Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, it is my pleasure to join all Angelenos in celebrating African American Heritage Month. Our African American residents are an essential thread in the rich cultural tapestry of our city, making L.A. a more significant and vibrant place to live.

Black Angelenos have a rich history of triumph that shaped the foundation of our city. Today - whether in the arts or academia, or in our businesses or 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.

I hope you will use this calendar and cultural guide, created by our Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), to learn about the many activities happening to celebrate this month. I also encourage you to enjoy the remarkable artwork we are showcasing from L.A.’s established and emerging Black artists.

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

Sincerely,

Eric Garcetti
Mayor
City of Los Angeles
Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Los Angeles City Council, it is my privilege to invite you to celebrate African American Heritage Month in our great City! This month, we honor the achievements of our City’s African Americans and acknowledge the meaningful contributions they make to L.A.

With this publication, our Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) highlights the work of our incredible Black artists and our arts and cultural organizations. Art reflects our history, who we are, and who we want to be.

To mark this important month, DCA is also providing arts and cultural online activities for your enjoyment. I encourage you to refer to this calendar to find the numerous festivals, musical events, theatrical performances, films, poetry readings, and cultural events that are just a click away.

Together we celebrate African American Heritage Month and the profound accomplishments made by our Black Angelenos and their incredible history here in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Nury Martinez
Los Angeles City Council President
Councilwoman, 6th District
Kehinde Wiley, *A Portrait of a Young Gentleman*, Oil on linen, 70.5" × 49.125", 2021

* Collection of The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens; Commissioned through Roberts Projects, Los Angeles; Gift of Anne F. Rothenberg, Terry Perucca and Annette Serrurier, and the Philip and Muriel Berman Foundation. Additional support was provided by Laura and Carlton Seaver, Kent Belden and Dr. Louis Re, and Faye and Robert Davidson.
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 2022 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 by 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 in history from Harvard University.

This year’s national theme is The Black Family: Black Health and Wellness. The struggle for quality health care still exists today as we contemplate the preventable diseases in our community and those diseases where more information is needed to manage our health better. For example, we experienced the alarming fact that African Americans are among those minority groups with less access to information about preventing exposure to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to most medical advisors, keeping a six-foot distance, washing your hands regularly, wearing your mask, and taking the COVID-19 vaccine are the best preventions. Advocating for universal health care is still a core value for many communities as we declare that health care is a right, not a privilege, in the wealthiest country in the world. Health and wellness must start in our community.

We are thrilled to celebrate The Whispers and Thelma Houston with the Living Legend Awards. We are grateful for the lifetime of great music they have given to this country. In addition, our Hall of Fame Award winners are: Government Honoree, Honorable Dr. Shirley N. Weber, California Secretary of State; Law Honoree, Honorable Eric C. Taylor, California Superior Court; and Health Honoree, Dr. John Griffith, Ph.D., President and CEO, KEDREN Community Health.

This calendar and cultural guide produced annually by our Department of Cultural Affairs also lists the many online events being held during this pandemic that our friends in the arts and cultural communities are hosting in celebration of African American Heritage Month. Please enjoy these fun and digital educational activities, as well as the beautiful artwork by our Black sisters and brothers showcased in this guide!

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael R. Davis
President, Pro Tem, Los Angeles Board of Public Works
Chair, African American Heritage Month
Aaron Samuel, The Prisoner, The Sacrifice, Acrylic, 18” x 24”, 2020
Dear Friends,

The Department of Cultural Affairs is pleased to present this calendar of events celebrating the African American community thriving in our unique City. In this publication, we honor the extraordinary range of African American experiences and cultural traditions transforming our society into an exciting, creative metropolis.

Reflecting back on 2021, we experienced another year full of ruptures in normalcy, accompanied by community resiliency and creative reinvention. It was a moment in time where history showed our collective impact of how we respond to crisis through an unwavering dedication to fostering the wellbeing of our communities for the greater public good. We have seen communities step up to care for and serve our most vulnerable while demonstrating how to heal from a virus that shows no mercy on those it infects. We know firsthand, because we have lived it, and while we grieve those we have lost, many have survived, and we will tell their story.

I want to express my appreciation for the work of the members of Our Authors Study Club, the 2022 African American Heritage Month Committee, the Mayor’s Office, the Controller’s Office, the City Attorney’s Office, the City Council Offices, and the Board of Public Works. Their assistance in recruiting and recognizing the many nonprofit organizations, community groups, arts organizations, artists, and activists helped us create this impressive publication full of fun, educational, and exciting events. We are also pleased to showcase a selection of contemporary art produced by our Los Angeles African American artists in this publication. Their vision pays homage to steps taken in the past towards progress, and looks ahead to a future assuring equality for all.

With this guide, I hope you will enjoy fantastic art and celebrate our City’s great African American heritage...all contributing to what makes Los Angeles thrive creatively and culturally through this pandemic and beyond.

Sincerely,

Daniel Tarica
Interim General Manager
City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs
Amina AmXn, Fiyoh, Digital photography, 16” x 20”, 2019
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HERITAGE MONTH COMMITTEE

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

William Allen Young
Actor-Director/Founder, The Young Center for Academic & Cultural Enrichment
Honorary Chair, African American Heritage Month

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Brian Baltazar
Department of General Services

Will Caperton y Montoya
Department of Cultural Affairs

Tonya Durrell
Board of Public Works

Yvonne Farrow
Department of Cultural Affairs

Sarah Franks
Board of Public Works

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

Jacquelynn Hawthorne
Commission on Community and Family Services

Niesha C. Louis
Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel

Agnes Miranda
Board of Public Works

Jennifer Perkins
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti

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

Daniel Tarica
Department of Cultural Affairs

Hosie L. Thomas, Jr.
Personnel Department

OUR AUTHORS
STUDY CLUB
Jacqueline Arkord
Albertine Brown
Caroline Culpepper
Theresa Curtis
Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball
Keta Davis
Sandra J. Evers-Manly
Laura Farwell
Leona "Haiba" Franklin
Ernestine J. Gordon
Mildred Gordon
Ursula Hill
Ernestine Huff
Charmaine Jefferson
Maude Johnson
Stephene Johnson
Beatrice Jones
Diana Kotzin
Tonia Lucas
Mildred Midkiff
Dr. Toni Mokjaetji-Humber
Gretchen Morris
Christine Nelson
Karen Ramey
Mary Louise Reeves
Helen Steward
Alvetia E. Smith
Brenda Tyson

COMMUNITY MEMBERS
John Acosta
Najee Ali
Ayuko Babu
Robin Carter
Marilyn Cole
Myran Cotton
Dr. Ayanna Davis
Donna Grayson
Clifton Johnson
Michael A. Lawson
Marian Fifi Locke
Albert Lord
Oduduwa Olutunji
Karen Ramey
Miriam Schneider
Ethel Shapiro
Joel Shapiro
Michael Simpson
Sarah Singer
Eduardo Soriano-Hewitt
Andrew Williams, Jr.
Lillian Wilson

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2022
2022 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH VIRTUAL 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); Actor/Director William Allen Young, Honorary Chairperson; and the 2022 African American Heritage Month Committee to officially commemorate and celebrate the Opening of African American Heritage Month in the City of Los Angeles. The 45th US Postal Service Black History Stamp honoring sculptress Edmonia Lewis will also be unveiled.

At this online celebration, presentations will be made to The Whispers and Thelma Houston with the Living Legends Awards, and to the Hall of Fame Awardees: Government Honoree, Honorable Dr. Shirley N. Weber, California Secretary of State; Law Honoree, Honorable Eric C. Taylor, California Superior Court; and Health Honoree, Dr. John Griffith, Ph.D., President and CEO, KEDREN Community Health. In addition, ABC7 Morning Show co-anchor Leslie Sykes will be the Mistress of Ceremonies.

This year’s Association for the Study of African American Life and History’s national theme is The Black Family: Black Health and Wellness. We honor this theme and Our Authors Study Club, saluting the present and past members who first partnered with the City over 70 years ago in 1950 to celebrate our heritage.

WHEN: Friday, February 4, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
WHERE: Join us online at https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1610517666
Meeting ID# 161 051 7666
Passcode: 996560
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 City Council; Los Angeles Board of Public Works and Mike Davis, President Pro Tem; City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs; the 2022 African American Heritage Month Committee and Honorary Chair, Actor and Philanthropist William Allen Young; the Los Angeles Urban League; and the Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel, Inc.
INFO: 323.871.5801
2022 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
LIVING LEGEND AWARDEES

THELMA HOUSTON
SINGER AND ACTRESS

THE WHISPERS
SINGING GROUP

2022 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
HALL OF FAME AWARDEES

HONORABLE DR. SHIRLEY N. WEBER
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

HONORABLE ERIC C. TAYLOR
CALIFORNIA SUPERIOR COURT

DR. JOHN GRIFFITH, PH.D.
PRESIDENT AND CEO KEDREN COMMUNITY HEALTH
2022 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
VIRTUAL ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON THE BLACK FAMILY: BLACK HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Participate in an engaging Round Table Discussion with moderator Marc Brown, co-anchor of ABC7 Eyewitness News, and local scholars: Dr. Maulana Karenga, Chair, Africana Studies, CSULB; Dr. Julianne Malveaux, Dean, College of Ethnic Studies, California State LA; Dr. Donna Nicol, Chair, Africana Studies, CSUDH; Dr. Boris Ricks, Director, Center for Southern California Studies, CSUN; and Dr. Francille Rusan Wilson, American Studies & Ethnicity, History, Gender & Sexuality Studies, USC, will discuss the Association for the Study of African American Life and History's 2022 national theme for African American Heritage Month: The Black Family: Black Health and Wellness.

WHEN: Thursday, February 3, 2022, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
WHERE: Join us online at: https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1603718617
        Meeting ID: 160 371 8617
        Passcode: 528716
COST: Free
SPONSORS: Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti; Our Authors Study Club; Los Angeles Board of Public Works; the Los Angeles Urban League; and the 2022 African American Heritage Month Committee
INFO: 323.871.5801

2022 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE


WHEN: Sunday, February 13, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
WHERE: Join us online at: www.famechurchla.org
COST: Free
SPONSORS: Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti; Los Angeles Board of Public Works; Our Authors Study Club; and the 2022 African American Heritage Month Committee
INFO: 323.871.5801
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2022
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

2022 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
VIRTUAL EVENING WITH AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS

Mayor Eric Garcetti and Our Authors Study Club cordially invite you to a virtual Evening with African American Authors. Join us for an evening of thoughtful conversation with authors: Kimberley Baker Guillemet, Black Prep: Life Lessons of a Perpetual Outsider; Renee Daniel Flagler, Society Wives; Dr. La-Doris McClaney, God, I Listened Too; and Wanda M. Morris, All Her Little Secrets.

WHEN: Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
WHERE: Join us online at https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1619033411
Meeting ID #: 1619033411
Passcode: 826835
COST: Free
SPONSORS: Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti; Our Authors Study Club; Los Angeles Board of Public Works; the Los Angeles Urban League; and the 2021 African American Heritage Month Committee
INFO: 213.978.0254
2022 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH VIRTUAL BUILDWITH CONSTRUCTION 2-PART VIRTUAL MATCHMAKING EVENT

The City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works and the Bureau of Contract Administration cordially invite you to the 6th annual BuildWith event in collaboration with Mayor Eric Garcetti’s Office of Budget and Innovation and Office of Economic Development. The 2-part virtual BuildWith 2022 event will provide the opportunity for diverse construction-related businesses to learn about City and Los Angeles metropolitan area projects, and get valuable business resources and information.

