



BLACK HISTORY MONTH TOOLKIT

2024



North Carolina African American
Heritage Commission

The NC African American Heritage Commission believes that celebrating and sharing the history and heritage of African Americans goes beyond the month of February. This February, and every month we continue our work to preserve, protect and promote North Carolina's African American history, arts, and culture for all people.

The following is a small collection of resources to assist you in celebrating Black History Month. We encourage you to interact with this toolkit by clicking on corresponding links for items that have been curated to enrich your sense of creativity and community. This 2024 Black History Month Toolkit is a testament to North Carolina's vibrant culture and brilliant future.

Be sure to Tag and Follow us on social media!



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Photo of USCT 35th Regiment based at Tryon Palace

HISTORY OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Did you know that the origins of Black History Month date back to 1915? At that time, a gentleman named Dr. Carter G. Woodson traveled to Chicago to participate and present at Illinois' celebration for the 50th anniversary of emancipation. This event inspired him to form an organization dedicated to the scientific study of black life and history, which came to be known as the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (currently known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History) which led to the creation of Negro History and Literature Week.

Why February? It is believed Dr. Woodson chose it because it encompasses both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass' birthdays, two individuals who greatly shaped black history. Through the 1920s, celebration of the week grew and by the 1940s, the study of black history within the black community expanded. In 1976, the Association worked to officially expand the week to a month. Since that time, every American president has issued proclamations based on the Association's annual theme.



*Photo Courtesy of State Archives of North Carolina.
Emanuel Williams Cox: CCC, Pictorial Review, 1940.*

CALENDAR

2024 BLACK HISTORY MONTH TOOLKIT

NORTH CAROLINA CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

CALENDAR
EVENTS

2024 Black History Month Calendar

PROGRAM
UPDATES

2024 Black History Month Website

NC BLACK HISTORY MONTH READ-IN LIST



Photo Courtesy of Dr. Tiwana Nevels

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Dr. Tiwana Nevels currently serves as the Assistant State Librarian at the State Library of North Carolina, bringing with her over a decade of extensive administrative and managerial experience in library services. Prior to her current role, she excelled as the Director of Library Services at Saint Augustine's University. In her leisure moments, Dr. Nevels indulges in the pleasure of reading, a passion she joyfully extends to the younger members of her community.

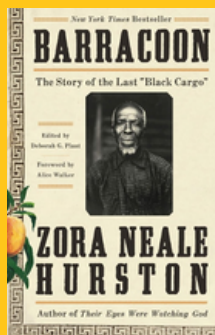
Stay in and read with us!

NC BLACK HISTORY MONTH READ-IN LIST



*You Owe You:
Ignite Your Power,
Your Purpose,
and Your Why*
NONFICTION
by Eric Thomas

*How We Heal:
Uncover Your Power
and Set Yourself Free*
NONFICTION
by Alexandra Elle



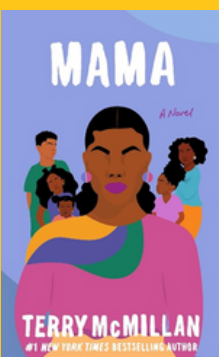
*Barracoon:
The Story of
the Last "Black Cargo"*
NONFICTION
by Zora Neale Hurston

*The Light We Carry:
Overcoming in
Uncertain Times*
NONFICTION
by Michelle Obama



The Vanishing Half
FICTION
by Brit Bennett

Sag Harbor
FICTION
by Colson Whitehead



Mama
FICTION
by Terry McMillan

The Book of Harlan
FICTION
by Bernice L.
McFadden



ADULT

Search for these titles and more through
your local library branch in North Carolina!

