



Black History Month

"To commemorate and celebrate the contributions to our nation made by people of African descent, American historian Carter G. Woodson established Black History Week (then called "Negro History Week") nearly a century ago. The event was first celebrated during the second week of February 1926, selected because it coincides with the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and abolitionist/writer Frederick Douglass (February 14). That week would continue to be set aside for the event until 1976 when, as part of the nation's bicentennial, it was expanded to a month. Since then, U.S. presidents have proclaimed February as National African American History Month.

The following facts are made possible by the invaluable responses to the U.S. Census Bureau's surveys. We appreciate the public's cooperation as we continuously measure America's people, places and economy.¹

The Numbers:

- 48.2 Million** — Black Population, either alone or in combination with one or more races, in the US in 2019¹
- 87.9%** — Percentage of African Americans with high school diploma or higher in 2019¹
- 30.7%** — Percentage of employed Black population age 16 and older working in management, business, science, and arts occupations in 2019¹
- 124,004** — Number of Black-owned employer businesses in US in 2017¹
- 2.1 Million** — Number of Black military veterans in the US in 2019¹
- 5%** — Percentage of active physicians in the US who identified as Black or African American in 2015²
- 8%** — Percentage of medical school applicants in the US who identified as Black or African American in 2015²

¹ US Census Bureau, 2021

² AAMC, 2016 Facts and Figures

Engage:

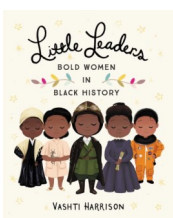
- [Black History Month: How did it start and why is it in February?](#) (2 min read)
- [Henrietta Lacks: Science Must Right a Historical Wrong](#) (6 min read)
- [Black History is America's History](#) (2 min read)
- [Hidden in Plain Site: Reconsidering the Use of Race Correction in Clinical Algorithms](#) (13 min read)
- [The Praxis](#) (5 episodes, listening times vary, ~20 min)
- [1619](#) (5 episodes, listening times vary, ~30 min)
- [Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution](#) (1 hour 53 min view)
- [Crack: Cocaine, Corruption, and Conspiracy](#) (1 hour 29 min view)
- [The 13th](#) (1 hour 40 min view)
- [Homegoing](#) by Yaa Gyasi
- [Little Leaders](#) by Vashti Harrison

Support:

- [Celebrate Seattle's Black Owned Restaurants](#)
- [Support Black-Owned Businesses and Communities](#) Resources and educational tools for supporting Seattle's Black Communities
- [Honoring Black History Month in 2021](#) Ideas about where to shop, events to attend and more in Seattle
- [The Seattle Medium](#) An African-American newspaper serving Seattle, Washington since 1970

Participate:

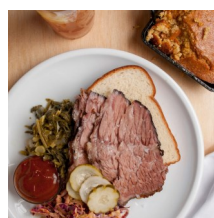
- [The Soul of Seattle](#) Ongoing throughout the month of February
- [Innovative Lives: Jessica O. Matthews](#) February 10 from 1-2:30pm PT
- [\(Re\)Making History: Memory, Mythmaking, and the Civil Rights Movement](#) February 12 from 5:30-7pm ET
- [Well Beings: Centering the Mental Health of Black Youth](#) February 25 at 7pm PT
- [Charlie Parker: A Centennial Spotlight](#) February 26 at 7pm ET



Little Leaders:
Bold Women in Black
History



The Soul of Seattle



Celebrate Seattle's
Black-Owned
Restaurants



(Re)Making History:
Memory, Mythmaking,
and the Civil Rights