First register for the virtual Webinar from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and then for LIMITED* Prime Contractor Matchmaking Rooms and Subcontractor Matchmaking spots. Register early by February 4, 2022, to participate.

WHEN:  Webinar: Thursday, February 24, 2021, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
WHEN:  Pre-Assigned Matchmaking: Thursday, February 24, 2022, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
APPLY:  Apply before February 4, 2022, to be considered for a free matchmaking room with matched subcontractors.
WHERE:  Online

PRIME/GENERAL CONTRACTORS apply at:
A Prime Contractor’s successful participation in this event’s matchmaking MAY qualify the contractor for a waiver of the BIP Indicator 2: Attend Pre-Bid Meeting Requirement on specific projects.

SUBCONTRACTORS apply at: https://bit.ly/2022Feb24SubMMapplication
For a chance to participate in a meeting room with a matched Prime Contractor, apply BEFORE Friday, February 4, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. (PST).

NOTE: Applying does not guarantee the applicant a matchmaking Zoom room. Applicants must have a Zoom account.
AFRICAN AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH
2022
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

COST: Free

SPONSORS: City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works; Bureau of Contract Administration; Mayor Eric Garcetti's Office of Budget and Contract Administration and Office of Economic Development; Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; Los Angeles World Airports; The Port of Los Angeles; the Los Angeles Professional Managers Association; the Los Angeles Urban League; and the 2022 African American Heritage Month Committee

INFO: https://bca.lacity.org/accessingla/

*This event has a limited number of rooms and spots for subcontractors to be in a virtual roundtable meeting with a prime contractor. The subcontractors will be matched with the NAICS codes requested by a prime. The subcontractor will have 3 minutes to pitch to the prime in the virtual room in the presence of other subcontractors. Consideration for approval of an application is a combination of these factors: early application, NAICS codes matching between a prime contractor and subcontractors, and availability of spots.
2022 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH VIRTUAL CLOSING RECEPTION

The Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel, Inc. (LAABP) invites you to the 2022 African American Heritage Month Virtual Closing 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 for their exceptional service to the City of Los Angeles and the African American community.

This year, the committee has chosen to complete the celebration with special recognition in appreciation for the groundbreaking achievements of Charles "Charlie" Luther Sifford. Known as the "Jackie Robinson of Golf," Charlie was the first African American to play the PGA Tour, winning the Greater Hartford Open in 1967 and the Los Angeles Open in 1969.

WHEN: Thursday, February 24, 2022, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
WHERE: Join us online at: https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1609725447
Passcode: 259284
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel, Inc., Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti; Our Authors Study Club; Los Angeles Board of Public Works; and the 2022 African American Heritage Month Committee
INFO: laabp.org
laabp.org@gmail.com
323.871.5801
Sylvia Woolridge, *Last Song II*, Acrylic, 16” x 20”, 2021
Talita Long, *Cotton Candy Girl*, Oil on canvas, 21" x 25", 2021
Talita Long, *Indigenous Dream*, Oil on rag paper. 23” x 24”, 2021
Dolores Johnson, *Woman Watching*, Digital, 7” x 9”, 2021
2022 CITY OF LOS ANGELES
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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

2022 NATIONAL THEME
THE BLACK FAMILY: BLACK HEALTH AND WELLNESS

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Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball
President
Dr. Toni Mokjaetji Humber
Vice President
Keta Davis
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Leona "Haiba" Franklin
Secretary
Ernestine J. Gordon
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MEMBERS
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Caroline Culpepper
Theresa Curtis
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Ursula Hill
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Charmaine Jefferson
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Tonia Lucas
Alvetia E. Smith
Mildred Midkiff
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LIFETIME MEMBERS
Sandra J Evers-Manly
Mildred Gordon
Diana Kotzin
Dr. Toni Mokjaetji Humber
Mary Louise Reeves

ASSOCIATE MEMBER
Christine Smith

Our Authors Study Club, Inc.
LA Branch of ASALH
Post Office Box 47513
Los Angeles, CA 90047
www.oascla.org
William Allen Young is an acclaimed American actor who has starred in over 100 television, stage, and film projects in his illustrious career, including the Academy Award-nominated film: *A Soldier’s Story*. In addition, worldwide fans recognize him or his role as Frank Mitchell on the hit TV series *Moesha* and Rollie Guthrie on the CBS medical drama *Code Black*.

The Washington DC native grew up in South Central LA. As a child, William gained inspiration from his mother who worked as a maid to help support her seven children. She later went back to school and earned her diploma and a nursing license, then enjoyed a successful 30-year career in the medical profession. "Education helped my mother get up off her knees and realize her life's dream. That's powerful!" says William.

For over 20 years, William has been helping hundreds of disadvantaged youth realize their life’s dreams by creating opportunities for them to obtain a college education through his nonprofit Young Center for Academic & Cultural Enrichment. The organization promotes student success and empowers young people to become future leaders of their communities. Students from over 270 schools and 13 U.S. states have participated in the organization's enriching educational programs, and its alumni have been accepted at over 80 U.S. colleges and universities to date.

William is a distinguished USC graduate and holds a Masters's degree in Sociolinguistics, a bachelor's degree in Rhetoric, and an associate's degree in Communication Studies from El Camino College.

He is the recipient of a Ford Foundation Freedom Unsung Award, President’s Icon Award, NAACP Social Achievement Award, and Thomas Kilgore Jr. Service Award. In addition, he was deemed a 'Good Will Ambassador' by former President Bill Clinton, and President Barack Obama called him "a pillar for his community."
2022 NATIONAL THEME
THE BLACK FAMILY: BLACK HEALTH AND WELLNESS

2022 HONORARY CHAIR
William Allen Young
Actor/Director
Founder and President
Young Center for Academic and Cultural Achievement

2022 HONORARY COMMITTEE

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

Wendy Gladney
President / CEO
Personnel Services Plus

Rev. William D. Smart
President & CEO
Southern Christian Leadership

Rev. Marilyn Batchelor
Belinda Fontenot-Jamerson
Board Chair
Destination Crenshaw

Michael Lawson
President & CEO
Los Angeles Urban League

Charisse Bremond Weaver
President & CEO
Brotherhood Crusade

Julius Robinson
Managing Director
Investment and Community
MUFG Union Bank, N.A.
As I begin this journey in a new role as the leader of The Our Authors Study Club, Inc. (OASC, Inc), I am reminded of one of my favorite quotes by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “We are not makers of history. We are made by history.” It is a controversial statement in some circles, with scholars debating precisely what Dr. King meant with his original delivery and context. However, I firmly believe that this statement implies that we make choices based on our past knowledge as individuals and communities. Knowing our history can predetermine our future, renew our hope and aspirations, reimagine past injustices, and resolve to catapult us forward, charting new paths and adding to and building upon shared legacies.

I also believe that to paraphrase, “if you do not know your history, you are bound to repeat it. As a result, you are lost to your possibilities and have no vision of what you can be.” Therefore, researching, sharing, and preserving the history of Black people in the Americas and the world is essential to me and has always been.

I am proud of OASC and have served as a donor, Black History Chair, and member since the mid-1980s. As a result, it is important to me for the City of Los Angeles to continue to value this jewel of an organization. OASC stands as the vanguard of Black History in Los Angeles, founded by the extraordinary Vassie Wright in 1945 as a chapter of the Association for the Study of Life and History (ASALH) in Washington, DC. This chapter was approved by ASALH founder Dr. Carter G. Woodson (the Father of Black History) and continues its mission today. Each year, we want everyone to share in the OASC Los Angeles City partnership that presents invaluable and impactful heroes/sheroes and icons, knowledge, study, and life of Blacks in Los Angeles with our annual city-wide celebrations.
I welcome this opportunity that has crossed my path. To renew the life and health of OASC from the inside out is a challenging road that lies ahead. But I am very excited. We have a great team, willing to bring our best game. Our programming this coming year will focus on our national theme, “The Black Family: Black Health and Wellness.” We encourage you to participate in one or all of the Black History Month events and then join us monthly throughout the year for additional programming. Please consider membership; there is plenty to do in archiving and researching or simply learning in multiple areas of interest. Please note: Due to COVID, we meet virtually.

In closing, let me encourage us to remember a few of the history makers, icons, and legends we lost this year. Some well-known others are unsung. Actor and Civil Rights Activist Sidney Poitier, Apartheid Slayer Desmond Tutu, Educator Helen McKnight, baseball Hall of Famer Joe Morgan, and Community Leader Saundra Davis. So many more to be named. We stand on their shoulders and should use the “heirloom” of their lives to move us forward in the work we are called to do. Finally, lest I forget, a heartfelt thank you to our Mayor Eric Garcetti and our OASC champion Commissioner Mike Davis.

Together, we will continue to build The Our Authors Study Club, Inc. (OASC, Inc), into an organization that Vassie Wright, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, and each of us can be proud of. We are history in the making!
Miles Regis, *Her Majesty*, Mixed media on canvas, 46” x 37”, 2018
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: www.oascla.org, or write Our Authors Study Club, Inc. at Post Office Box 47513, Los Angeles, California 90047.
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.
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. DuBois 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.
Before he was elected president of ASALH, Dr. W. Marvin Dulaney served as Deputy Director and Chief Operations Officer for the Dallas African American Museum. This is one of several consulting and professional positions he has held since his retirement from teaching in 2016.

2022 NATIONAL THEME

THE BLACK FAMILY: BLACK HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The theme for 2022 focuses on the importance of Black Health and Wellness. This theme acknowledges the legacy of Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine and other ways of knowing (e.g., birth workers, doulas, midwives, naturopaths, herbalists, etc.) throughout the African Diaspora. In addition, the 2022 theme considers activities, rituals, and initiatives that Black communities have undertaken to be well.

In order to foster good health and wellness, Black people have embarked on self-determination, mutual aid, and social support initiatives to build hospitals, medical and nursing schools (i.e., Meharry Medical College, Howard University College of Medicine, Provident Hospital and Training School, Morehouse School of Medicine, etc.), and community clinics. Individuals, grassroots organizations, established clinics, and mutual aid societies such as the African Union Society, National Association of Colored Women, and Black Panther Party, provide spaces for Black people to counter the economic and health disparities and discrimination found at mainstream institutions. These disparities and anti-Blackness led to communities developing phrases such as "When white folks catch a cold, Black folks get pneumonia." Initiatives to help decrease disparities have centered on several outcomes, including having more diverse practitioners and representation in all segments of the medical and health fields, such as the Ronald E. McNair Scholars. Even the impact of popular culture texts like Doc McStuffins cannot be dismissed.

The rise of fields such as Public and Community Health and Health Informatics has led to an increase in preventive care and a focus on body positivity, physical exercise, nutrition, and
exploring other dietary options such as veganism, vegetarianism, and gardening. Black Health and Wellness includes one’s physical and emotional / mental health. At this point in the 21st century, our understanding of Black health and wellness is broader and more nuanced than ever. Social media and podcasts, such as The Read, hosted by Crissle and Kid Fury, have normalized talking about mental health and going to therapy as well as initiatives such as Therapy for Black Girls. More of us understand the need to hold down, lift up, center, and fight fiercely for our beloved trans siblings and family. Black girls are doing breathwork, and there are whole yoga studios dedicated to people of color.