NC BLACK HISTORY MONTH READ-IN LIST

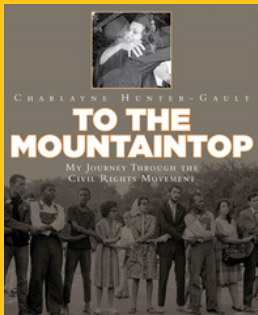


*You Are More Than Magic:
The Black and Brown
Girls' Guide
to Finding Your Voice*

NONFICTION
by Minda Harts

*We Beat the Street:
How A Friendship Pact
Led to Success*

NONFICTION
by Drs. Sampson Davis,
George Jenkins,
& Ramneck Hunt
with Sharon Draper



*To the Mountaintop:
My Journey Through
the Civil Rights Movement*

NONFICTION
by Charlayne
Hunter-Gault

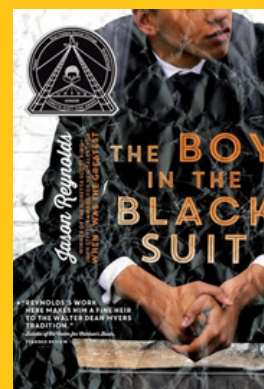
*BRUH YOU GOT THIS:
Affirmations
for Young Men*

NONFICTION
by Trevor Jones



The Skin I'm In
FICTION
by Sharon G. Flake

The Boy in the Black Suit
FICTION
by Jason Reynolds



Monday's Not Coming
FICTION
by Tiffany D. Jackson

Dear Martin
FICTION
by Nic Stone



YOUNG ADULT

Search for these titles and more through
your local library branch in North Carolina!

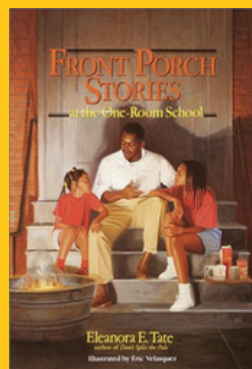
NC BLACK HISTORY MONTH READ-IN LIST



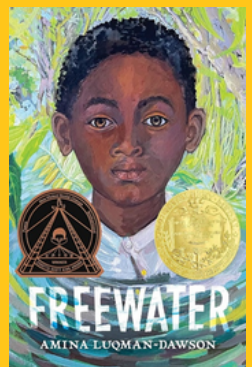
*28 Days:
Moments in Black History
that Changed the World*
NONFICTION
by Charles R. Smith



*Black Inventors:
15 Inventions
that Changed the World*
NONFICTION
by Kathy Trusty

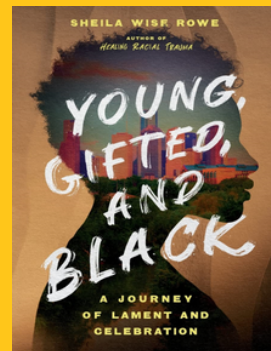


*Front Porch Stories:
at the One-Room School*
FICTION
by Eleanora Tate



Freewater
FICTION
by Amina Luqman-Dawson

*Young,
Gifted,
and Black:
A Journey
of Lament and
Celebration*
NONFICTION
by Sheila Wise Rose



Gone Crazy in Alabama
FICTION
by Rita Williams-Garcia



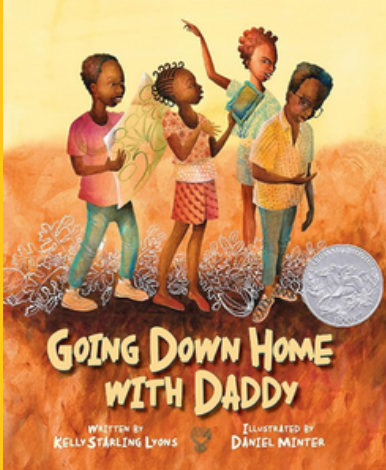
Donavan's Word Jar
FICTION
by Monalisa DeGross



