



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN THE COMMONWEALTH

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# Events and Programs at Virginia's Museums, Historical Houses, and Libraries

### [Botetourt County Historical Society and Museum](#)

*3 W Main St, Fincastle, VA 24090*

#### **"FINDING WHAT HAS BEEN LOST" EXHIBIT**

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This display celebrates the story of the African American communities of Botetourt County. The exhibit highlights the communities, churches, schools, community groups and individual stories that showcase these communities scattered throughout Botetourt County. Display boards, featuring facts and photos, will be set up in the Botetourt Gallery on the first floor of the museum.

#### **NORVEL BOOK TALK**

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*February 8, 2pm, Fincastle Library Meeting Room*

A special display developed to highlight the life and accomplishments of Norvel Lee, winner of an Olympic Gold Medal in 1952, who was born in the community of Gala, north of Eagle Rock will be on display during the month of February. A book on the life of Norvel Lee, by local author Ken Conklin, will be discussed at this event. For more information contact the museum at (540) 473-8394 or [wmartin@botetourtva.gov](mailto:wmartin@botetourtva.gov).

### [Manassas Museum](#)

*9101 Prince William St, Old Town Manassas, VA 20110*

#### **FRONT PORCH TALKS**

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*February 1st from 2pm-3pm*

Kick off Black History Month at Liberia with this series of casual conversations with experts and scholars that honors the 80 enslaved people who lived and worked at Liberia House.

## **GENEOLOGY WORKSHOP: AFRICAN AMERICAN ANCESTRY**

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*February 15th*

Join local experts as they show you the way to navigate ancestry records. Computer stations will be set up throughout the Museum for you to learn how to search the past and maximize your efforts. Registration recommended for the free event! To make a reservation call 703-257-8457 or visit Echoes, the Manassas Museum store.

## **SPOTLIGHT TALK**

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*February 19th at 12pm*

This short conversation by historian Ellie Hill will focus on gallery artifacts that tell the story of African American history.

## **EVENING FOR EDUCATORS: AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY IN MANASSAS**

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*February 20th*

Learn about local African American history and get a preview of the new African American history trunk schools may rent. The program is free for Manassas City Public Schools educators and \$12 for others. Call 703-257-8457 to register.

## **[Alexandria Black History Museum](#)**

*902 Wythe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314*

## **STORY TIME FOR LITTLE HISTORIANS: THE UNDEFEATED**

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*February 1st at 11:00am*

Support the museum while enjoying cultural stories and crafts that introduce history and promote diversity. Ideal for 3-6 year olds and their caregiver. \$3 per person, purchase tickets at <https://shop.alexandriava.gov>

## [Thomas Jefferson's Monticello](#)

*931 Thomas Jefferson Parkway, Charlottesville, VA 22902*

### **SLAVERY AT MONTICELLO TOURS**

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*Every day in February, 12pm & 2pm*

These guided outdoor tours focus on the experiences of the enslaved people who lived and labored on the Monticello plantation. Included in admission.

### **CREATED EQUAL: PORTRAITS OF CIVIL RIGHTS HEROES**

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*Every day in February*

On display at Monticello's visitor center: Portraits of Frederick Douglass, John Lewis and Fannie Lou Hamer by American artist Robert Shetterly as part of the "Americans Who Tell the Truth" series.

### **HEMINGS FAMILY TOUR**

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*Every day in February, 1:45pm*

See Monticello through the lens of the Hemings Family, the best documented enslaved family in the United States.

### **MEMORIES MATTER: COMMUNITY HISTORY DAY**

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*February 1st, 10am to 12pm*

See what community groups are doing to tell local stories and Monticello and learn how to properly protect and store your family heirlooms. FREE.

### **EXPLORE THE PAST THROUGH ARCHAEOLOGY**

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*February 8th, 10am to 12pm*

Join Monticello archaeologists in the Archaeology Lab to discover how the enslaved community lived at Monticello.

### **PASSING IN AMERICA, SATURDAY**

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*February 8, 2pm to 3pm, FREE*

Historians Lisa Page and Catherine Kerrison join Pulitzer-Prize-winning journalist Clarence Page for a discussion on the history of African Americans "crossing over" to white society.

## [The Mariners' Museum and Park](#)

100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606

### **MARITIME MONDAYS**

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*Every Monday in February, 10:30am*

Join us every Monday morning for engaging activities with your children as they learn how maritime connects each of us through story time and a craft. This program is designed for children from 18 months to age 8. [Click here](#) to view a list of February books selected in honor of Black History Month.

### **AFRICANS AND AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE MARITIME WORLD**

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*February 8th, 10am*

Discover the influences of Africans and African Americans across the centuries and throughout the maritime world.