Mindful of Sister Audre Lorde’s words, we are doing more to move forward holistically for the betterment of ourselves, our bodies, our relationships, our communities, and our planet. We are determined to create a platform that shines a light on the multiple facets of Black health and wellness through education and activism. There is much to uncover, amplify, question, and correct.

In the still overhanging shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, Black people should, and do, use data and other information-sharing modalities to document, decry, and agitate against the interconnected, intersecting, inequalities intentionally baked into systems and structures in the U.S. for no other reason than to curtail, circumscribe, and destroy Black well-being in all forms and Black lives. Moreover, Black communities must look to the past to provide the light for our future by embracing our ancestors’ rituals, traditions, and healing modalities—these ways of knowing to require decolonization of thought and practice.
Liz Covington, *What’s Next America*, Watercolor, 11” x 15”, 2021
Thank you, Mayor Eric Garcetti, for your many years of supporting, advocating, and promoting Black history and African American Heritage Month in Los Angeles. Our Author’s Study Club, Inc. remains honored and grateful for your engaging energy and heartfelt alliance, uplifting our history and heritage. Your voice will surely be missed. God speed and best wishes for safety and success in your next assignment. May favor and protection always surround your family.

“Close the door to your past... Open the door to the future, take a deep breath and step on through to start the next chapter in your life.” --Unknown

From the Officers and Members of
The Our Authors Study Club, Inc., Los Angeles
2022 CITY OF LOS ANGELES
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB

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

OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB EVENTS

2022 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH VIRTUAL 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); Actor/Director William Allen Young, Honorary Chairperson; and the 2022 African American Heritage Month Committee to officially commemorate and celebrate the Opening of African American Heritage Month in the City of Los Angeles. The 45th US Postal Service Black History Stamp honoring sculptress Edmonia Lewis will also be unveiled.

At this online celebration, presentations will be made to The Whispers and Thelma Houston with the Living Legends Awards, and to the Hall of Fame Awardees: Government Honoree, Honorable Dr. Shirley N. Weber, California Secretary of State; Law Honoree, Honorable Eric C. Taylor, California Superior Court; and Health Honoree, Dr. John Griffith, Ph.D., President and CEO, KEDREN Community Health. In addition, ABC7 Morning Show co-anchor Leslie Sykes will be the Mistress of Ceremonies.

This year’s Association for the Study of African American Life and History’s national theme is The Black Family: Black Health and Wellness. We honor this theme and Our Authors Study Club, saluting the present and past members who first partnered with the City over 70 years ago in 1950 to celebrate our heritage.

WHEN: Friday, February 4, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
WHERE: Join us online at https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1610517666
Meeting ID# 161 051 7666
Passcode: 996560
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 City Council; Los Angeles Board of Public Works and Mike Davis, President Pro Tem; City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs; the 2022 African American Heritage Month Committee and Honorary Chair, Actor and Philanthropist William Allen Young; the Los Angeles Urban League; and the Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel, Inc.
INFO: 323.871.5801

At left: Milton Davis, Girl and Green Fence, Ink on paper, 12” x 15”, 2021
OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB EVENTS

2022 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH VIRTUAL ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON THE BLACK FAMILY: BLACK HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Participate in an engaging Round Table Discussion with moderator Marc Brown, co-anchor of ABC7 Eyewitness News, and local scholars: **Dr. Maulana Karenga**, Chair, Africana Studies, CSULB; **Dr. Julianne Malveaux**, Dean, College of Ethnic Studies, California State LA; **Dr. Donna Nicol**, Chair, Africana Studies, CSUDH; **Dr. Boris Ricks**, Director, Center for Southern California Studies, CSUN; and **Dr. Francille Rusan Wilson**, American Studies & Ethnicity, History, Gender & Sexuality Studies, USC, will discuss the Association for the Study of African American Life and History’s 2022 national theme for African American Heritage Month: The Black Family: Black Health and Wellness.

**WHEN:** Thursday, February 3, 2022, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Join us online at: https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1603718617
Meeting ID: 160 371 8617
Passcode: 528716

**COST:** Free

**SPONSORS:** Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti; Our Authors Study Club; Los Angeles Board of Public Works; the Los Angeles Urban League; and the 2022 African American Heritage Month Committee

**INFO:** 323.871.5801

2022 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE


**WHEN:** Sunday, February 13, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

**WHERE:** Join us online at: www.famechurchla.org

**COST:** Free

**SPONSORS:** Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti; Los Angeles Board of Public Works; Our Authors Study Club; and the 2022 African American Heritage Month Committee

**INFO:** 323.871.5801
2022 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
VIRTUAL EVENING WITH AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS


**WHEN:** Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Join us online at https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1619033411
Meeting ID #: 161 903 3411
Passcode: 826835

**COST:** Free

**SPONSORS:** Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti; Our Authors Study Club; Los Angeles Board of Public Works; the Los Angeles Urban League; and the 2021 African American Heritage Month Committee

**INFO:** 213.978.0254
2022 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH VIRTUAL BUILDWITH CONSTRUCTION 2-PART VIRTUAL MATCHMAKING EVENT

The City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works and the Bureau of Contract Administration cordially invite you to the 6th annual BuildWith event in collaboration with Mayor Eric Garcetti’s Office of Budget and Innovation and Office of Economic Development. The 2-part virtual BuildWith 2022 event will provide the opportunity for diverse construction-related businesses to learn about City and Los Angeles metropolitan area projects, and get valuable business resources and information.

First register for the virtual Webinar from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and then for LIMITED* Prime Contractor Matchmaking Rooms and Subcontractor Matchmaking spots. Register early by February 4, 2022, to participate.

**WHEN:** Webinar: Thursday, February 24, 2021, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** https://bit.ly/2022BuildWithFeb24webinar

**WHEN:** Pre-Assigned Matchmaking: Thursday, February 24, 2022, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**APPLY:** Apply before February 4, 2022, to be considered for a free matchmaking room with matched subcontractors.

**WHERE:** Online

**PRIME/GENERAL CONTRACTORS** apply at: https://bit.ly/2022BuildWithPrimeMMRoomApplication

A Prime Contractor’s successful participation in this event’s matchmaking MAY qualify the contractor for a waiver of the BIP Indicator 2: Attend Pre-Bid Meeting Requirement on specific projects.

**SUBCONTRACTORS** apply at: https://bit.ly/2022Feb24SubMMapplication

For a chance to participate in a meeting room with a matched Prime Contractor, apply BEFORE Friday, February 4, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. (PST).

**NOTE:** Applying does not guarantee the applicant a matchmaking Zoom room. Applicants must have a Zoom account.
COST: Free

SPONSORS: City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works; Bureau of Contract Administration; Mayor Eric Garcetti’s Office of Budget and Contract Administration and Office of Economic Development; Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; Los Angeles World Airports; The Port of Los Angeles; the Los Angeles Professional Managers Association; the Los Angeles Urban League; and the 2022 African American Heritage Month Committee

INFO: https://bca.lacity.org/accessingla/

* This event has a limited number of rooms and spots for subcontractors to be in a virtual roundtable meeting with a prime contractor. The subcontractors will be matched with the NAICS codes requested by a prime. The subcontractor will have 3 minutes to pitch to the prime in the virtual room in the presence of other subcontractors. Consideration for approval of an application is a combination of these factors: early application, NAICS codes matching between a prime contractor and subcontractors, and availability of spots.
Dolores Johnson, Dapper Man, Watercolor, 5" x 7", 2021
2022 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH VIRTUAL CLOSING RECEPTION

The Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel, Inc. (LAABP) invites you to the 2022 African American Heritage Month Virtual Closing 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 for their exceptional service to the City of Los Angeles and the African American community.

This year, the committee has chosen to complete the celebration with special recognition in appreciation for the groundbreaking achievements of Charles "Charlie" Luther Sifford. Known as the "Jackie Robinson of Golf," Charlie was the first African American to play the PGA Tour, winning the Greater Hartford Open in 1967 and the Los Angeles Open in 1969.

WHEN: Thursday, February 24, 2022, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
WHERE: Join us online at: https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1609725447
Passcode: 259284
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel, Inc., Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti; Our Authors Study Club; Los Angeles Board of Public Works; the Los Angeles Urban League; and the 2022 African American Heritage Month Committee
INFO: laabp.org
laabp.org@gmail.com
323.871.5801

Gina Williams, Just Found Out, Oil painting and collage, 10" x 21", 2017
ASALH VIRTUAL NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH FESTIVAL OPENING

The opening session will describe the month-long celebration of the 2022 Black History theme, Black Health and Wellness, and will invite viewers to join with ASALH in acknowledging the legacy of Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, and other ways of knowing throughout the African Diaspora.

WHEN: February 1, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. EST
SITE: www.asalh.org
COST: Month-long Festival Passes: $65.00, $125.00 and $150.00
SPONSOR: The Association for the Study of African American Life and History
INFO: Register at https://asalh.org/calendar/black-history-month-festival-opening/ or call 202.238.5912
OUR AUTHORS STUDY CLUB EVENTS

ASALH VIRTUAL NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH FESTIVAL: RACE AND HEALTH DISPARITIES IN URBAN AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES
The Manhattan Branch will host a panel discussion on health care disparities in urban African American communities. The panel will explore ways in which race has shaped African American health throughout American history and how it paralleled, reinforced or contradicted the ways in which racialized conceptions of Blacks have shaped healthcare opportunities and/other discourses
WHEN: February 5, 1:00 pm EST
SITE: Online via ASALH TV
COST: Free and Open to the Public
SPONSOR: The Association for the Study of African American Life and History
or Call ASALH Office at 202.238.5912

ASALH VIRTUAL NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH FESTIVAL: AUTHOR’S BOOK TALK EVENT: RESISTING JIM CROW: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF DR. JOHN A. MCFALL
John McFall was born 15 years after Emancipation. He was the first of eleven children born to a freed couple in Charleston, South Carolina.
WHEN: February 10, 6:00 pm - EST
SITE: www.asalh.org
COST: Month-long Festival Passes: $65.00, $125.00 and $150.00
SPONSOR: The Association for the Study of African American Life and History
INFO: Register at https://asalh.org/calendar/resisting-jim-crow/
or call 202.238.5912

ASALH VIRTUAL NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH FESTIVAL: BLACK BODIES, PART I: EXPLOITATION IN MEDICINE
The first session will examine the history of medicine, clinical practice, and policies that have impacted African American health and contributed to disparities. The discussion will include the origins of American gynecology, Henrietta Lacks HeLa cells, and the Lyles Station radiation experiments.
WHEN: February 12, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm EST
SITE: www.asalh.org
COST: Month-long Festival Passes: $65.00, $125.00 and $150.00
SPONSOR: The Association for the Study of African American Life and History
INFO: Register at https://asalh.org/calendar/black-bodies-part-i-exploitation-in-medicine/
or call 202.238.5912
ASALH VIRTUAL NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH FESTIVAL: ASALH BOOK PRIZE

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) awards an annual prize to recognize an outstanding book in the field of African American history and culture.