YOUTH

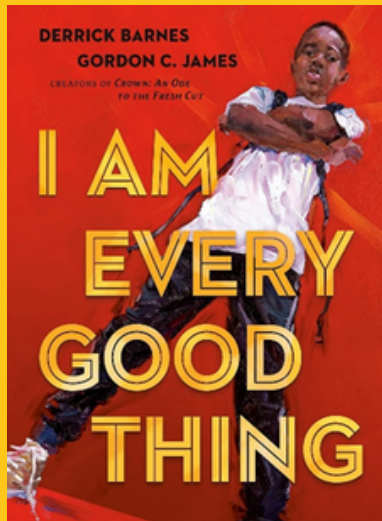
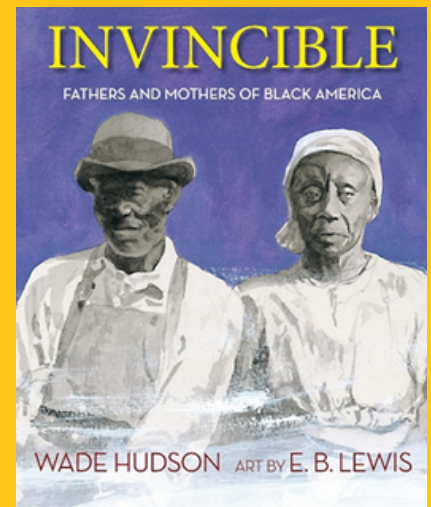
Search for these titles and more through
your local library branch in North Carolina!

NC BLACK HISTORY MONTH READ-IN LIST



Going Down Home with Daddy
by Kelly Starling Lyons
& Daniel Minter

*Invincible:
Fathers and Mothers
of Black America*
by Wade Hudson
& E.B. Lewis



I Am Every Good Thing
by Derrick Barnes
& Gordon C. James

My Hair is MAGIC!
by M.L. Marroquin
& Tonya Engel



PICTURE BOOK

Search for these titles and more through
your local library branch in North Carolina

NC BLACK HISTORY MONTH BLACK ART FEATURE



Photo of Jalen Jackson - Courtesy of Sanje James

THE CURATOR AND THE VISION

The Black Art Feature seeks to highlight and celebrate the many great Black artists that are based in North Carolina. Jalen Jackson is our inaugural curator.

Jalen Jackson is a visual artist whose paintings explore African American culture, collective memory, and experiences. His paintings depict flashbacks of his childhood and other memories, especially growing up as a son of a single mother. He was the 2023 HBCU Artist in Residence at Artspace in Raleigh and received his BFA in Visual Arts from NC A&T State University.

NC BLACK HISTORY MONTH BLACK ART FEATURE



Photo Courtesy of
Clarence Heyward

American Girl - **Clarence Heyward**

Curator Insight

This painting is one of many that symbolizes his journey as an African American father/artist raising his daughters in a society that challenges how we are viewed by non people of color. Clarence is originally from New York and lives in Raleigh.



Photo Courtesy of
Steven Cozart

The Divide II - **Steven Cozart**

Curator Insight

Steven is not only a brilliant artist, he's a teacher who is very passionate about education. He spreads the word about the stories and lived experiences of black people with melanated skin tones and variations of hair textures, while displaying interpretations of what it means to be Black. Steven is the 2024 Brightwork Fellow at Anchorlight and resides in Greensboro.



Photo Courtesy of Sanje James

Washed in Thought - **Sanje James**

Curator Insight

Sanje's work ranges from images about self-exploration to stereotypes about Black women. She was one of the recipients of the 2023 Durham Art Guild Residencies. Sanje is a photographer based in Raleigh, NC.

Select the name of each artist or their corresponding image for more information on their website!

NC BLACK HISTORY MONTH BLACK ART FEATURE



Photo Courtesy of
Lamar Whidbee

As A Man - Lamar Whidbee

Curator Insight

After seeing this piece at his Amygdala exhibition at Artspace, we spoke about his process and decision making. Lamar's ability to create work by improvisation is inspiring to many people/artists such as myself.

He doesn't limit himself to a single medium, he uses mixed media and sculpts his ideas into incredible think pieces. Lamar is a North Carolina based artist who has exhibited in many places throughout the state including CAM Museum, Craven Allen Gallery, and Artspace.