### **NATHAN RICHARDSON PORTRAYS FREDERICK DOUGLASS**

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*February 15th, 1pm*

Poet, Author, Spoken Word Performer Nathan M. Richardson captures completely the physical and spiritual essence of the great writer, orator, and abolitionist Frederick Douglass. Experience living history through his performance with special emphasis on the part of Douglas' life working in the shipyards in Fells Point, Baltimore, MD.

### **AFRICAN MARITIME COLLAGE**

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*February 22nd, 10am*

In this hands-on program, visitors will experiment with collage as a powerful form of artistic expression. Using African fabrics, found objects, embellishments and photographs from our collection, participants will learn how to create collages with personal meaning in celebration of Black History Month.

## [The Library of Virginia](#)

800 E Broad St, Richmond, VA 23219

### LITERARY VIRGINIA BOOK GROUP

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*February 12th, 6pm to 7:30pm, Orientation Room at the Library of Virginia*

On the second Wednesday evening of each month, join us for a book discussion with light refreshments, additional historical context, and even occasional author visits. This month, discuss *We Face the Dawn* by Margaret Edds (a 2019 Nonfiction Award finalist) and pick up March's book, *Vox* by Christina Dalcher (a 2019 People's Choice Award for Fiction finalist). Loaner books available. For more information, contact Nan Carmack at [nan.carmack@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:nan.carmack@lva.virginia.gov) or 804.692.3792. FREE.

### A CONVERSATION ABOUT FREEDOM RIDERS

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*February 12th, 6pm to 8pm, Conference Rooms at the Library of Virginia*

Free and open to the public, this small-group discussion series encourages informed conversations around complex topics affecting Virginia. February 12's event features a screening from *Freedom Riders* and conversations around nonviolent activism during the struggle for racial justice. For more information, contact Emma Ito at [emma.ito@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:emma.ito@lva.virginia.gov) or 804.692.3726.

## [Richard M. Bowman Center for Local History](#)

10790 Courthouse Rd, Charles City, VA 23030

### "I WAS ALWAYS A UNION MAN."

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*February 28th, 11am*

Black History Month History Lecture by Judith Ledbetter. Charles City Branch of the Heritage Public Library

### "FREEDOM'S JUBILEE"

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An online exhibit and driving tour devoted to four centuries of African American History in Charles City County.

## [The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts](#)

200 N. Arthur Ashe Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23220

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### WORKING TOGETHER: LOUIS DRAPER AND THE KAMOINGE WORKSHOP

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*All month*

See the first comprehensive exhibition to tell the remarkable story of Richmond native Louis Draper and the Kamoinge Workshop, a New York-based collective founded in 1963. Seeking artistic equality and empowerment for African American artists, the Kamoinge Workshop became an integral yet overlooked part of 20th-century photography. VMFA presents 180 photographs by 15 of the group's early members, including Draper, whose voice and vision played a key role in shaping its identity.

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### PERFORMANCE & ART ACTIVITY: GRANDMA'S HANDS

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*Feb 2nd, 1-4 pm, performances in the Atrium 2pm and 3pm*

Join us as we encounter generational lessons from two sisters with remarkable stories to share from the perspective of the African American South. Through song, stories, and signed poetry, learn how women have made an impact on culture through practices passed down from family matriarchs. Free, no tickets required.

During this event, celebrate family with Richmond artist Hamilton Glass and local African American photographers. Take your digital family portraits onsite at VMFA to become part of a mixed-media public art collaboration. You can also capture fun memories in the Family Portrait Photo Booth. Free, no tickets required.

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### AFRICAN AMERICAN ART AND THE POWER OF THE WRITTEN WORD

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*February 11th, 11-11:30am, February 13th, 6:30-7pm*

Join Dr. Christopher Oliver for an exploration of three objects on view at in VMFA's American Art galleries and discover their connection with the power of poetry and prose. Free, no tickets required.

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### COMMUNITY EVENT: "CELEBRATE WILEY!"

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*February 29th, 10am to 11am*

Join VMFA for a community celebration of Kehinde Wiley's Rumors of War! This special event will offer families a chance to view this new work of art and welcome it to its permanent home through art-making, gallery activities, and readings of children's literature. Free, no tickets required

## [The Chrysler Museum](#)

*One Memorial Place, Norfolk, VA 23510*

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### **ARTIST TALK: KERIS SALMON ON THE ARCHITECTURE OF SLAVERY EXHIBIT**

*February 1st, 3pm*

In *The Architecture of Slavery*, Keris Salmon pairs contemporary photographs of Southern plantations and slave dwellings with archival text from enslaved people and slave owners to present a vision of the historical realities and lasting legacy of slavery in the United States. Registration is recommended.

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### **POETRY SLAM**

*February 20th, 6pm*

Inspired by *The Architecture of Slavery* exhibit, undergraduate students from Norfolk State University and Old Dominion University will present original poetry.