**WHEN:** February 17, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm EST  
**SITE:** www.asalh.org  
**COST:** Free and Open to the Public  
**SPONSOR:** The Association for the Study of African American Life and History  
**INFO:** Register online at: https://asalh.org/calendar/asalh-book-prize/ or call ASALH Office at 202.238.5912

ASALH VIRTUAL NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH FESTIVAL: PRESIDENTIAL CONVERSATION

A highlight of this year’s Festival is a moderated conversation with ASALH President W. Marvin Dulaney and Presidents of Black medical schools and professional health organizations.

**WHEN:** February 19, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm EST  
**SITE:** www.asalh.org  
**COST:** Free and Open to the Public  
**SPONSOR:** The Association for the Study of African American Life and History  
**INFO:** https://asalh.org/calendar/presidential-conversation/ or call ASALH Office at 202.238.5912

ASALH VIRTUAL NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH FESTIVAL: GENERATIONS OF FREEDOM: GENDER, MOVEMENT, AND VIOLENCE IN NATCHEZ, 1779-1865

In Generations of Freedom, Nik Ribianszky employs the lenses of gender and violence to examine family, community, and the tenacious struggles by which free blacks claimed and maintained their freedom under shifting international governance from Spanish colonial rule (1779-95), through American acquisition (1795) and eventual statehood (established in 1817), and finally to slavery’s legal demise in 1865.

**WHEN:** February 24, 6:00 pm - 6:15 pm EST  
**SITE:** www.asalh.org  
**COST:** Month-long Festival Passes: $65.00, $125.00 and $150.00  
**SPONSOR:** The Association for the Study of African American Life and History  
**INFO:** https://asalh.org/calendar/generations-of-freedom/ or call ASALH Office at 202.238.5912
Jerry Weems, *Aunt Holding Baby*, Oil on corrugated tin, 24” x 48”, 2020
**ASALH VIRTUAL NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH FESTIVAL: BLACK BODIES, PART II: RACE NORMING IN THE NFL**

The second session will focus on contemporary issues addressing health and well-being among Black athletes. It will feature a round table discussion among former NFL players and sports medicine professionals about issues of race norming, mental health and other relevant topics affecting the health and well-being of Black athletes.

**WHEN:** February 27, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm EST

**SITE:** www.asalh.org

**COST:** Month-long Festival Passes: $65.00, $125.00 and $150.00

**SPONSOR:** The Association for the Study of African American Life and History

**INFO:** https://asalh.org/calendar/black-bodies-part-ii-race-norming-in-the-nfl/ or call ASALH Office at 202.238.5912
Kraig King, *Family*, Acrylic on stretched canvas, 30" x 34", 2019
Feliz Mc Innis, *Shaman I Am*, Recycled paper, 42” x 60”, 2021
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
CALENDAR AND CULTURAL GUIDE

COMMUNITY EVENTS

2022
CHILDREN AND TEENS

CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS AUTHOR TALK WITH JERRY CRAFT
Have your drawing supplies and questions ready! Spend an afternoon with the 2020 Coretta Scott King Book Award Winner Author Jerry Craft as he answers questions about his award-winning and best-selling book, *New Kid*, and the companion book *Class Act* while he draws live.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: youtube.com/watch?v=oyFU8fx6un4&t=19s 213.228.7250

CREATIVE CAREER PATHS: COMIC AND WRITER GLORIA BIGELOW
With a witty and honest brand of humor, writer and comedian Gloria Bigelow has performed at top comedy clubs and festivals around the nation and has been featured on numerous TV specials. Director/producer Kimberley Browning sits down for a conversation with Gloria to talk about her journey into the comedy scene, and her current work writing on *Bob Hearts Abishola* on CBS.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles County Library
INFO: youtube.com/watch?v=bbyfjRtbQIM 310.538.0059

CREATIVE CAREER PATHS: COSTUME DESIGNER
Learn how film and TV costume designer Derica Cole Washington approaches visualizing a story and composing the dressed body on screen. Derica will talk about her career journey, tips for navigating the industry, the wide range of creative roles in a wardrobe department, and how she works to represent a distinct perspective and visual voice.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles County Library
INFO: youtube.com/watch?v=fPv3kLrMiG8&t=21s
CREATIVE CAREER PATHS: VISUAL EFFECTS (VFX)

Learn how to get started in creating visual effects for film, episodic, and commercials. In this conversation, tracking/matchmoving/layout artist Michael Ramirez and Group President, VFX & Stereo at DNEG Josh Jaggars talks about different types of visual effects careers, tips for getting ahead, and the future of the industry.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles County Library
INFO: youtube.com/watch?v=CQ8I6jxuxHk
310.538.0059
LA MADE: AMA WITH A NASA SCIENTIST

NASA scientist Kim Sandhu, an aerospace engineer with more than 30 years of experience working on rocket flight research, will give a virtual tour of SOFIA (Strategic Observatory for Infrared Astronomy), the world’s only flying observatory, then answer any and all of your science questions.

WHEN:  Ongoing Program  
SITE:  Streaming  
COST:  Free  
SPONSOR:  Los Angeles Public Library  
INFO:  youtube.com/watch?v=J_oYEFHb3fk&t=494s  
        213.228.7250

STORY HACKERS EPISODE 2 - ROCKET SAYS LOOK UP!

Children’s librarian Ednita Kelly takes imagination, science, and community engagement to new heights with the book *Rocket Says Look Up!* written by Nathan Bryon and illustrated by Dapo Adeola.

WHEN:  Ongoing Program  
SITE:  Streaming  
COST:  Free  
SPONSOR:  Los Angeles Public Library  
INFO:  youtube.com/watch?v=6Ua_AhT9cOA  
        213.228.7250

TEENTASTIC TUESDAYS: HBCU 101

What are HBCUs? And why might they be a good option for you? Tune in to this panel conversation with current and recent HBCU graduates, as they discuss the history of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, their experiences attending one, and why teens should consider applying.

WHEN:  Ongoing Program  
SITE:  Streaming  
COST:  Free  
SPONSOR:  Los Angeles Public Library  
INFO:  youtube.com/watch?v=V647zn1JU-E  
        213.228.7250
Aaron Samuel, Jesus the God, Acrylic, 24" x 36", 2020
TEENTASTICTUESDAY: #DISABLEDANDCUTE WITH KEAH BROWN
Join us for a conversation with disability rights activist, author, journalist, and writer Keah Brown. Keah is the creator of the #DisabledAndCute viral campaign.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: youtube.com/watch?v=g73RxocUGJc
213.228.7250

YOUR AUTHOR SERIES: BRANDY COLBERT
Join us in welcoming author Brandy Colbert as she discusses her latest non-fiction book, Black Birds in the Sky: The Story and Legacy of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre.

WHEN: Ongoing program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: youtube.com/watch?v=r2cfF5-gBwk
213.228.7250

YOUR AUTHOR SERIES: ME & MAMA BY COZBI CABRERA
Come welcome artist Cozbi Cabrera to the library’s YouTube channel and Facebook page as she shows us her award-winning book, Me & Mama.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: youtube.com/watch?v=p9K93iBVfzM
213.228.7250
COMMUNITIES CREATE LA! COLORFUL CREATURES
Join us at the park to create and personalize your own colorful animal inspired by the lively animal species around the park! Led by teaching artist Katy Unger.

WHEN: February 5, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 Noon
SITE: Roy Campanella Park
14812 S. Stanford Ave., Compton
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles County Museum of Art
INFO: lacma.org/event/communities-create-la-colorful-creatures
310.603.3720

BOOK CLUB BONANZA: AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION
We will pick a book to read via hoopla in celebration of African American Heritage Month. We will pitch each other Young adult fiction, nonfiction or graphic novels.

WHEN: February 7, 14, and 28, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
SITE: Live Streaming
COST: Free, email: teens@lapl.org for zoom link
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library - Teen'Scape
INFO: lapl.org/whats-on/events/book-club-bonanza-african-american-heritage-celebration
213.228.7250

ONLINE BLACK HISTORY RESOURCES FOR TEENS
Explore online Black history and heritage resources from the Los Angeles Public Library and other institutions. Resources will include digitized Black newspapers, photography collections focused on African American communities, and oral histories from Black History makers.

WHEN: February 9, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
SITE: Live Streaming
COST: Free, email: teens@lapl.org for zoom link
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library - Teen'Scape
INFO: lapl.org/whats-on/events/online-black-history-resources-teens-0
213.228.7250
COMMUNITIES CREATE LA! MYTHICAL CREATURES

Join us at AC Bilbrew or Compton Libraries and travel into the enchanting world of mythology to create your own mythical animal using a variety of fun materials!

**WHEN:** February 17, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

**SITES:**
- AC Bilbrew Library
  150 E. El Segundo Blvd., Los Angeles
- Compton Library
  240 W Compton Blvd, Compton

**COST:** Free

**SPONSOR:** Los Angeles County Museum of Art

**INFO:** laca.org/event/communities-create-la-mythical-creatures
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2022
COMMUNITY EVENTS

TAKE A WALK IN THE ZOO AUTHOR’S TALK AND LOS ANGELES ZOO TOUR

Join Los Angeles Zoo CEO and Director Denise Verret for a conversation and book signing with *Take a Walk in the Zoo!* author Tommy Morrow. Following the talk, Denise Verret will lead a special walk through the Zoo.

**WHEN:** February 19, call or check website for time

**SITE:** Los Angeles Zoo
5333 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles

**COST:** Included in Los Angeles Zoo admission $22 adult, $17 child

**SPONSOR:** Los Angeles Zoo

**INFO:**
lazoo.org
323.644.4200

*Djibril Drame, *Offerings, Digital photography, 127.8 × 81.3 cm, 2015
BASQUIAT CROWN CRAFT - CORONA DE BASQUIAT

Join us to learn about the artist Jean-Michel Basquiat and make your own crown.

**WHEN:** February 24, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

**SITE:** Robert Louis Stevenson Branch Library
803 Spence St., Los Angeles

**COST:** Free

**SPONSOR:** Robert Louis Stevenson Branch Library

**INFO:** lapl.org/branches/rl-stevenson
lapl.org/whats-on/events/basquiat-crown-craft-corona-de-basquiat
323.268.4710
LET'S READ AND MAKE ART - THE POWER OF WORDS

We will read an inspirational story then create word art together. Designed for children ages 5-11 years old. Pick up a bag of craft supplies in the Children's Literature Department, Central Library, starting February 10. (1 per person, while supplies last).

**WHEN:** February 24, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
**SITE:** Live Streaming
**COST:** Free, email: children@lapl.org for the Zoom meeting link
**SPONSOR:** Los Angeles Public Library, Children's Literature Department
**INFO:** lapl.org/whats-on/events/lets-read-and-make-art-power-words
213.228.7250
TEEN BOOK BITES: BLACK INGENUITY, BLACK COMMUNITY & BLACK JOY
Join our librarians as they share books for teens that celebrate African American heritage.

WHEN:    February 28, 3:00 p.m.
SITE:    Live Streaming
COST:    Free
SPONSOR:    Los Angeles Public Library
           213.228.7250

COMMUNITIES CREATE LA! NATURE ABSTRACTED
Join us at Earvin "Magic" Johnson Park or Roy Campanella Park to have a blast as you immerse yourself in the world of abstraction to create a watercolor painting highlighting nature’s beauty and irregularity.

