

Black History Month - 2017

Events

Sat, Jan 28 | 6 p.m

[Unity Walk](#)

Tempe Town Lake

Participants will assemble at Tempe Lake Marina

Sponsored by the cities of Tempe, Chandler, Mesa, Scottsdale, as well as the town of Guadalupe and Arizona State University, the Unity Walk host hundreds of residents and students with the goal of promoting better relationships between people and organizations. Each group or city wears a different colored shirt and starts the walk together. The approximately 1-mile walk will finish at Tempe Beach Park.

Sat, Feb 4 | 1 to 4 p.m.

African American Read-In

Chandler Public Library - Hamilton Branch

3700 S Arizona Ave

In celebration of Black History Month, the Chandler Hamilton Library will be hosting it's annual African American Read-In. This community reading event is intended to shine a spotlight on African American authors, promote diversity and encourage young people to read. This year, look forward to children & adult authors, a presentation on the history of Hip Hop, storytellers and more.....details coming soon!

Sat, Feb 4 | 2 to 4 p.m.

Black History Month Program

“Sankofa” by Haile Gerima

Tempe Public Library Program Room

[3500 S. Rural Road](#)

[Tempe, Arizona 85282](#)

The African American Advisory Committee (AAAC) of Tempe History Museum presents the film, “Sankofa”. Sankofa is an Akan word from Ghana meaning, “one must return to the past in order to move forward.” This powerful 125 minute film tells the story of the transformation of Mona, a self-possessed African American woman, who was sent on a spiritual journey in time to experience the pain of slavery and the discovery of her African identity.

The AAAC will present programs to celebrate Black History each Saturday at 2 p.m. during the month of February. All programs are free and open to the public.

Thursday, Feb 19 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Pricilla's Homecoming

Cesar Chavez Library

3635 W. Baseline Rd.

Celebrate African American History Month by attending Priscilla's Homecoming. Follow the life and descendents of a 10 year-old documented slave girl from Sierra Leone to present day South Carolina. Program presented by the Black Family Genealogy & History Society.

Tuesday, Feb 24 | 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The Black Theatre Troupe presents "My Words Are my Power"

Burton Barr Central Library

1221 N. Central Ave.

Hear history come to life in an evening of staged dramatic readings of American slave narratives. This literary form recorded the autobiographical stories of a people in bondage. Presented in celebration of Black History Month and the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War and American slavery. Supported by Friends of the Phoenix Public Library

Saturday, Feb 20 | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Healing Racism Series: "Race and Family"

Rio Salado Conference Center

2323 W. 14th Street, Tempe

www.csr.d.asu.edu/healingracism

This all day symposium explores topics related to race and family. Learn from experts, interact with peers and community leaders, and network with organizations.

February 2 - 28

Fine Art Display

Tempe History Museum

809 E. Southern Avenue, Tempe

480-350-5100

www.tempe.gov/museum

The community room at the Tempe History Museum will host an art display celebrating Black History Month provided by The Diverse Artist Collective of Arizona during the month of February.

Did you know...

- Black History Month began in 1976, during the nation's bicentennial. President Gerald R. Ford urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."
- Both Condoleezza Rice and Martin Luther King, Jr. started college when they were just 15 years old.
- In 2008, Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt became the first man to ever set three world records in a single Olympic games.
- Before he was a blockbuster actor, Will Smith was The Fresh Prince and, along with partner Jazzy Jeff, won the first-ever Grammy for Best Rap Performance. They boycotted the awards because the category was barred from television.
- The hair brush, lawn mower, cellphone, refrigerator, and — thank heavens — the air conditioner were all the fruits of African-American inventors' creative laboring.
- Maya Angelou's birthday is on the same day her friend, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated. She stopped celebrating her birthday for many years following that day, instead sending flowers to Mrs. King.
- Langston Hughes' father discouraged him from being a writer and only agreed to pay for his college education if he studied engineering.
- George Washington Carver developed 300 derivative products from peanuts among them cheese, milk, coffee, flour, ink, dyes, plastics, wood stains, soap, linoleum, medicinal oils and cosmetics.
- Martin Luther King Jr. improvised the most iconic part of his "I Have a Dream Speech." (pbs.org)