography, 20" x 48", 2018
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
Amina AmXn, *Black Is Beautiful: Close-Up! 5*, Digital photography, 16” x 20”, 2019
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
DCA PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP ARTS FACILITIES:

ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTERS (6)

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

LANKERSHIM ARTS CENTER
5108 Lankershim Boulevard
North Hollywood, CA 91602
818.752.7568

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

Judith Bowman, None Of Them Was Perfect, Illustration, 8.5” x 11”, 2018
April Bey, *Colonial Swag (Rules of Acquisition)*, Mixed media, 38” x 30”, 2019
Marcella Swett, *The Ties That Bind Kin*, Mixed media on wood, 30" x 30", 2019

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
ABOUT THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2020

DCA PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP ARTS FACILITIES:

GALLERIES (2)

Through an agreement with Los Angeles World Airports, DCA also administers curated exhibitions at both LAX and Van Nuys World Airports, and promotes Los Angeles as a creative and vibrant destination to over 50 million national and international visitors annually.

LOS ANGELES WORLD AIRPORTS PUBLIC ART EXHIBITION PROGRAM (LAX)
1 World Way
Los Angeles, CA 90045

VAN NUYS WORLD AIRPORT - SAN FERNANDO VALLEY PUBLIC ART EXHIBITION PROGRAM
16461 Sherman Way
Van Nuys, CA 91406

Julie Mehretu, *Black City*, Ink and acrylic on canvas, 120" x 192", 2007, Courtesy of LACMA
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DCA PROP K FACILITIES IN DEVELOPMENT (3)

DOWNTOWN YOUTH ARTS CENTER
(FIRE STATION # 23)
225 East 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013

HIGHLAND PARK YOUTH ARTS CENTER
111 North Bridewell Street
Los Angeles, CA 90042

OAKWOOD JUNIOR YOUTH ARTS CENTER
(VERA DAVIS MCLENDON YOUTH ARTS CENTER)
610 California Avenue
Venice, CA 90291

For more information, please visit or contact:

TEL 213 202.5500  TWITTER @culture_LA
FAX 213 202.5517  INSTAGRAM @culture_LA
WEB culturela.org  FACEBOOK cultureLA

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

201 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1400
Los Angeles, California 90012
Melissa Phillips, *Say It Loud*, Pencil, oil paint, charcoal, newspaper, 22” x 30”, 2005
LP Aekili Ross, At left: *Sun Ship* - Giant Steps, At right: *Equinox* - Giant Steps, Both: Digital stencil collage, 18” x 24”, 2019
The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs gives special thanks to our calendar artists and participating galleries and institutions for generously allowing us to showcase their images and literary works in this publication.
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
2020 LITERARY ARTISTS

William Roper
roperarts.com
LP AEkili Ross
LPAE38.art
Lyle Everett Rushing
lyleerushing.com
Lanae Sewell
Lanaesewell1@gmail.com
S. Pearl Sharp
spearlsharp.com
Toni Shaw
houseofmosaic.com
Marcella Swett
maddiebeane@yahoo.com
Linda Ternoir
ternoirart.com
Bryan Tilford
Urbanartist99@gmail.com
Imani Tolliver
imanitolliver.com
Teresa Tolliver
teresatolliver.weebly.com
Sylvia Walker
sylviawalker91@gmail.com
Valerie Ayres Wallick
words2@aol.com
Jerry Weems
jerryweems2004@yahoo.com
Airnester Weems-Stewart
aweems_99@yahoo.com
Sharon J Williams
jsharonart@yahoo.com
Donnamaria Woods
dmariawoods@gmail.com

William Roper
roperarts.com
LP AEkili Ross
LPAE38.art
Lyle Everett Rushing
lyleerushing.com
Lanae Sewell
Lanaesewell1@gmail.com
S. Pearl Sharp
spearlsharp.com
Toni Shaw
houseofmosaic.com
Marcella Swett
maddiebeane@yahoo.com
Linda Ternoir
ternoirart.com
Bryan Tilford
Urbanartist99@gmail.com
Imani Tolliver
imanitolliver.com
Teresa Tolliver
teresatolliver.weebly.com
Sylvia Walker
sylviawalker91@gmail.com
Valerie Ayres Wallick
words2@aol.com
Jerry Weems
jerryweems2004@yahoo.com
Airnester Weems-Stewart
aweems_99@yahoo.com
Sharon J Williams
jsharonart@yahoo.com
Donnamaria Woods
dmariawoods@gmail.com

Courtesy of
Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)
lacma.org
Julie Mehretu
Zak Ové
Betty Saar

Courtesy of
California African American Museum (CAAM)
caamuseum.org
Sam Doyle
Willard Hill
John Outterbridge
Mary Proctor
Timothy Washington
Beulah Woodard

Courtesy of
Exceptional Children’s Foundation (ECF)
artecf.org
Kelvin Belt
Renee Cureton
Don Gibbs
Antwan Jones
Reggie Martin
Vickie Maye

Courtesy of
Pan African Art Gallery & Studio
thegallerykambon.com
Akinsanya Kambon

Courtesy of
Progress Gallery
theprogressgallery.org
Adeola Davies-Aiyeloja

Courtesy of
Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens
huntington.org
Lynette Yiadom-Boakye
Amina AmXn, *Black Is Beautiful: Close-Up!* 1, Digital photography, 16” x 20”, 2019