WHEN:    March 5, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon
SITES:    Earvin "Magic" Johnson Park
           905 E. El Segundo Blvd., Los Angeles
           Roy Campanella Park
           4812 S. Stanford Ave., Compton
COST:    Free
SPONSOR:    Los Angeles County Museum of Art
INFO:    lacma.org/event/communities-create-la-nature-abstracted
           323.942.8457
EVERYBODY’S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE
Jamie New is sixteen and lives in public housing in Sheffield, England. Jamie doesn’t quite fit in, he’s terrified about the future and he’s going to be a sensation. Inspired by a true story, Everybody’s Talking About Jamie is an award-winning musical.

WHEN: Through February 20, check website for times
SITE: Ahmanson Theatre
135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
COST: $35 - $145
SPONSOR: Center Theatre Group
INFO: centertheatregroup.org/visit/ahmanson-theatre
213.628.2772
MALCOLM REVISITED

Patrisse Cullors' *Malcolm Revisited*, is a new commissioned video work. *Malcolm Revisited* explores the iconic historical figure, Malcolm X and the current impact of the movement for Black lives.

**WHEN:** Ongoing Program  
**SITE:** Streaming  
**COST:** Free  
**SPONSOR:** Patrisse Cullors  
**INFO:** slowbl.ink/highlights/2020/10/28/malcolm-revisited
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
2022 HERITAGE MONTH
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

WHO AM I
Seven actor-writers share their truth about the significance of Black History Month. Unspooling personal stories as well as life lessons learned from their parents and grandparents, they explore the impact of their heritage in shaping the artists they are today. Words and images collide in a frank examination of what it means to be Black in America.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Theatre West, City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs
INFO: youtube.com/watch?v=VTD8G9dOB5Q
323.851.7977

WORLD CINEMA SERIES: NIGHT OF THE KINGS
A young man is sent to "La Maca", a prison in Ivory Coast in the middle of the forest ruled by its prisoners. With the red moon rising, he is designated by the Boss to be the new "Roman" and must tell a story to the other prisoners.

WHEN: February 5, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
SITE: Los Angeles Central Library - Meeting Room A
630 W. 5th St., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: lapl.org/branches/central-library
lapl.org
213.228.7000

SLAVE PLAY
The old South lives on at the MacGregor Plantation – “in the breeze, in the cotton fields...and in the crack of the whip.” It's an antebellum fever-dream, where fear and desire entwine in the looming shadow of the Master's House.

WHEN: February 9 - March 13, 8:00 p.m. Tuesdays - Saturdays 8:00 p.m., check online for matinee days and times
SITE: Mark Taper Forum
135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles
COST: $30 - $90
SPONSOR: Center Theatre Group
INFO: centertheatregroup.org/tickets/mark-taper-forum/2021/slave-play
213.628.2772
FILM CLUB DISCUSSION: LILIES OF THE FIELD

The film tells the story of an itinerant worker who encounters a group of East German nuns, who believe he has been sent to them by God to build them a new chapel.

WHEN:        February 12, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
SITE:         Live Streaming
COST:         Free, email: grnhls@lapl.org for the Zoom meeting link
SPONSOR:      Granada Hills Branch Library
INFO:         lapl.org/whats-on/events/film-club-discussion-lilies-field-1963

Adesina Cooper, *Black Mountain pt. 1*, Ceramic earthenware, 11’ x 12’ x 7’, 2021
INFOCUS: BLACK CINEMA

NewFilmmakers Los Angeles hosts its February Monthly Film Festival and annual InFocus: Black Cinema program, along with a block of films from The Black TV & Film Collective, 2021 Black Producers’ Fellowship, the Los Angeles premiere of writer-director Christian Rozier’s Apache Leap, and a program of local and international music videos.

**WHEN:** February 19, 1:30 - 11:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

**SITE:** South Park Center
1139 S. Hill St., Los Angeles

**COST:** $10 - $30

**SPONSOR:** NewFilmmakers Los Angeles, National Endowment for the Arts

**INFO:** NFMLA.org
323.521.7385

THE PAN AFRICAN FILM & ARTS FESTIVAL

Screening over 150 new films made by or about Black people from the world-over, The Pan African Film & Arts Festival (PAFF) is the largest and prestigious Black film festival in the United States. Additionally, PAFF hosts a fine art show, panels, workshops, a SpokenWordFest, a Comedy Show, Fashion Show, a free Children’s Fest, and free Seniors’ Connection.

**WHEN:** April 19 – May 1, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Postponed from February

**SITE:** Cinemark Theaters - Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza
4020 Marlton Ave., Los Angeles

**COST:** Free events, average movie ticket $10

**SPONSOR:** The Pan African Film & Arts Festival

**INFO:** paff.org
HERITAGE

A BLACK GAZE: TINA CAMPT AND LERONN BROOKS IN CONVERSATION

What is a "Black gaze"? The idea of a "gaze" is commonly invoked as a shorthand for visual structures of dominance (the white gaze, colonial gaze, etc.) - but what does it mean to combine the gaze with Blackness? In conversation with Getty associate curator LeRonn Brooks, Tina Campt will unpack these questions as she sees them emerging in the work of Black contemporary artists.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: The Getty Center
INFO: youtube.com/watch?v=XYD207p0tnI
310.440.7300

A SHADY DIVIDE

In sunny Los Angeles, a lack of tree cover in low-income areas has left many residents especially vulnerable to rising heat. It’s a legacy of the city’s design as well as its history of racist policies. Journalist Alejandra Borunda documented this in “Shady Divide,” and will talk about the history that led to shade inequity across the city, the heat-related dangers arising from a lack of tree canopies in poorer areas, and some of the ways people are trying to fix the problem.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: youtube.com/c/losangeleslibrary
213.228.7250
Garland Kirkpatrick, *Flagration*, Digital collage, 8" x 10", 2020
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2022
COMMUNITY EVENTS

AMANDA GORMAN - LIFT EVERY VOICE:
WHY AFRICAN AMERICAN POETRY MATTERS

Amanda Gorman reads *The Negro Speaks of Rivers* by Langston Hughes and her own poem, *Old Jim Crow Got to Go*.

**WHEN:** Ongoing program  
**SITE:** Streaming  
**COST:** Free  
**SPONSOR:** Los Angeles Public Library  
**INFO:** [youtube.com/watch?v=min6Q60dWKI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=min6Q60dWKI)  
213.228.7250
ART BREAK: RE-ENVISIONING AMERICAN MONUMENTS
In his 2020–21 project American Monuments, artist, and publisher Kris Graves features images of Civil War monuments re-envisioned in light of Black Lives Matter protests. In this conversation with curator LeRonn Brooks, Graves discusses his experience photographing monuments over the past year as it relates to his practice of creating art that confronts societal problems.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: The Getty Center
INFO: youtube.com/watch?v=oluuhJfd9Vo
310.440.7300

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM YOUTUBE CHANNEL
You can access all CAAM's videos from artist interviews to exhibition previews and guest profiles on CAAM's YouTube Channel. There are full recordings of many of their archived Zoom programs including a free yoga class and this inspiring talk with Black Lives Matter co-founder Alicia Garza and political commentator Bakari Sellers. New videos are added frequently.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: California African American Museum
INFO: youtube.com/channel/UCxbgXMDaQPRWeBxTd85HtFg?view_as=subscriber
213.744.7432

DOCUMENTING DISSENT: L.A. ARTISTS' PROTEST PHOTOGRAPHY
After an unprecedented year of protests, this conversation explores how artists and scholars use photography to record dissent. Focusing on documentation of protests in Los Angeles since the 1960s, moderators explore the protest photography with local artists, contextualizing contemporary photojournalism in a broader historical framework of documentary photography and drawing on protest imagery in the Getty collections.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: The Getty Center
INFO: youtube.com/watch?v=s25S08MGoZg
310.440.7300
Amina AmXn, *God Is a Black Womxn 5*, Digital photography, 16” x 20”, 2019
IN CONVERSATION: MARGO JEFFERSON AND ALLYSON HOBBS

Margo Jefferson, author of *Negroland: A Memoir*, and Allyson Hobbs, Associate Professor of U.S. History and Director of African and African American Studies at Stanford University, examine the creation of the Black middle and upper classes, social clubs, feminism, and the ways in which these themes play a role in CAAM’s exhibition *Rights and Rituals: The Making of African American Debutante Culture*.

WHEN: Ongoing Program  
SITE: Streaming  
COST: Free  
SPONSOR: California African American Museum, LA County Library  
INFO: youtube.com/channel/UCxbgXMDaQPRWeBxTd85HtFg/featured  
213.744.7432

IN CONVERSATION: PATRISSE CULLORS AND ANGELA DAVIS

In *An Abolitionist’s Handbook*, artist, author, and organizer Patrisse Cullors charts a framework for how everyday activists can effectively fight. Filled with the history of abolition, a reimagining of what reparations look like for Black lives, and real-life anecdotes, *An Abolitionist’s Handbook* offers an approach to how to be a modern-day abolitionist. Join Cullors as she discusses her latest work with political activist, scholar, and philosopher Angela Davis. This program is moderated by LA County Library Director Skye Patrick.

WHEN: Ongoing Program  
SITE: Streaming  
COST: Free  
SPONSOR: California African American Museum, LA County Library  
INFO: youtube.com/channel/UCxbgXMDaQPRWeBxTd85HtFg/featured  
213.744.7432

LA MADE: A CONVERSATION BETWEEN HANIF ABDURRAQIB AND COURTNEY LILLY

Join us for a special LA Made program featuring NY Times best-selling author and poet, Hanif Abdurraqib, in conversation with Courtney Lilly, head writer of the hit ABC show, *Black-ish*. They’ll be discussing Hanif’s new book, *A Little Devil in America*.

WHEN: Ongoing Program  
SITE: Streaming  
COST: Free  
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library  
INFO: youtube.com/watch?v=__qAEuTEDK0  
213.228.7250
LA MADE: COMPTON COWBOYS: HOW HORSES TURNED FRIENDS INTO FAMILY AND SAVED A COMMUNITY

Join Author Walter Thompson-Hernandez as he discusses cowboys and community with Randy Savvy, Leader of the Compton Cowboys. His new book *The Compton Cowboys: A New Generation of Cowboys in America's Urban Heartland* explores the history and current realities of these young modern-day black Cowboys working to uplift their community through horses and ranching lifestyle.

**WHEN:** Ongoing Program  
**SITE:** Streaming  
**COST:** Free  
**SPONSOR:** Los Angeles Public Library  
**INFO:**  
youtube.com/watch?v=DA_EnNwvsX4  
213.228.7250
PANEL DISCUSSION: BLACK AND AFRO LATINX EXPERIENCE IN MEDIA

As a part of Solidarity for Sanctuary, Diana Diaz leads a wide-ranging conversation exploring Black and Brown solidarity with a focus on women and non-binary people in media.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Ford Amphitheatre
INFO: theford.com/about/watch-and-listen/panel-discussion-black-and-afro-latinx-experience-in-media
323.461.3673

Judith Bowman, Can u Save Humanity? Paper collage on canvas, 12” x 9”, 2018
AfriCan AmeriCan HERITAGE mOnth
CoMMuniTy eVeNts

Quilt Codes of the Underground Railroad
Learn about the Underground Railroad and quilt codes. It is believed secret codes and symbols were sewn into quilts and used as visual maps to assist fugitive slaves in their escape to freedom. You can create your own log cabin quilt design using these instructions.

