



PROMOTING DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2025



THIS YEAR'S THEME: AFRICAN AMERICANS & LABOR

"Black History Month 2025: We Proclaim It"

by Dr. Karsonya (Kaye) Wise Whitehead

"The 2025 Black History Month theme is African Americans and Labor, which focuses on the various and profound ways that work and working of all kinds – free and unfree, skilled and unskilled, vocational and voluntary – intersect with the collective experiences of Black people and the transformational work that we have done throughout the U.S., Africa, and the Diaspora.

We are celebrating our visible labor—from the work we did back then to build the White House to the work we do right now to hold the White House accountable, from repairing the roads to teaching in our schools, from stocking shelves to packing and unloading trucks; from working in the federal government to our ongoing labor in the state and local offices—and, our invisible labor—from raising and teaching our children to caring for our aging family members, from finding ways to practice revolutionary self-care to finding ways to hope beyond hope in a country that frequently targets and terrorizes Black people. We bear witness to what it means to work hard every day and to get sick and tired of working so hard.

We do not celebrate because we are given permission, we celebrate because we are the permission givers. We do not wait for Black History Month to be proclaimed, we proclaim it. We do not wait to be seen, we see ourselves. We do not have to be told the story of America because we are writing it, we are telling it, we are owning it, and we are pointing the way to it."

Dr. Karsonya (Kaye) Wise Whitehead is the 30th person and the eighth woman to serve as the national president of ASALH

Source: Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

*Revolution is not a one-time event.
-Audre Lorde*

ACTIVISM IS AT THE HEART OF BLACK HISTORY, AND DOESN'T STOP NOW



Throughout history, African Americans have taken action to improve their lives and challenge America to live up to its democratic ideals. Working both within and across racial lines, Black activists mobilized to abolish slavery, secure civil rights, fight against injustice, and expand social and economic opportunities. African Americans employed a range of strategies to effect change—including legal battles, mass protests, grassroots campaigns, public debates, and community development. By believing that change was possible, Black Americans changed history. Activists today draw on these achievements and study the lessons of the past in order to develop strategies for the future.

Source: National Museum of African American History and Culture

*If not us, then who?
If not now, then when?
-John Lewis*

it is our turn to carry the world

by adrienne maree brown

published on Jan. 20, 2025

we are each other's safety
right now, and every day
decide who you will protect
yourself, your own and who else

it's time to cover all that we love
land, creature, place, person
intertwine your roots with mine
in this way our lives become miracles

there will be strangers
they will become comrades
we will each say our needs
we will learn to let community come closer

every part of us is a shield
our words, our trust, our hearts
our bodies in action
and the freedom to think for ourselves

we are the adaptation
no oppressor can imagine
our love is water – form-shifting power, river, vapor, life
we flood each other with belonging

we are building our stamina
we dream of the real world
we carry god, and see god, in each of our faces
your holiness is not too heavy, not for me

our attention and courage
show us the next stand to take
the next hill on which to hold each other
and if needed, the next hiding place: survive!

our imagination and memory
find the wisdom of our ancestors
find our future in the rubble
find the seeds in our songs

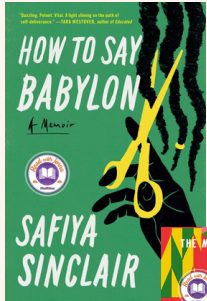
we choose our freedom
we keep each other's souls intact
safer than any cage of empire
we know something better is coming

we are each other's safety
we see each other's freest selves
we will hold on tight, in public, in private
over and underground

and we will never let go
we will never let go
we will never let go
we will never let go

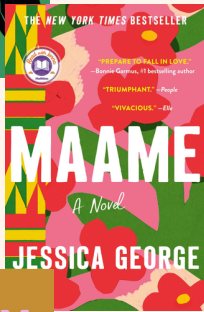
LOVE TO READ?

CHECK OUT THESE 2024 BOOKS WRITTEN BY BLACK AUTHORS PICK ONE TO READ WITH A FRIEND OR COWORKER!



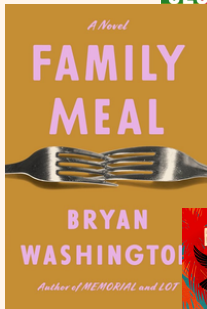
How to Say Babylon: A Memoir by Safiya Sinclair

Sinclair's memoir explores identity, family, and the search for belonging. She uses beautiful writing and honesty to share her experiences with race, culture, and finding herself.



Maame by Mariama Jessica George

George's debut novel is a powerful coming-of-age story that centers on a young Black girl's journey to find her place in the world. Maame's eyes confront readers with themes of identity, heritage, and the bonds of family.



