



FEBRUARY, 2021

BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN THE COMMONWEALTH

BOARD MEETINGS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

1:00 P.M.-5:00 P.M. ET

Virginia African American Advisory Board Meeting

The Virginia African American Advisory Board will convene for their inaugural meeting of the calendar year. During the meeting, board members will receive legislative updates from administration representatives and discuss the equitable distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Registration details can be found [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021

10:00 A.M. ET

Environmental Justice Council Meeting

The Virginia Environmental Justice Council will convene for their inaugural meeting of the calendar year. During the meeting, board members will outline their 2021 priorities.

Registration details can be found [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: Office of the Secretary of Natural Resources

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021

1:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M. ET

Fort Monroe Authority Board of Trustees Public Meeting

The Fort Monroe Authority Board of Trustees will convene for their regular meeting.

Registration details can be found [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: Fort Monroe Authority

DISCUSSIONS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021

7:00 P.M. ET

Historically Speaking: *Four Hundred Souls* | A Conversation with Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain

For their newly edited volume *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019*, renowned scholars Ibram X. Kendi (*How to Be an Antiracist*) and Keisha N. Blain (*Set the World on Fire*) invited 90 talented writers to document the 400-year journey of African Americans. Join editors Kendi and Blain for an extraordinary discussion with contributors Annette Gordon Reed (Harvard University) and Herb Boyd (City University of New York), during which they will examine eras including slavery, Reconstruction, and segregation — and their sustained impact on the United States today.

Registration details can be found [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2021

2:00 P.M. ET

Courthouse Research: Using Probate Records to Research Enslaved Ancestors

Have you tried to research African American ancestors born during slavery, only to hit a brick wall? The National Museum of History and Culture's Robert Frederick Smith Family History Center presents a talk by LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson, who will share best practices in using probate and other estate records to identify enslaved people through the records of possible slaveholders. Let us help you uncover your family's buried roots!

Registration details can be found [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2021

11:00 A.M. ET

“My Story of a Sharecropper’s Life”

Join local Matoaca author James McKnight as he will share his recent book that recounts the life of his grandfather’s experiences as a sharecropper. The speaker will discuss the influential life of his grandfather William Holliday who was a sharecropper in South Carolina and lived 112 years. Through personal stories of relatives and documentation, Mr. McKnight will share the impact of his grandfather’s life and legacy during this presentation.

Event details can be found [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: Chesterfield County and Virginia State University

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021

7:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M. ET

Black Families and the Great Migration

Learn how the Great Migration changed the course of life for Black families in America. For teens and adults.

Event details can be found [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: Chesterfield County and Virginia State University

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021

7:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M. ET

The History and Importance of HBCUs

Dr. Cheryl Mango, Assistant Professor of History at Virginia State University, discusses the history of Historically Black Universities and Colleges. Gain a deeper appreciation for these important educational institutions. For teens and adults.

Event details can be found [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: Chesterfield County and Virginia State University

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021

9:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M.

Symposium: The Ramsey Homes | Historic Preservation, Community, and Architecture of Public Housing in Alexandria

This virtual symposium is a case study of the innovative construction of the World War II era Ramsey Homes and their African American residents. Topics include: the history of public housing and Ramsey Homes; genealogy of early residents; architecture and engineering; and the process of documenting construction techniques. The symposium will conclude with a virtual experience of the new Lineage on North Patrick Street.

Event details can be found [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: City of Alexandria

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021

5:00 P.M. ET

In Dialogue: Race and Medicine

The National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) and the National Portrait Gallery (NPG) are teaming up for a program in the NPG monthly series In Dialogue: Smithsonian Objects and Social Justice. Join cohosts Beth Evans (NPG) and Leslie P. Walker (NMAAHC) for a discussion about race and medicine, as represented by objects in the Smithsonian's collections.

Event details can be found [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) and the National Portrait Gallery (NPG)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2021

7:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M. ET

Representation of the Black Family

Dr. Vanessa Holden of the University of Kentucky discusses her book "The Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity."