WHen: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles County Library
INFO: youtube.com/watch?v=XLo05HGd43c&list=PLRsndPpfC7j8ZGu2gpF1evfX1cLn5hUK&index=16
310.538.0059

Aaron Samuel, Adam and Eve, Acrylic, 24” x 36”, 2021
REGARDING PAUL R. WILLIAMS WITH AUTHOR JANNA IRELAND

Join photographer Janna Ireland as she discusses famed Los Angeles architect Paul R. Williams (the first Black member of the American Institute of Architects) and her project to photograph many of his built works around Southern California. 280 of her photos were recently published in her book, *Regarding Paul R. Williams: A Photographer’s View*.

**WHEN:** Ongoing Program

**SITE:** Streaming

**COST:** Free

**SPONSOR:** Los Angeles Public Library

**INFO:**
- youtube.com/watch?v=eUK8S7LFta0
- 213.228.7250
TATTOOING THE AFRICAN DIASPORA WITH JAMES SPOONER

While Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) are deeply connected to tattoo history, the industry is riddled with misinformation when it comes to dark skin. James Spooner, specializes in tattooing richly pigmented skin, will dispel those myths, and advise on how to get a quality tattoo. He also discusses African body modification traditions and their ties to current tattoo practices.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles County Library
INFO: youtube.com/watch?v=aUal14a9gWE 310.538.0059
THE SUN KING AT SEA: A CONVERSATION ON MARITIME ART AND GALLEY SLAVERY

Art historian Meredith Martin and historian Gillian Weiss discuss their new cross-disciplinary book, *The Sun King at Sea*, which focuses on the presence and portrayal of galley slaves, especially enslaved Muslims, during the reign of King Louis XIV (r. 1643–1715). Examining ship design, artillery sculpture, medals, paintings, and prints, it uncovers forced labor as a vital aspect of royal representation between France’s Mediterranean coast and its capital.

**WHEN:** February 10, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

**SITE:** Live Streaming

**COST:** Free, register in advance

**SPONSOR:** The Getty Center

**INFO:** [getty.edu/visit/cal/events/ev_3395.html](http://getty.edu/visit/cal/events/ev_3395.html) 310.440.7300
BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION: THE NICKEL BOYS

The Nickel Boys is a 2019 novel by American novelist Colson Whitehead. It is based on the real story of the Dozier School, a reform school in Florida that operated for 111 years and warped and destroyed the lives of thousands of children.

WHEN: February 16, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
SITE: Live Streaming
COST: Free, email: grnhls@lapl.org for the Zoom link
SPONSOR: Granada Hills Branch Library
INFO: lapl.org/whats-on/events/book-club-discussion-nickel-boys

BANK OF FINANCE - THE HISTORY OF THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN BANK ON THE WEST COAST

Founded in 1964, the Bank of Finance was the first state-chartered, black-owned commercial bank to be opened in Los Angeles. The Bank of Finance soon grew to have more than 6 million dollars in assets and would regularly provide lines of credit to people who had no other means of obtaining them. Join Natalie Mallard as she tells the story of her great uncle Onie, highlighting the overall significance of his achievements.

WHEN: February 17, 4:00 p.m.
SITE: Live Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: lapl.org/whats-on/events/bank-finance-history-first-african-american-bank-west-coast
213.228.7250

GENEALOGY GARAGE: THE BASICS OF JAMAICAN GENEALOGY

Many African Americans have ancestors who hailed from Jamaica, but where does one start to research them? Experienced research Phillip Nicholas will show us the resources available to explore this fascinating area of genealogy.

WHEN: February 19, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
SITE: Live Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: youtube.com/user/losangeleslibrary
213.228.7250
BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION: THE BLUEST EYE

The novel takes place in 1941 in Ohio and tells the story of a young African American girl who is consistently regarded as "ugly" due to her mannerisms and dark skin. As a result, she develops an inferiority complex, which fuels her desire for the blue eyes she equates with "whiteness."

**WHEN:** February 23, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**SITE:** Live Streaming

**COST:** Free, email: grnhls@lapl.org for the Zoom link

**SPONSOR:** Granada Hills Branch Library

**INFO:** lapl.org/whats-on/events/classics-book-club-discussion-bluest-eye

818.368.5687

Talita Long, *In Between*, Oil on canvass, 48" x 48", 2020
Linda Temoir, *Fathomless*, Ink drawing, 12” x 9.5”, 2018
AFRO-INDIGENOUS HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

Black and Indigenous peoples used solidarity as a means of imagining freedom from oppression and since that time, have remained close allies in the fight for justice. Covering the civil rights movement and freedom struggles of the 1960s and 70s, Afro-Indigenous historian Kyle T. Mays explores current debates around the use of Native American imagery and the cultural appropriation of Black culture.

**WHEN:** February 24, 4:00 p.m.
**SITE:** Live Streaming
**COST:** Free
**SPONSOR:** Los Angeles Public Library
**INFO:** lapl.org/whats-on/events/afro-indigenous-history-united-states
213.228.7250

PROSPERITY MARKET @ CAAM

Celebrate Black farmers, chefs, and entrepreneurs at Prosperity Market. Expect to find your favorites: fresh fruits and vegetables; deliciously prepared foods; and, handcrafted artisan goods. You'll also enjoy a jammin' DJ, cooking demonstrations, a kid's corner, raffles, and more.

**WHEN:** February 26, 11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
**SITE:** California African American Museum
600 State Dr., Exposition Park, Los Angeles
**COST:** Free, RSVP at website
**SPONSOR:** California African American Museum
**INFO:** caamuseum.org/programs/kids-teens-and-families/prosperity-market-caam
213.744.7432
MUSEUMS

ART BREAK: SEEING BLACKNESS IN GREEK AND ETRUSCAN ART
Focusing on a 2,500-year-old Etruscan bronze statuette, antiquities curator Claire Lyons and Sarah Derbew, assistant professor of classics at Stanford University, consider depictions of Black Africans in classical art and literature. They confront simplistic modern assumptions about race and servitude and investigate how meanings shift when images of Blackness migrate between cultures and across time.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: The Getty Center
INFO: youtube.com/watch?v=SSzzFaNGpmQ&t=20s 310.440.7300

BLACK AMERICAN PORTRAITS
Black American Portraits chronicles how Black Americans have used portraiture to envision themselves in their own eyes. This exhibition reframes portraiture to center Black American subjects, sitters, and spaces. Spanning over two centuries, this selection of approximately 140 works draws primarily from LACMA’s permanent collection and highlights emancipation and early studio photography, scenes from the Harlem Renaissance, portraits from the Civil Rights and Black Power eras, and multiculturalism of the 1990s.

WHEN: Through April 17, 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 receive free general admission after 3 p.m. weekdays
SPONSOR: Los Angeles County Museum of Art
INFO: lacma.org 323.857.6010
CASSANDRA PRESS: AN UNFOLDING, SANFORD BIGGERS AND THE AMISTAD RESEARCH CENTER

*Cassandra Press: An Unfolding, Sanford Biggers and the Amistad Research Center* is an exhibition and publication that takes the form of spatial reading—north, south, east, west. As an exhibition and bound reader, the work cuts across the gallery, the binding, an artist’s practice, and an historical archive.

**WHEN:** Through February 13, Tuesdays - Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sundays 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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

**COST:** Free

**SPONSOR:** California African American Museum, Cassandra Press, Amistad Research Center and Rivers Institute for Contemporary Art & Thought in New Orleans

**INFO:** caamuseum.org/exhibitions/2021/cassandra-press-an-unfolding-sanford-biggers-and-the-amistad-research-center
213.744.7432


DAVE MATTHEWS BAND: INSIDE AND OUT

Explore the nearly 30-year history of the renowned Dave Matthews Band. From their beginnings, in the early 1990s, to their sold-out world tours and impactful benefit concerts, Dave Matthews Band has provided fans with a singular live experience, while also using their success and reach to give back to those in need.

**WHEN:** Through February 6, Sundays - Fridays 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m., Saturdays 11:00 a.m. - 6:00p.m. Tuesdays - Closed

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

**COST:** Adults $15, Seniors, Youth, College Student, Military $13, Children (under 5) and Members Free

**SPONSOR:** Grammy Museum

**INFO:** grammymuseum.org/grammymuseum.org/event/dave-matthews-band-inside-and-out
213.725.5700
DIEDRICK BRACKENS: HEAVEN IS A MUDDY RIVERBED

Diedrick Brackens is best known for his woven tapestries that explore allegory and narrative through the artist’s autobiographical themes of African American and queer identity, as well as American history. Brackens employs techniques from West African weaving, quilting from the American South and European tapestry-making to create both abstract and figurative works.

WHEN: Through March 30, Wednesdays - Sundays 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
SITE: Craft Contemporary
5814 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles
COST: Adults - $9, Students, Teachers, and Seniors - $7 CAFAM members Free, Free on Sundays
SPONSOR: Craft Contemporary
INFO: cafam.org
323.937.4230
Judith Bowman, Blow, not Through; Paper with oil markers, 5.5" x 6", 2017
FAMILY ALBUM: DANNIELLE BOWMAN, JANNA IRELAND AND CONTEMPORARY WORKS FROM LACMA

Revealing insights about family life and the quotidian in the 21st century, Family Album explores the work of artists of color who examine themselves and history through the family photographs. Artists confront the physical, political, and emotional aspects of home. Integral to the exhibition is the exploration of community.

WHEN: Through June 5, Gallery is open to the public every Saturday afternoon from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

SITE: Charles White Elementary School Gallery
2401 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles

COST: Free

SPONSOR: Los Angeles County Museum of Art

INFO: lacma.org
213.487.9172
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2022
COMMUNITY EVENTS

I AM: NEW AFRO LATINX NARRATIVES
Together with renowned artists, we celebrate and honor African heritage and its influence in Latin American countries and the rich culture that resulted from that union.

WHEN: Ongoing
SITE: Museum of Latin American Art - Online
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA)
INFO: molaa.org/i-am-new-afrolatinx-narratives
      562.437.1689

LA TOYA RUBY FRAZIER: THE LAST CRUZE
In The Last Cruze, artist LaToya Ruby Frazier chronicles the lives of workers at the General Motors plant in Lordstown, Ohio, as the facility stopped production after more than fifty years of operation.

WHEN: Through March 20, Tuesdays - Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sundays 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
SITE: California African American Museum
      600 State Dr., Exposition Park, Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: California African American Museum
INFO: caamuseum.org
      caamuseum.org/exhibitions/2021/latoya-ruby-frazier-the-last-cruze
      213.744.7432

LOOKING LIKE A PERSON: PORTRAITS AFTER COLONIALITY
This symposium interrogates the issues raised by contemporary artist Kehinde Wiley's new painting Portrait of a Young Gentleman, which responds to Thomas Gainsborough’s grand manner masterpiece The Blue Boy. Between these two paintings, separated by 250 years, lies a colonial history that has managed representation across a field of visuality, nominating certain figures for human status and others for something less or more.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens
INFO: huntington.org
      youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIK167T5eiOZPDZcCD0k6ulonr68mtctj
      626.405.2100
MARK BRADFORD: 150 PORTRAIT TONE

Mark Bradford’s 150 Portrait Tone, a mural-size composition is based on the fatal shooting of Philando Castile by a police officer in Saint Paul, Minnesota, in July 2016. Castile, a nutrition services supervisor at an elementary school, was shot after being pulled over in his car—an incident that was livestreamed on Facebook by Castile’s girlfriend, Diamond Reynolds, who was sitting in the passenger seat next to him.

