

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Celebrate Black History Month at the Milwaukee Public Library

Attend free programs. Log on to [mpl.org/BlackHistoryMonth](https://mpl.org/BlackHistoryMonth) for more information, resources, and activities.



Join the Milwaukee Public Library in celebrating Black History and uplifting Black voices. From February 1-28, 2025, all ages can participate by completing three activities in the Black History Month Challenge. Any combination is accepted -- multiple submissions are allowed! Request an entry form from library staff with suggested activities or visit the [mpl.org/BlackHistoryMonth](https://mpl.org/BlackHistoryMonth) webpage for complete information.

### Ode to Black History

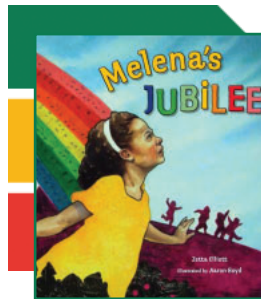
Saturday, February 1, 2-3 pm  
Atkinson Branch, 1960 W. Atkinson Ave.  
Celebrate Black history through poetry and spoken word.

### Art of Fun for Everyone!

Saturday, February 8, 10:30-11:15 am  
Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
Let's make art! Author and illustrator Christian Robinson's "art of fun" inspires this Black History Month program where we'll play with shape, color, and texture - letting our imaginations soar!

### Vel Phillips: Dream Big Dreams - Movie

Tuesday, February 4, 6-7:30 pm  
Atkinson Branch,  
1960 W. Atkinson Ave.  
In honor of Black History Month, enjoy popcorn and learn about all of the "firsts" achieved by Vel Phillips at this evening movie showing.



### Illustration Masterclass with Aaron Boyd

Saturday, February 8, 11:30 am-1 pm  
Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
Join local award-winning illustrator Aaron Boyd for an inspiring hands-on illustration workshop for all ages! After a behind-the-scenes look into Aaron's illustration process, create and share your own artistic interpretations of passages from his books. Art supplies generously provided by MIAD. Limited to 25 spots, register online at [mpl.org/calendar](https://mpl.org/calendar).

### Romance Readers Book Club

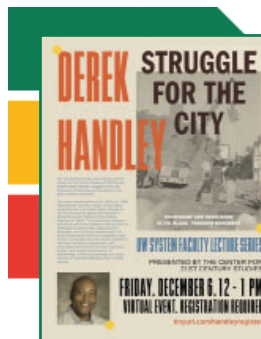
Tuesday, February 4, 6-7 pm  
East Branch, 2320 N. Cramer St.  
Join the discussion of *An Extraordinary Union* by Alyssa Cole.

### Black History Month Book Tasting

Thursday, February 6, 3-5 pm  
Villard Square Branch, 5190 N. 35th St.  
Taste-test snacks from local and national Black-owned businesses while you sample a curated menu of books that highlight Black history and Black voices.

### Black History Month Challenge Kickoff Event

Saturday, February 8,  
10:30 am-2 pm  
Central Library,  
814 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
Celebrate the kickoff of our Black History Month Challenge in a day of art, activities, and fun for all ages.



### Author Visit:

#### Dr. Derek G. Handley

Tuesday, February 11, 5:30-6:30 pm  
Central Library,  
814 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
Meet Dr. Derek G. Handley, author of *Struggle for the City: Citizenship and Resistance in the Black Freedom Movement*. The book will be available for purchase from Boswell Books Company. Register online at [mpl.org/calendar](https://mpl.org/calendar).

Register for events as indicated with staff, or online at [mpl.org/BlackHistoryMonth](https://mpl.org/BlackHistoryMonth) or [mpl.org/calendar](https://mpl.org/calendar)

## Winter Film Series: Black History Month

Friday, February 14, 2-4 pm

East Branch, 2320 N. Cramer St.

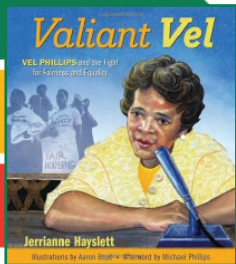
Watch a movie highlighting Black History Month at a film screening provided through Kanopy. Featuring *Through a Lens Darkly: Black Photographers and the Emergence of a People*.

## The Me I Choose to Be

Friday, February 14, 4-5 pm

Center Street Branch, 2727 W. Fond du Lac Ave.

Design a self-portrait showing your future self and explore collage afrofuturist art through *The Me I Choose to Be* by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley.



## Valiant Vel: Vel Phillips and the Fight for Fairness and Equality

Saturday, February 15, 1 pm

Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Join this book release event of *Valiant Vel: Vel Phillips and the Fight for Fairness and Equality*, an illustrated biography for young readers by Jerrienne Hayslett and illustrated by Milwaukee artist Aaron Boyd. Register

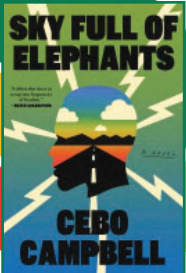
online at [mpl.org/calendar](https://mpl.org/calendar).

## BlkArt: History & Culture Workshop

Tuesday, February 18, 6-7:30 pm

Center Street Branch, 2727 W. Fond du Lac Ave.

Create keepsake art of inspiring African American women such as Ida B. Wells, Zora Neale Hurston, Michelle Obama, Kamala Harris, and more! All artwork will be exhibited in March as a community art exhibition to celebrate Women's History Month.



## Coming to America Book Club

Wednesday, February 19, 5:30-6:30 pm

VIRTUAL

Join the online discussion of *Sky Full of Elephants* with special guest author Cebo Campbell. Register online at [mpl.org/calendar](https://mpl.org/calendar)

## Create Like a "Radiant Child"

Saturday, February 22, 10:30-11:15 am

Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Put on your crown and create like a "Radiant Child!" Learn how Jean Michel Basquiat became an influential contemporary artist and create your own Basquiat-inspired portrait.



## We Eat to Remember: Community Meal with Poet Fabu

Saturday, February 22, 12-2 pm

Mitchell Street Branch, 906 W. Historic Mitchell St.

Join Chef Sharrie Agee and poet Dr. Fabu Phillis Carter for a community meal serving up an irresistible offering for the mind and body. Books will be for sale, and a book signing will follow the program. Register online at [mpl.org/calendar](https://mpl.org/calendar).



## Thriving Together: A Black History Month Wellness Market

Thursday, February 25, 4-6:30 pm

Central Library

814 W. Wisconsin Ave.

This event will center on health, wellness, and empowering our community as we Thrive Together. Meet community wellness

practitioners and entrepreneurs while gaining helpful tips on incorporating wellness practices into your daily life and celebrate the legacy of Black health pioneers who have shaped our journey to well-being.

## Black History Month Bingo

Tuesday, February 25, 6-7:30 pm

Mitchell Street Branch, 906 W. Historic Mitchell St.

Get your thinking caps on! A fun event for the family to enjoy together while learning facts about prominent historical black figures and leaders.

## History at Noon: Lunchtime Journeys Through the Past

Wednesday, February 26, 12:30-1:30 pm

Zablocki Branch, 3501 W. Oklahoma Ave.

*African Americans from Wisconsin in the Civil War -* Discover the history of the 29th U.S. Colored Infantry whose Company F was the only unit of the USCT recognized as being from Wisconsin. Presented by Jeff Kannel from the Wisconsin Historical Society.



Visit [mpl.org/BlackHistoryMonth](https://mpl.org/BlackHistoryMonth) for additional resources including special collections, recommended reading, and more available online and at your Milwaukee Public Library.