Remember Nights, I Didn't Remember Nights - Sherrill Roland

Curator Insight

A native of Asheville, Sherrill has exhibited in numerous museums and galleries across the country. He reflects on being wrongly incarcerated while attending college at University of North Carolina Greensboro.

After he was exonerated in 2016, he began producing powerful work about what it was like being wrongly incarcerated for over 10 months. This piece takes a deep dive into his journey of self-reflection.



Photo Courtesy of
Sherrill Roland



Photo Courtesy of
Richard Wilson

Jack Johnson - Richard Wilson

Curator Insight

Richard is a North Carolina based artist who tours and exhibits around the country showcasing his artwork by depicting his outlook on life as a father and sports enthusiast. His wisdom, experience, and impressive skills are what you see when you look at his Jack Johnson piece.

*Select the name of each artist or their
corresponding image for more information on
their website!*

NC BLACK HISTORY MONTH BLACK ART FEATURE



Photo Courtesy of
Precious Lovell

War of Words - Precious Lovell

Curator Insight

Precious Lovell, based in Raleigh, is one of the most influential, informative, intelligent and strong-willed artists I've ever had the pleasure of meeting. This piece is one of the many powerful pieces that conjures deep emotions about Black History and how it correlates with the problems that still exist throughout the nation today.



Photo Courtesy of
Samantha Everette

Crowning Glory- Samantha Everette

Curator Insight

Samantha has a gift of utilizing a camera as a tool for freezing special moments in our lives. Samantha's wisdom and ability to bring the most out of any creative situation is what makes her work so great. *Crowning Glory* is a series that gives you the opportunity to see the masterful composition and elegance of her work! Samantha is based in the Triangle area of the state.



Photo Courtesy of Phillip Loken

Octavia Rainey for Black Oak Society V - Phillip Loken

Curator Insight

Phillip is a North Carolina based photographer that specializes in Fine Art Documentary and Filmmaking. I had the opportunity to see Phillip's work for the first time at the group exhibition, *Give Black Raleigh Her Flowers* in May 2022. The talent in the image speaks for itself!

Select the name of each artist or their corresponding image for more information on their website!

NC BLACK HISTORY MONTH BLACK ART SPACES IN NORTH CAROLINA



A selection of cultural institutions, community centers, & art museums that feature and promote the artwork by Black artists here in North Carolina!



Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts & Culture

Charlotte

Founded in 1974 as the Afro-American Cultural and Service Center, the Gantt Center's mission is to present, preserve, and celebrate excellence in the art, history, and culture of African Americans and those of African descent through visual, digital, and literary arts; dance, music, film, educational programs, theatre productions, and community outreach.

Visual, multi-media, digital, permanent collections & more!

African American Atelier

Greensboro

The African American Atelier, Inc. is a nonprofit, fine arts gallery organization of professional artists, educators, collectors and patrons, whose mission is to promote an awareness, appreciation and sensitivity to the visual arts and culture of African Americans and to work in harmony with other ethnic groups. The organization is dedicated to strengthening and enhancing the exposure and visibility of African American artists through special exhibitions, forums, lectures and educational programs.

Visual, multi-media, digital, permanent collections & more!

Delta Arts Center

Winston-Salem

The Delta Arts Center is a cultural organization and art gallery located in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. It showcases the work of local, regional, and national artists and hosts exhibitions, educational programs, and community events that celebrate African American art and culture. The center also offers workshops, lectures, and performances to promote awareness and appreciation of the arts within the local community.

Visual, multi-media, digital, permanent collections & more!

North Carolina Museum of Art

Raleigh

At the North Carolina Museum of Art, we believe in the transformative power of art. Through the People's Collection, the state art collection that belongs to the citizens of North Carolina, and our 164-acre Park, we strive to create a sense of welcome and belonging. Our collection galleries span more than 5,000 years, from antiquity to the present, and provides countless cultural experiences for the people of our state and beyond.