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 receive free general admission after 3 p.m. weekdays

SPONSOR:  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art

INFO:  
lacma.org  
323.857.6010

Valerie Wallick, Boat Watching, Photography, 8” x 11”, 2019
RIGHTS AND RITUALS: THE MAKING OF AFRICAN AMERICAN DEBUTANTE CULTURE

This exhibition investigates the origins of African American social organizations and the ways they supported young Black women’s participation in vital, albeit sometimes understated, race work.

WHEN: Through February 27, Tuesdays - Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sundays 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
SITE: California African American Museum
600 State Dr., Exposition Park, Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: California African American Museum
INFO: caamuseum.org
caamuseum.org/exhibitions/2021/rights-and-rituals-the-making-of-african-american-debutante-culture
213.744.7432

Mark7, Tehuti of My Village, Watercolor, 6” x 12”, 2021
Teresa Tolliver, Reflection, Mixed media, 1’ x 2” x 2’ x 2”, 2020
Fanfare COVID-19
for solo lip-reed aerophone player

William Roper

Ecole Occidentale Music. © 2020 ASCAP. Printed in USA.

William Roper, Fanfare COVID-19, Digital graphic, 8.5" x 11", 2020
SONGS OF CONSCIENCE, SOUNDS OF FREEDOM
The exhibit examines the role music has played throughout American history. From spirituals sung by enslaved people and the songs and sounds of the American Revolution, to the mass movement of music and art that helped to stir action during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, to the continued fight for racial justice in America today.

**WHEN:** Through May 8, Sundays - Fridays 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.,
Saturdays: 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Tuesdays - Closed

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

**COST:** Adults $15, Seniors, Youth, College Student, Military $13,
Children (under 5) and Members Free

**SPONSOR:** Grammy Museum
**INFO:** grammymuseum.org
213.725.5700

TERESA TOLLIVER: A SOLO EXHIBIT
A solo exhibition of assemblage works by the south-central based artist Teresa Tolliver. Tolliver is an assemblage artist who uses found materials in a process she calls “creative recycling” to build sculptural representations of her personal experiences, identity, and philosophy of living.

**WHEN:** Through February 12, Wednesdays - Saturdays 12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.

**SITE:** Stanley’s
944 Chung King Road, Los Angeles

**COST:** Free

**SPONSOR:** Stanley’s
**INFO:** stanleyshouse.com
213.793.1574

BLONDEL CUMMINGS: DANCE AS MOVING PICTURES
This exhibit sheds new light on the pivotal work of African American choreographer and video artist Blondell Cummings. Through a unique movement vocabulary that she called “moving pictures,” Cummings made dance that combined the visual imagery of photography and the kinetic energy of movement to explore the emotional details of daily rituals.

**WHEN:** Through February 28, Mondays - Saturdays, 12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.

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

**COST:** Free

**SPONSOR:** Art + Practice and The Getty Research Institute
**INFO:** artandpractice.org
323.337.6887
MATTHEW THOMAS: ENLIGHTENMENT

For over five decades, Matthew Thomas has developed a career as an artist and art professor, first in Los Angeles, and then in rural Thailand. Inspired by his practice of the Buddhist religion, his multimedia works are filled with complex patterns that express his progress toward enlightenment and provide a path for others to experience the same.

WHEN: February 5 - August 7, Tuesdays - Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sundays 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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

COST: Free

SPONSOR: California African American Museum

INFO: caamuseum.org
caamuseum.org/exhibitions/2022/matthew-thomas-enlightenment
213.744.7432
FRANCES M. BEAL’S PARIS YEARS, 1960–1965
This lecture will discuss Frances M. Beal, a noted journalist, feminist, theoretician, and activist. Beal became both a radical and a mother during her time in Paris, France in the ‘60s. The program will explore how Beal became a radical feminist for the Black freedom struggle and how motherhood, particularly single motherhood, shaped the making of a Black radical thinker.

WHEN: February 8, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
SITE: The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens, Rothenberg Hall
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino
COST: Free with reservation
SPONSOR: The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens
INFO: huntington.org
tickets.huntington.org/events/d7cde25e-c05a-4656-15dc-28108c9aad3d
626.405.2100

5 QUESTIONS, 5 ARTISTS: REPRESENTING LEGACY
Presented in conjunction with Black American Portraits, an exhibition that reframes portraiture to center Black America, this series will include conversations between five artists and LACMA curators and educators. Each artist will be presented with the same five key questions about their practice and the challenges of representing significant figures and their legacies.

WHEN: January 20 - March 24, 12:00 Noon –1 p.m.
January 20, Rafa Esparza
February 10, Elizabeth Colomba
February 24, Bisa Butler
March 10, Mr. Wash
March 24, Kim Dacres
SITE: Live Streaming
COST: Free, visit website for the Zoom meeting link
SPONSOR: Los Angeles County Museum of Art
INFO: lacma.org
lacma.org/event/5-questions-5-artists-representing-legacy-elizabeth-colomba
323.857.6010
Sylvia Woolridge, *Billie Holiday*. Acrylic, 16" x 20", 2021
TROY MONTES-MICHIE: ROCK OF EYE

This exhibit is the artist’s first museum solo exhibition. It begins with, and departs from, his past assemblages and collages and trace the social history and form of the zoot suit, a garment at the center of the 1943 Zoot Suit Riots.

WHEN:  February 16 - September 4, Tuesdays - Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sundays 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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

COST:  Free

SPONSOR:  California African American Museum, Rivers Institute for Contemporary Art & Thought in New Orleans

INFO:  caamuseum.org
       caamuseum.org/exhibitions/2022/troy-montes-michie-rock-of-eye
       213.744.7432
AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC’S AFRICAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL

The Aquarium of the Pacific will host its twentieth annual African American Festival, which features music, dance, storytelling, and historical displays. The Aquarium will also announce and celebrate the recipients of its 2022 African American Scholar Program.

**WHEN:** February 26 - 27, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**SITE:** Aquarium of the Pacific
100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach

**COST:** Adults - $36.95, Seniors - $33.95, Children - $26.95, Children under three and Members are Free

**SPONSOR:** Aquarium of the Pacific

**INFO:** aquariumofpacific.org/events/info/african_american_festival
562.590.3100

BODY + TEXT: SELECTIONS FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

*Body + Text* features works from CAAM’s permanent collection. The many visual codes embedded around or upon bodily images reinforce, expand, and occasionally challenge interpretation, often invoking social and political contexts that transform the physical depictions into urgent histories and heartfelt stories.

**WHEN:**
February 25 - August 7, Tuesdays - Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.,
Sundays 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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

**COST:** Free

**SPONSOR:** California African American Museum

**INFO:** caamuseum.org
caamuseum.org/exhibitions/2022/body-text-selections-from-the-permanent-collection
213.744.7432
ARTISTS AT THE TABLE

Join artists around the kitchen table for a discussion about their work in the context of Family Album: Dannielle Bowman, Janna Ireland and Contemporary Works from LACMA, an exhibition that explores family pictures as objects of love and resistance, revealing ourselves and our history.

**WHEN:** February 28, 6:00 –7:00 p.m.

**SITE:** Live Streaming

**COST:** Free

**SPONSOR:** Los Angeles County Museum of Art

**INFO:** laca.org/event/artists-table

323.857.6010
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2022
COMMUNITY EVENTS

MUSIC AND DANCE

#PLAYLIST: BILL WITHERS

Most folks can hum a line from Bill Withers’ best-known works like Aint No Sunshine, Lovely Day, Who Is He? (And What Is He to You?), and of course, Lean on Me, but Withers’s career is surprisingly deep despite its relative brevity—eight albums released in the fifteen years between 1970 and 1985.

WHEN: Ongoing Program
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: California African American Museum
INFO: caamuseum.org/learn/600state/playlist/playlist-bill-withers 213.744.7432
#PLAYLIST: SUNDAY MORNING MIX

As part of our ongoing #PLAYLIST series, CAAM Assistant Curator Taylor Bythewood-Porter shares music and memories from Sunday mornings with her father, "My father, Maurice, had a tradition of making Sunday breakfast for the family, and I'd rush down the stairs to help set the table as he danced in the kitchen to the sounds of Motown. As we got older, schedules changed, but what remained were the memories and the music."

**WHEN:** Ongoing Program  
**SITE:** Streaming  
**COST:** Free  
**SPONSOR:** California African American Museum  
**INFO:** caamuseum.org/learn/600state/playlist/playlist-sunday-morning-mix  
213.744.7432

BLACK AMERICAN PORTRAITS: EXHIBITION SOUNDTRACK

The Black American Portraits exhibition soundtrack celebrates the radiance of Black musical culture in its most joyful forms, featuring song selections from several of the artists represented in the show.

**WHEN:** Through April 17  
**SITE:** Streaming  
**COST:** Free  
**SPONSOR:** Los Angeles County Museum of Art  
**INFO:** lacma.org/bapsoundtrack  
323.857.6010

ETHIOPIAN CULTURAL DANCE AND CUISINE

Originally from Ethiopia, Fikru Weldekidan and Sinay Woubeshet are on a mission to expose Ethiopian culture throughout Los Angeles.

**WHEN:** February 5, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
**SITE:** Live Streaming  
**COST:** Free, email: grnhls@lapl.org for zoom link  
**SPONSOR:** Granada Hills Branch Library  
**INFO:** https://lapl.org/whats-on/events/la-made-ethiopian-cultural-dance-and-cuisine  
818.368.5687
JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA WITH WYNTON MAR SALIS
Led by the incomparable Wynton Marsalis, this renowned orchestra is the exciting vanguard of the full spectrum of the jazz experience. Together, Marsalis and the orchestra elevate jazz as the pinnacle of America’s music to center stage.

WHEN: February 5, 8:00 p.m.
SITE: The Soraya
18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge
COST: $41 to $86
SPONSOR: Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts
INFO: thesoraya.org/calendar/details/jlco-2022
818.677.8800

HISTORY OF BLACK DANCE IN AMERICA PART 2
This second part focuses on dances that were created or became popular in the latter half of the 20th Century, dances like Bop, Mambo, Tango, Salsa, Hip Hop as well as, popular fad dances of the 1960s through the 1980s. The history of Black dance is, quite simply, the history of American popular dance.

WHEN: February 10, 4:00 p.m.
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Los Angeles Public Library
INFO: lapl.org/whats-on/events/history-black-dance-america-part-2
213.228.7250

AN EVENING WITH GREGORY PORTER
Two-time Grammy Award winner, Gregory Porter has quickly become one of jazz’s most important male vocalists, a soul-drenched singer often at his best delivering his emotionally charged original songs.