Registration details can be found [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: Chesterfield County and Virginia State University

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2021

12:00 P.M.-1:00 P.M. ET

Moton Mondays | Elvatrice Parker Belsches

Elvatrice Parker Belsches, a public historian, researcher and filmmaker who specializes in chronicling the Black experience in history is the featured speaker. She is the author of the pictorial publication, *Black America Series: Richmond, Virginia* (Arcadia Publishing) and she has several documentaries in development. Belsches will take the audience on a journey into civil rights in education through the memories of her late parents who were gifted educators. Belsches' father, the late Ernest Parker Sr. taught mathematics at Robert R. Moton High School from 1951-1955, where he also served as an assistant football coach and athletic director. While serving as Barbara Johns' homeroom and algebra teacher, he discovered the students making placards in the back of the class in preparation for the student walkout in 1951. The walkout launched a series of events that laid the groundwork for the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court ruling deeming segregation unconstitutional, and prompted Prince Edward County schools to close rather than integrate for five years. The students' signs, with messages like "We want a new school" are printed indelibly in the nation's collective memory of the civil rights movement, and are treasured pieces of her family's legacy.

Registration details can be found [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: Robert Russa Moton Museum

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021

7:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M. ET

An Evening with Jason Reynolds and Dr. Ibram X. Kendi

Join Jason Reynolds and Dr. Kendi as they discuss their collaboration on "Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You," a young adult adaptation of Dr. Kendi's "Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America."

Registration details can be found [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: Chesterfield County and Virginia State University

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021

7:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M. ET

The Jazz of Plunky and Oneness

Registration details can be found [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: Chesterfield County and Virginia State University

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021

7:00 P.M. ET

The Economic Impact of COVID-19 on the African American Community

Explore how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the physical and financial well-being of the African American community. Discussion moderator Michael Fletcher of ESPN's *Undeclared* and such panelists as researcher and commentator Algernon Austin will examine the country's most dramatic economic crash since the Great Depression, as well as explore how communities can prevail with critical interventions.

Registration details can be found [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

4:00 P.M. ET

Lecture: You Will Find it Handy—Traveling Safely in the Old Dominion with The Green Book

As automobile travel increased in the 20th century, refusal of service and other threats made travel extremely difficult for African Americans. In response, Victor H. Green began publishing *The Green Book*, which provided a safety net with its listings for services such as garages, barbers, beauty parlors, hotels and guest houses, tailors, restaurants, and drug stores that welcomed African Americans. Susan Hellman, Principal Planner with the City of Alexandria Planning & Zoning Historic Preservation division, will explore Virginia businesses listed in The Green Book during this lecture.

Registration details can be found [here](#).

Cost: \$6

Event Host: City of Alexandria

MUSEUM AND OTHER SPECIAL EXHIBITS

THURSDAYS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Free Admission to Norfolk Botanical Garden in Celebration of Black History Month

The Norfolk Botanical Garden is celebrating Black History Month this year by offering free admission on Thursdays throughout the month of February. A Virginia Historic Landmark that's listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Garden celebrates the 220 African-American Works Progress Administration (WPA) workers who cleared dense vegetation and planted the first azaleas at NBG in the late 1930s. As a way to honor their lasting legacy and share the gift of nature with all, it is inviting the community to enjoy all the Garden has to offer for free on Thursdays this Black History Month.

Learn more and plan your visit [here](#).

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2021-JUNE

Exhibit: Virginia Jazz: The Early Years

Exhibit Description: The Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia and the Richmond Jazz Society present [Virginia Jazz: The Early Years](#), a multi-media exhibition highlighting 38 Virginians who made a significant contribution to the development of Jazz as an American art form.

Learn more and plan your visit [here](#).

ONGOING

Mending Walls (Richmond)

Mending Walls is a public art project developed by Hamilton Glass that brings together artists from different cultures and backgrounds to create murals that address how we can move forward through understanding and collaboration. Let the map at [MendingWallsRVA.com](#) be your guide to 17 thought-provoking new murals in Richmond. Pop in some headphones as you explore and listen to the Mending Walls podcast where artists discuss their murals and collaboration process.

Source: Richmond Region Tourism

Learn more [here](#).

ONGOING

HiPS Virtual Reality Tour

Hidden in Plain Site is a new virtual tour that shines light on the Black experience in America as exhibited through distinct, but easy-to-overlook sites around Richmond. The experience includes eleven stories told across ten sites. Hidden in Plain Site is free and available on a desktop, mobile, or through a VR headset.

Source: Richmond Region Tourism

Learn more [here](#).

CULINARY ARTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021-SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2021

Richmond Black Restaurant Experience

The Richmond Black Restaurant Experience was born just a few short years ago. Today, with dozens of restaurants participating, it is a must to plan your visits early.

Source: Richmond Region Tourism

Learn more and plan your visits [here](#).