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### **FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION: THE POWER OF UNITY IN COMMUNITY**

*February 22nd from 11am-2:30pm*

Discover the contributions of African American throughout history during this afternoon program. Enjoy a gallery talk with Kimberli Gant, PhD, the Chrysler's McKinnon Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art, a reception, and a community conversation in Kaufman Theater.

## [Moses Myers House](#)

*323 E Freemason St, Norfolk, VA 23510*

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### **HISTORY SPEAKS: STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM**

*February 2nd, 1 pm*

The Moses Myers House was home to many enslaved people. During a guided tour, discover the history of the African Americans who worked there and see a space where they lived.

## [Willoughby-Baylor House](#)

*601 E Freemason St, Norfolk, VA 23510*

### **ARTIST TALK: MAIZELLE ON CELEBRATE ME HOME**

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*February 8th, 2pm*

Celebrate Me Home offers a glimpse of African American history in Norfolk and throughout the south through Maizelle's vibrant works. Due to the historic nature of the Willoughby-Baylor House, accessibility is limited

## [Historic Dumfries Virginia & The Weems-Botts Museum](#)

*3944 Cameron Street, Dumfries, VA 22026*

### **FAMILY HISTORY CHILDREN'S DAY**

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*February 15, 1-3pm*

Free crafts and snacks available for children at the museum to honor family history.

The Town of Dumfries celebrates Black History month on this day from 11:00am-1:00pm at Little Union Baptist Church. This is a free event and celebration as well and is minutes from the museum.

## [The Valentine](#)

1015 East Clay Street, Richmond, VA 23219

### **VOICES FROM RICHMOND'S HIDDEN EPIDEMIC**

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*On view through May 25*

Featuring oral histories with powerful accompanying photographic portraits, Voices from Richmond's Hidden Epidemic offers a nuanced look at the HIV/AIDS crisis through the stories of survivors, caregivers, activists and health care workers on the front lines.

### **SELF-GUIDED BLACK HISTORY MONTH GALLERY GUIDE**

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*Throughout February*

As part of the Valentine's commitment to sharing diverse, complicated and challenging Richmond Stories, museum staff have developed a Black History Month Gallery Guide for visitors. These laminated guides will be located at the front desk (and downloadable from the Valentine website). This guide will serve as a jumping off point for visitors looking to explore the wider history of the region and the integral role African-Americans have played in its development, evolution and progress.

Admission to the museum is \$10 for adults, free for children, students, military, those who receive SNAP benefits, members.

### **THE VALENTINE'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH ADULT OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

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*Huguenot Community Center 7945 Forest Hill Ave BLDG 26*

The Valentine and the city of Richmond are offering two adult outreach programs through the month of February. These include a program on Wednesday, February 12, 10-11 a.m. titled "Integration and Civil Rights in Richmond". On Wednesday, February 26, 10-11 a.m., attendees can take part in the "Soul of a Community: African Americans in Richmond" adult outreach program.

To confirm your attendance and for more information, contact Janei Lofty with the Richmond City Office of Aging and Persons with Disabilities at [janei.lofty@richmondgov.com](mailto:janei.lofty@richmondgov.com) or at 804-646-6885

## Prince William County Historic Preservation Division Events

*Addresses vary*

### **LUCASVILLE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

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*11am-4pm, every weekend in February, Lucasville School, 10516 Godwin Dr., Manassas, VA 703-365-7895.*

Join us as we celebrate African American History Month at historic Lucasville School during our open house weekends in February. Visit the reconstructed 19th century school used by the community of Lucasville. Learn surprising facts of African American history in Prince William County and throughout the Northern Virginia region. Each weekend, enjoy a different activity in the schoolhouse, including activities, crafts and exhibits. Free, donations welcome.

### **EVERYDAY FULL OF WORK: THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE AT BEN LOMOND**

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*February 15th, 11am-4pm, Ben Lomond Historic Site, 10321 Sudley Manor Dr., Manassas, VA. 703-367-7872.*

Visitors can explore the historic home and the original slave quarter to learn about the enslaved population living at Ben Lomond in the years before the Civil War. This tour will allow visitors to see spaces not ordinarily open to the public and participate in hands-on activities to learn about some of the chores that enslaved men, women, and children, were expected to complete, as well as the lives of the enslaved community. Additionally, join us for the unveiling of a new interactive virtual reality experience at the Ben Lomond Slave Quarters. \$5 per person, children 6 and under free.

### **AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AT BRENTSVILLE COURTHOUSE**

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*February 22nd, 11am-1pm, Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, 12229 Bristow Road, Bristow, VA 20136, (703) 365-7895.*

Explore the lives of African Americans in 19th century from the perspective of Brentsville Courthouse. As we tour the site, learn about how they lived, their experiences, and how they were treated in the community. Hear about the hardships they faced, such as enslavement and a lack of rights, and the triumphs they achieved before the county seat moved in 1893. \$5 per person, children 6 and under free.