Visual, multi-media, digital, permanent collections & more!

Select the name of each Black Art Space for more information on their programs for BHM and throughout the year!

NC BLACK HISTORY MONTH

BLACK ART SPACES IN NORTH CAROLINA



A selection of cultural institutions, community centers, & art museums that feature and promote the artwork by Black artists here in North Carolina!



Cameron Art Museum

Wilmington

The Cameron Art Museum has been the premier art museum in southeastern North Carolina for over 61 years and is a proud nonprofit that is funded by its community. CAM's core values underscore a commitment to community, to lifelong learning in the arts, to artists, and to preserving and interpreting our permanent collection to an 8-county reach, including Brunswick, Bladen, Columbus, Duplin, Pender, New Hanover, Samson, and Onslow County.

Public sculpture, visual, multi-media, digital, permanent collections & more!

Fayetteville State University's Rosenthal Gallery

Fayetteville

The Rosenthal Gallery on the campus of Fayetteville State University, provides students, faculty, staff and other community members interested in the visual arts with programs, services and events that promote cultural enrichment, and appreciation for the arts from a global perspective. The gallery presents local, national and international exhibitions in a yearly schedule that includes showcasing our graduating visual arts majors.

Visual, multi-media, digital, permanent collections & more!

Mary C. Jenkins Community & Cultural Center

Brevard

The Mary C. Jenkins Community & Cultural Center is here to promote a healthy, livable community with opportunities for educational, personal and cultural enrichment. The Community Center also features a history display on the famous comedian, Moms Mabley, who was a Brevard native!

Visual, multi-media, digital, permanent collections & more!

Select the name of each Black Art Space for more information on their programs for BHM and throughout the year!

PROGRAMS

2024 BLACK HISTORY MONTH TOOLKIT



*Photo Courtesy of Department of Natural and Cultural Resources of North Carolina.
African American Music Trails of Eastern N.C. Festival, Wilson, 2023.*

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC TRAILS OF NORTH CAROLINA

African American Music Trails is an exploration of the long and rich heritage of African American music in Eastern North Carolina. The abundance of this music and its musicians is one of the state's best kept secrets. Funk, blues, jazz, and gospel in Kinston, Tarboro, Wilson and everywhere in between.



[LEARN MORE](#)

NC CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL

For generations, people in North Carolina have used spaces and spaces to organize, strategize and protest to advance the civil rights of people of color, especially African Americans. In honor of this work, we are joining communities across the state to physically mark sites critical to the Civil Rights Movement in North Carolina. Between 2021 and 2024, we will place 50 markers in counties across the state, highlighting and acknowledging tireless civil rights efforts that are well known and, in some cases, unsung. Ten of these markers will be placed in Hometown Strong counties.



[LEARN MORE](#)

NORTH CAROLINA FREEDOM PARK

Freedom Park, a historic green space nestled in the heart of downtown Raleigh, is the first park in North Carolina dedicated to honoring the African American struggle for freedom and an evergreen homage to the universal ideals of liberty, resilience, and equality.

Please come and visit this state treasure the next time you visit the state capital!

[LEARN MORE](#)

[FREE AND OPEN TO ALL](#)
218 N Wilmington Street,
Raleigh, NC



Photos Courtesy of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The North Carolina

African American

Heritage

Commission

OUR MISSION

The North Carolina General Assembly created the African American Heritage Commission (AAHC) in 2008 to “assist the Secretary of Cultural Resources in the preservation, interpretation, and promotion of African American history, arts, and culture.” With this legislation the AAHC has identified African American heritage practitioners, such as curators, docents, and museum directors, as priority service populations. The AAHC was recognized as a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in 2017, after being housed in the Office of Archives and History and the North Carolina Arts Council. The Commission works across the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to achieve the mission of preserving, protecting, and promoting North Carolina’s African American history, art, and culture, for all people.

Stay connected with us!

WEBSITE

YOUTUBE

