

IN RECOGNITION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 2024

- WHEREAS,** EACH FEBRUARY, NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONORS THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS AND SHINES A LIGHT ON THE LEGACIES OF GENERATIONS PAST. IT IS ONE OF THE MOST RECOGNIZED AND CELEBRATED CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTHS ON THE CALENDAR; AND
- WHEREAS,** THE ORIGIN OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH BEGAN WITH CARTER G. WOODSON, WHO IS KNOWN AS THE “FATHER OF BLACK HISTORY.” WOODSON, WHO’S PARENTS WERE ENSLAVED, WAS AN AUTHOR, HISTORIAN AND THE SECOND AFRICAN AMERICAN TO EARN A PH.D. AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY, RECOGNIZED THAT THE AMERICAN EDUCATION SYSTEM OFFERED VERY LITTLE ABOUT THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS. IN 1926, WOODSON PROPOSED A NATIONAL “NEGRO HISTORY WEEK,” WHICH WAS INTENDED TO SHOWCASE BLACK HISTORY THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR. IN 1976, PRESIDENT GERALD FORD EXPANDED THE WEEK INTO BLACK HISTORY MONTH; AND
- WHEREAS,** SINCE 1928, THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF NEGRO LIFE AND HISTORY HAS PROVIDED A NATIONAL THEME FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH. THIS YEAR’S THEME IS “AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE ARTS.” AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTS HAVE USED ART TO PRESERVE HISTORY AS WELL AS FOR EMPOWERMENT. THE SUFFERING OF THOSE IN BONDAGE GAVE BIRTH TO THE NEGRO SPIRITUALS. BLUES MUSICIANS SUCH AS ROBERT JOHNSON, MCKINLEY “MUDDY WATERS” MORGANFIELD AND RILEY “BB” KING CREATED AND NURTURED A STYLE OF MUSIC THAT BECAME THE BEDROCK FOR GOSPEL, SOUL, AND OTHER POPULAR FORMS OF MUSIC. BLACK CONTRIBUTIONS TO LITERATURE INCLUDE WORKS BY POETS LIKE PHILLIS WHEATLEY, ESSAYS, AUTOBIOGRAPHIES, AND NOVELS BY WRITERS SUCH AS DAVID WALKER AND MARIA STEWART. BLACK AESTHETICS HAVE ALSO BEEN MANIFESTED THROUGH SCULPTORS LIKE EDMONIA LEWIS AND PAINTERS LIKE HENRY O. TANNER; AND
- WHEREAS,** IN THE 1920’S AND 30’S, THE RISE OF THE BLACK RENAISSANCE AND NEW NEGRO MOVEMENT BROUGHT THE BLACK ARTS TO AN INTERNATIONAL STAGE. MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, SUCH AS JAMES REESE EUROPE, AND ARTISTS SUCH AS LANGSTON HUGHES, JOSEPHINE BAKER AND LOIS MAILOU JONES BROUGHT BLACK CULTURE AND BLACK AMERICAN AESTHETICS INTERNATIONALLY, AND BLACK CULTURE BEGAN ITS ASCENT TO BECOMING A DOMINANT CULTURAL MOVEMENT TO THE WORLD. THE 1960’S CONTINUED THIS THREAD THROUGH THE CULTURAL EVOLUTION KNOWN AS THE BLACK ARTS MOVEMENT, WHERE ARTISTS COVERED ISSUES SUCH AS PRIDE IN ONE’S HERITAGE AND ARTISTS ESTABLISHED ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS TO SHOW THEIR OWN WORK, AS WELL AS PUBLICATIONS SUCH AS BLACK ART. THIS PERIOD BROUGHT US ARTISTS SUCH AS ALVIN AILEY, JUDITH JAMISON, AMIRI BARAKA, NIKKI GIOVANNI AND SONIA SANCHEZ; AND
- WHEREAS,** IN 1973, IN THE BRONX, NEW YORK BLACK MUSICIANS STARTED A NEW GENRE OF MUSIC CALLED HIP-HOP, WHICH COMPRISES ELEMENTS LIKE DJ-ING, MC-ING, BREAK DANCING AND BEAT BOXING. HIP-HOP PERFORMERS USED TURNTABLES, SYNTHESIZERS, DRUM MACHINES, AND SAMPLERS TO MAKE THEIR SONGS. SINCE THEN, HIP-HOP CONTINUES TO BE A PIVOTAL FORCE IN POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL SPACES AND WAS A MEDIUM WHERE ISSUES SUCH AS RACIAL VIOLENCE IN THE INNER CITY, SEXISM, ECONOMIC DISINVESTMENT, AND OTHERS TOOK THE FOREFRONT; AND
- WHEREAS,** IN CELEBRATING THE HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE ARTS, THE CITY OF HOLLYWOOD WILL JOIN IN BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY INCLUDING THE EVENT SPONSORED BY THE CITY’S AFRICAN AMERICAN ADVISORY COUNCIL THAT WILL TAKE PLACE AT 6 P.M. ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND AT THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER. THE EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND THE HOLLYWOOD CITY COMMISSION ENCOURAGES EVERYONE TO ATTEND; NOW
- THEREFORE,** JOSH LEVY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA, AND THE HOLLYWOOD CITY COMMISSION, HEREBY PROCLAIM FEBRUARY 2024, AS:

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SIGNED THIS 7th DAY OF
FEBRUARY 2024, AT
HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

MAYOR JOSH LEVY
VICE MAYOR LINDA HILL ANDERSON
COMMISSIONER CARYL S. SHUHAM
COMMISSIONER TRACI L. CALLARI
COMMISSIONER ADAM GRUBER
COMMISSIONER KEVIN D. BIEDERMAN
COMMISSIONER IDELMA QUINTANA