Family Meal: A Novel by Bryan Washington

Washington's novel serves up food, culture, and storytelling. Set in a restaurant kitchen, this book explores the complexities of family, ambition, and the pursuit of culinary excellence.



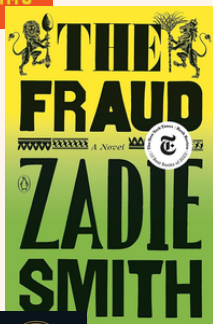
River Sing Me Home by Eleanor Shearer

Shearer's lyrical poetry collection is a reflection on incarceration, survival, and the power of language to transcend barriers. His words stay with you, making you think about justice and forgiveness even after you finish reading.



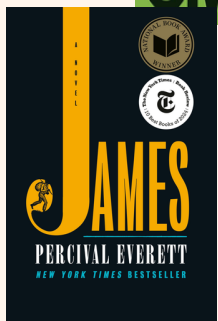
Queenie by Candice Carty-Williams

Carty-Williams' debut novel is a witty and poignant exploration of race, love, and mental health. With Queenie as our guide, we navigate the complexities of modern womanhood, relationships, and the quest for self-acceptance.



The Fraud by Zadie Smith

Zadie Smith's thriller delves into the murky world of corporate fraud and the high stakes of power and ambition. With twists and turns at every corner, she keeps readers on the edge of their seats, questioning where loyalty ends and betrayal begins. Engage with a best-selling thriller by black a black author, where Zadie crafts a suspenseful plot and navigates through intricate moral dilemmas.



James by Percival Everett

James is many things: a relentless code-switching satire, a meditation on the constructedness of racial identity, a love letter to the written word, and a retelling of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn through the perspective of Jim, who is an enslaved Black man.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH:

RESOURCES FROM BGCA

Black History Month Activities for Kids of All Ages

<https://www.bgca.org/news-stories/2024/November/black-history-month-activities-for-kids-of-all-ages/>

2025 Black History Month Virtual Celebration: Feb. 14 from 8am-12pm

(join in at any time!) - Register here:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/00a759cd-f5b2-49bf-afe0-edfcaec26d36/summary>

Growing Up Black Video Discussion Guide (ages 10-18)

<https://www.bgca.net/Interact/Pages/Content/Document.aspx?id=2581&SearchId=0>

This curriculum has two options: to lead in Black male affinity space, or to lead in mixed race, mixed gender space. If you want to provide Black male affinity, this should be facilitated by a Black male.

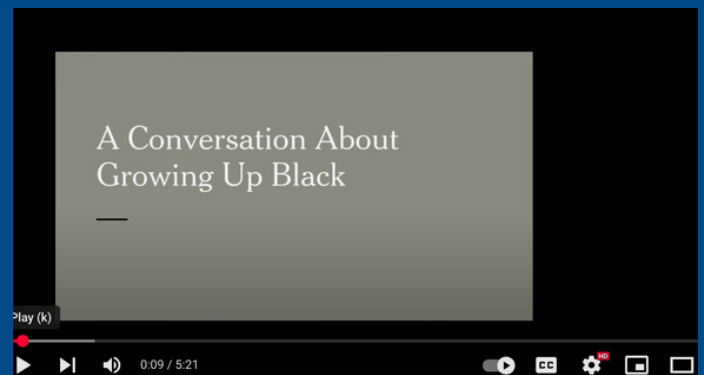
Supporting Black LGBTQ+ Youth and Their Mental Health

https://www.bgca.org/news-stories/2022/April/supporting-black-lgbtq-youth-and-their-mental-health/?gad_source=2&gclid=CjwKCAiA74G9BhAEEiwA8kNfpXh6LCGWMkeiA9S-O2sEp279kDVqnoHtuzUfS1p26uNIISHkXNvLjBoCSZ8QAvD_BwE

videos for further engagement...



to watch the videos, click on the images
and you'll be directed to YouTube



BGCP Staff Board

BIRTHDAYS

Low Kahana

WORK ANNIVERSARIES

Vicky Nganga, 4 years
Victoria Arredondo, 2 years
Jake Ayala, 2 years
Addison Flannery, 1 year

NEW STAFF

Pamela Bechen – Front Desk at Regence
Chiemezie Ezenwoye – Front Desk at Blazers

STAFF EXITS

Sabrina Stearns
John Petty

JOB OPENINGS

Youth Development Coordinator (Teens) – Clegg Club
Youth Development Coordinator – Blazers Club
Finance Controller – Admin