WHEN: February 10, 8:00 p.m.
SITE: The Soraya
18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge
COST: $41 - $94
SPONSOR: Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts
INFO: thesoraya.org/calendar/details/porter-2022
818.677.8800
CHICAGO HOUSE MUSIC IN LA: A BLACK HISTORY
Chevz Frazier, producer of the long-running SoulNic House Music Festival will use sounds, images, and words to share the story of how Chicago House Music came to LA and grew into a thriving community along the way.

WHEN: February 16, 4:30 p.m.
SITE: Streaming
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Exposition Park - Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Library
INFO: youtube.com/losangeleslibrary
323.290.3113

GERALD CLAYTON
Gerald Clayton is the Musical Director of the Monterey Jazz Festival On Tour and has performed and recorded with a diverse array of artists, including Diana Krall, Roy Hargrove, and Kendrick Scott.

WHEN: February 17, 8:00 p.m.
SITE: The Soraya
18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge
COST: $46 - $69
SPONSOR: Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts
INFO: thesoraya.org/calendar/details/clayton-2022
818.677.8800

JAZZ AT THE LIBRARY
Celebrate African American Heritage Month with an afternoon of Jazz provided by our own staff Cyril Carr and partner Billy Mitchell. Billy is part of the Watts Willowbrook Conservatory, and you can meet Cyril checking books almost every day.

WHEN: February 22, 3:30 p.m.
SITE: Alma Reaves Woods - Watts Branch Library
10205 Compton Ave., Los Angeles
COST: Free
SPONSOR: Alma Reaves Woods - Watts Branch Library
INFO: lapl.org/branches/watts
323.789.2850
Gina Williams, *Mia and Friends*, Oil painting, 16” x 20”, 2014
SUGGESTED READING FOR CHILDREN

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
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.
Christopher Akubuiló, *Girl with Purple Hair*, Marker and oil pastel on paper, 18" x 24", 2020
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.
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.
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.
Linda Ternoir, *Baobab Story Tree*, Ink drawing, 28” x 18”, 2019
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.
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 Raúl Colón
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.
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, Sassafras,” 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.
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.
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2022 RECOMMENDED READING FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

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.

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.
**AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**2022 RECOMMENDED READING FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS**

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**NATIVE SON**

Written by Richard Wright  
Publisher: Harper Perennial

*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.
**LIFE + CULTURE EARLY READERS**

**THE WATER PRINCESS**

Written by Susan Verde and Georgie Badiell  
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.

At left: MonaLisa Whitaker, *JT Ladder*, Photography, 8” x 14”, 2017
**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.

**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 Natasha 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 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.
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
BIBLIOGRAPHY

2022 RECOMMENDED READING FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

LIFE + CULTURE HIGH SCHOOL READERS

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*. 
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.
SOURCES

Amazon.com


*At right: Miles Regis, Daughter, Acrylic on canvas, 51” x 37”, 2021*
The Department of Cultural Affairs is pleased to present the works of several fine writers in the 2022 African American Heritage Month Calendar and Cultural Guide. The writers are: Michelle Andrea Bracken, Earline M. Gentry, johann hassan, Louis McNeal, Perkin Monk, Imani Tolliver, C. Jerome Woods, and DMaria Woods.
LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES...

BY EARLINE M. GENTRY

Are what dreams are made of
History in the making is quite an undertaking
As the Inauguration unfolded
Smiling thinking of all of those little girls
A woman of color has blazed the trail
Through her faith her strength she will prevail
Make no mistake it was self evident
She has become the first female Vice President
No longer unreachable, unattainable
An Impossible dream to embrace
The more I thought about it tears ran down my face
Like a beautiful rainbow radiates hope
Limitless possibilities are within our scope
Nothing good ever comes easy I guarantee
With hard work and dedication
The possibilities are limitless
Determined to make a difference
For the greater good
Our ancestors challenge us to carry the torch
Limitless possibilities awaits us
To inspire other woman and little girls all over the world
DANCE! DANCE! DANCE!

BY PERKIN MONK

Stop the music let me say my piece
A feeling my soul has been burning to release
this pulsing rhythmic pleasure from my feet
I to dance, dance, dance, dance

Oh yes I used to dance grooving from dark to light moving with all my might
I used to dance the sounds of the horns, vocals and bass in my face used
to make me want to move to a funky pace I used to dance to every beat
the tempo made me move my feet be it Motown jazz country or the blues
I would dance if I had nothing to lose.

But now the song has changed the rhythm is not the same and the music is
just insane and who’s to blame my funky chicken ain’t kicking my twerk and
my jerk don’t work and my twist is a miss.

Now I may not be able to kick it high on the dance floor or drop it like
it’s hot oh this I can’t ignore but they say that dancing is the outward
expression of inner joy, so as long as you can move and do not fall any
type of dancing is better than none at all so Dance! Dance! Dance! Dance!
Baby Dance!
ONE HEART

BY DMARIA WOODS

I am Indian Sage, and an Irish jig
The American Slave captured by “Massa Big.”

Descendant of a Mexican bandit, clearly
historically mixed, and not
easily blindsided by societies color tricks.

My ears are open to humanity, so I consider all
people to be my family.

“But we’re all different,” some may say

“I don’t understand, I can’t relate.”

It’s clear that our thoughts and perceptions set us
apart.

Listen to the sameness that lives in our hearts. Hatred
and ignorance are dangerous indeed,

like weeds in a garden, something we don’t need.

So, expand your horizons and savor an open mind
Its thoughts and actions will prove itself in time.
Judith Bowman, *Girl in Green Sweater*, Illustration, and collage on paper, color oil markers, 6.5" x 7," 2017
GET OUT

BY IMANI TOLLIVER

i wish that i could go outside
i miss the air made sweeter by the long-awaited rain
the jasmine blossoms are gone, it’s true
it’s winter now
but there are still bees

the birds sup on the jade flowers so close to me
as i paint at my desk
they are inches from my hands and paintbrushes from my paper, pencils, and pens

we have become accustomed to each other this way
window panels separating
still holding my brush,
i turn my head toward their flutter and song they spy
me too, of this i am certain
in time, they complete their meal what do they catch
what lives among the blossoms

were today like any other i would
plan something
visit my mother and listen to her stories go to a museum, a cafe
i would walk somewhere
expose a grand smile to an old friend open my lips to receive a hot brew made by a stranger
a stranger whom i trust
to wash my cup, touch it, fill it and hand it to me

the only prayer spoken is one of gratitude for it
no prayers of protection
no notice of a cough
or another stranger’s open face
no notice of the exchange that i might have with another,
our hands on a brass handle of a glass
door
with people inside
so many people inside

i go out sometimes
to start my car and drive it around
i see restaurants that i used to frequent
remembering when i sat and ate a salad, a crusty bread frowned at
the chip on my plate
and tried to make out the languages spoken around me

now, it's boarded up
there are signs offering it to someone else what will
come, i wonder, and when
will i make memories there too

will i ever share a steel handle in a subway train at a desk
away from my home
will a papercut find its way into my mouth, without thought
will i sit with friends, forks splayed out on a table like domino tiles, each reaching
for a utensil, our knuckles and tips touching
and share something sweet
will i accept an offer of a bite from a plate a sip from
their cup

remember laughing, widely leaning
toward each other
the sound coloring our shoulders and open faces

remember what it felt like to get out
Garland Kirkpatrick, *The People’s Realty*, Digital collage, 8” x 10”, 2020
I wish someone had told me
Life was going to be difficult
Hard times would be hard
Easy times would be few
Life wouldn’t be fair
It’s okay to be you
To find out what you are good at
To study what you don’t know
It’s okay to be what you want
To do what you want
To have what you want
It’s okay to love
To love who you love
To love yourself
It’s okay to grieve
To cry
To laugh and be silly
It’s okay to dream
To be free
To make mistakes
I wish someone had told me
It’s okay
WOKE!

BY C. JEROME WOODS

The ilk of my existence
Reeks of self expression
Swims through vessels of
Blood rivers
Climbs from pores like vines
In the vineyards
Voices hollering
Unsilenced
Like juju ... wampum ... axe'
Whirlwinds of concoctions
Wake me with a
Scream!
Kelvin Belt, *Tiger Vase with Roses*, Acrylic paint on wood panel, 14" x 8", 2021
THE LYNCHING OF GEORGE FLOYD
ON MAY 25, 2020

BY MICHELLE ANDREA BRACKEN

The cops pulled him from his car.
They didn’t take him far.
No robes or hoods to be found.
Uniforms all around
Holding him down.
They mashed his face into the ground.
Didn’t want to hear a sound.
They didn’t swing him from a tree.
Chauvin put his knee in his carotid artery
And leaned on in ‘til he cut off his wind.
He wouldn’t even leave when he said, “I can’t breathe.”
With his hand in his pocket just nonchalantly,
Looking at the camera so arrogantly,
Till all the air from George’s body was squeezed.
I heard him strangle. I heard him choke.
When he cried out “Mama”, my heart just broke.
They put him on a stretcher, hands and feet.
His body secretions spilled in the street.
Crying and dying for the world to see.
It could have been my black child crying for me.
Could have been my black child crying for me.
SÍ SE PUEDE

BY johann hassan

see you with a quiet mended heart
created on the wings of the sea
fix your behavior
it’s life
Sí Se Puede
Dolores Johnson, *Lady in Red*, Watercolor, 5” x 7.25”, 2021
Dolores Johnson, *Victorious*, Watercolor, 6” x 9”, 2021
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.

2022 CITY OF LOS ANGELES AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

ABOUT THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

At left: Jerry Weems, Victims of Peonage and Vagrancy Laws, Oil on corrugated tin, 24” x 48”, 2019
DCA FACILITIES (36 TOTAL):

- DCA manages and programs 23 Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers including: 9 Arts and Cultural Centers, 5 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.
DCA NEIGHBORHOOD ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTERS

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

DCA MANAGED ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTERS (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**
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
DCA MANAGED PERFORMING ARTS THEATERS (5)

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

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

**MADRID THEATRE**
21622 Sherman Way  
Canoga Park, CA 91303  
818.347.9938

**THE TAXCO/CANOCA PARK STAGE**
ARTS LAB  
7242 Owensmouth Avenue  
Canoga Park, CA 91303  
818.347.9938

**VISION THEATRE**
3341 West 43rd Place  
Los Angeles, CA 90008  
213.202.5508

**WARNER GRAND THEATRE**
478 West 6th Street  
San Pedro, CA 90731  
310.548.7672

Mark7, *Sudan was Her Home*, Watercolor, 12” x 18”, 2020
Judith Bowman, *Everybody Seems Normal till You Get to Know Them*, Illustration on paper; color oil markers, 5” x 6”, 2017
Elizabeth J Covington, *Abstract Woman II*, Watercolor and ink, 11” x 15”, 2019
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
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
2022 CITY OF LOS ANGELES AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

ABOUT THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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

Emerson Terry, *Jim Beckwourth*, acrylic on canvas, 30”x 24”, 1976
ABOUT THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

2022 CITY OF LOS ANGELES AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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 48 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

Michael R. Moore, Ethar Quing, Digital photography, 30" x 40", 2021
2022 CITY OF LOS ANGELES
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

ABOUT THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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:

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles
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Los Angeles, California 90012

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Mark7, Of a Different Cloth, Watercolor, 12" x 18", 2016
Liz Covington, *Reflection*, Watercolor, 11" x 15", 2019
ARTIST CONTACT INFORMATION

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.

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