KID-FRIENDLY EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021-FEBRUARY 28, 2021

African American Read-In for Families

Moonlight Marine, 1885, Edward Bannister (American, 1828–1901), oil on canvas. Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, J. Harwood and Louise B. Cochrane Fund for American Art. This program celebrates children's literature and art created by African and African American artists. Experience these works with your children through discussion, music, movement, and enrichment activities. (Intended audience: children ages 2½–8 years; everyone is welcome.) To adapt to ongoing safety concerns related to COVID-19, VMFA will host this year's AARI event virtually with prerecorded videos of community readers and educators presenting on our website. The videos will be available February 1-28. The featured selections for African American Read-In for Families is available for purchase in the VMFA Shop on Level 1 of the museum at a 10% discount provided by Chase*.

Learn more [here](#).

Cost: Free

Event Host: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and Chase

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021

10:00 A.M. ET

Story Time for Young Historians

This month features a reading of *Harriet and the Promised Land* by Jacob Lawrence. Story Time with Young Historians is a monthly program, historically held at the Alexandria Black History Museum. Now on the Historic Alexandria's YouTube page, each video features a picture book that introduces history and promotes diversity for young readers. A Museum Educator provides historical context and local community connections.

Participation details can be found [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: Alexandria Black History Museum

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 12, 19, AND 26, 2021

11:00 A.M. ET

National Museum of African American History and Culture Kids: Joyful Fridays

Each Friday in February, children ages five to eight are invited to celebrate Black History Month by creating art inspired by the NMAAHC's [Joyful ABCs activity book series](#) and objects from the NMAAHC collection! Each 45-minute experience will include such activities as exploring creativity by making hats, discovering daring choices through sculpture, embracing emotions through portraiture, and building the capacity to stand up for what is fair through words and painting. Register now to receive a Zoom link, list of art supplies, book recommendations, and other free online resources.

Registration details can be found [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2021

2:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M. ET

Queen Nur: Sweet Potato Pie and Such

Enjoy a buffet of flavorful tales from the African and African American oral tradition. This program is designed for participation and jubilant celebration. For kids and families.

Registration details can be found [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: Chesterfield County and Virginia State University

SPECIAL EVENTS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021

7:00 P.M.

48th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Program (Encore Viewing)

Missed the 48th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Program on January 15? Don't miss the encore on February 1 at 7 p.m.! With new remarks by Senator Mark Warner, this year's celebration features remarks by Mayor Justin Wilson, a keynote address by former Virginia Governor L. Douglas Wilder, and more. The City of Alexandria honored the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in a virtual community program that premiered on Friday, January 15, at 7 p.m. The program, "The Fierce Urgency of Building the Beloved Community," was presented by the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Planning Committee.

Learn more about the program [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: City of Alexandria

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

6:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

African American Read-In Day 1

Literature and fine arts come together with the African American Read-In at VMFA. See and hear notable figures from the greater Richmond community as they lend their voices in prose and poetry readings. In this powerful display of storytelling, experience evocative and poignant pairings of works by African American artists and authors. To adapt to ongoing safety concerns related to Covid-19, VMFA will host this year's AARI event online over the span of four weeks. Tune in each week to hear from community leaders and curators about works in the VMFA collection and their connections to literature.

Learn more [here](#).

Cost: Free

Event Host: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and Chase

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2021

7:00 P.M. ET

Fridays After 5 featuring Clifton Davis

Internationally acclaimed, Grammy-nominated artist Clifton Davis discusses his career with VMFA's Performing Arts Coordinator Robert Phanord and performs some of his favorite compositions, including "Never Can Say Goodbye" and "Looking Through the Window" — made famous by the Jackson Five.

View the event [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and Chase

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2021

7:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M. ET

Say Her Name with Zoe Spencer

Dr. Spencer shares the history of racial injustice as it relates to African American women in this spoken word performance "Say Her Name." Dr. Spencer will answer questions after her performance. For teens and adults. Registration begins Jan. 25. Available for 30 days after premiere date.

Event details can be found [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: Chesterfield County and Virginia State University

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2021

10:30 A.M.-11:15 A.M.

Uncle Ty-Rone

Uncle Ty-Rone gets you laughing and dancing with music, friends and good vibes.

Event details can be found [here](#).

Cost: Free | Online

Event Host: Chesterfield County and Virginia State University

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021

2:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M. ET

Concert | Washington Revels Jubilee Voices

The Washington Revels Jubilee Voices ensemble is committed to the preservation of African American history and traditions—presenting songs and stories of struggle and perseverance, trials, and triumphs, as expressed through a cappella music, drama, and dance. Established in 2010, the group now performs regularly throughout the Washington DC area, singing, sharing, and learning the stories of the people in those communities.

Learn more and purchase tickets [here](#).

Cost: \$6 | Online

Event Host: City of Alexandria