

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebrate Black History Month at the Milwaukee Public Library

Attend free programs. Log on to 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, 2026, all ages can participate by completing the Black History Month Challenge. Request an entry form from library staff with suggested activities or visit the mpl.org/BlackHistoryMonth webpage for complete information.

Crowning Glory Exhibit

February 3-21

Atkinson Branch, 1960 W. Atkinson Ave.

Explore a rare display of historic Black hair and beauty artifacts from the collection of The Whatnot Museum.

Open a Book, Open a World

Tuesday, February 3, 6-7 pm

Capitol Branch, 3969 N. 74th St.

Create a book-inspired art project exploring Black History Month.

Documentary Films - Black Culture and History

Wednesdays, 1-3 pm

Washington Park, 2121 N. Sherman Blvd.

Watch a documentary each week during February.



February 4 - *Al Jarreau: Bring your Life to the Stage*

February 11 - *Wade in the Water: A Journey into Black Surfing and Aquatic Culture*

February 18 - *How it Feels to Be Free*

February 25 - *Through a Lens Darkly: Black Photographers and the Emergence of a People*

There Was a Party for Langston

Saturday, February 7, 1:30-2:15 pm

Martin Luther King Branch, 2901 N. MLK Jr. Dr.

Monday, February 23, 4-4:45 pm

Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Celebrate 100 amazing years of Langston Hughes with poetry and music.



Black History Month Challenge Kickoff

Saturday, February 7, 12-4 pm

Martin Luther King Branch, 2901 N. MLK Jr. Dr.

A kickoff celebration featuring special guest Zaire Lanier speaking at 12:15 pm followed by a *There Was a Party for Langston* story

time at 1:30 pm. Makerspace activities will be available throughout the day.

Novel Ideas Book Club

Monday, February 9, 6-7 pm

Blessed Sacrament Church, 3100 S. 41st St.

Please join us for a discussion of *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict.

Black History Month Book Tastings

Friday, February 6, 3-5 pm

Villard Square Branch, 5190 N. 35th St.

Thursday, February 19, 4-5:30 pm

Mitchell Street Branch, 906 W. Historic Mitchell St.

Taste snacks from local and national Black-owned businesses, enjoy a story time, and sample a curated menu of books that highlight Black history and Black voices. All ages welcome!

Collage & Culture: Black History for Kids

Tuesday, February 10, 4-5 pm

Atkinson Branch, 1960 W. Atkinson Ave.

Make your own colorful collage using fun pictures, words, and craft supplies. You'll learn about amazing Black heroes and role models while getting creative.

Register for events as indicated with staff, or online at mpl.org/BlackHistoryMonth or mpl.org/calendar

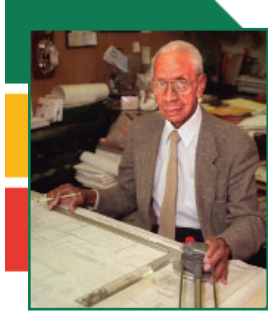
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Black History Bingo

Tuesday, February 10, 5-6:30 pm

Mitchell Street Branch, 906 W. Historic Mitchell St.

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



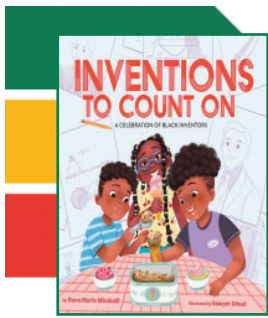
Alonzo Robinson - Wisconsin's First Black Licensed Architect

Saturday, February 14, 2-3:30 pm

Centennial Hall, 733 N. Eighth St.

UWM architectural historian Justin Miller will highlight and celebrate Alonzo Robinson's prolific 40-year career. Robinson made notable

and important contributions to Milwaukee's Black community and the city as a whole. Some of Robinson's well-known buildings include Central City Plaza and the Milwaukee Fire Department Administration Building. Original architectural drawings and other materials from MPL's Archives will be on display.



Innovative Inventors

Monday, February 16, 4-4:45 pm

Central Library,
814 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Discover the book *Inventions to Count On: A Celebration of Black Inventors* by Dana Marie Miroballi and make an invention of your very own!

Adult Story Time

Monday, February 16, 6:30-7:30 pm

Martin Luther King Branch, 2901 N. MLK Jr. Dr.

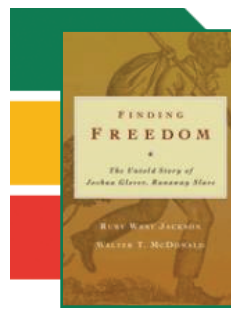
Why should kids be the only ones who get read to in the library? Enjoy a relaxing hour listening to a good tale.

Hidden Chapter Book Club

Tuesday, February 17, 6-7 pm

Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave.

From Percival Everett comes *James*, a retelling of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view. After discussion, discover special collections holdings that celebrate Black Milwaukee.



Book Discussion of *Finding Freedom, the Untold Story of Joshua Glover, Runaway Slave* by Ruby West Jackson

Tuesday, February 17, 6-7:30 pm

Washington Park Branch,
2121 N. Sherman Blvd.

Join us as we follow Joshua Glover on his odyssey from slavery in St. Louis to his escape and life in Wisconsin. Registration is encouraged.

History @ Noon: African American History in MKE 1835-1960

Wednesday, February 18, 12:30-1:30 pm

Zablocki Branch, 3501 W. Oklahoma Ave.

The presence of African Americans in the city of Milwaukee is long and notable. Since the 19th century, Blacks have played a critical role in shaping the city, influencing political, social, and economic policies; challenging the city to maintain and extend its commitment to democracy. Presented by the Milwaukee County Historical Society. Light snacks are provided. *Funded by a gift from the estate of Naomi B. Strehlow.*

Crowning Glory: The Roots of the Black Hair Industry

Saturday, February 21, 2-3 pm

Atkinson Branch, 1960 W. Atkinson Ave.

Join us for an inspiring lecture with Maria Cunningham, owner and curator of The Whatnot Museum, highlighting the early trailblazers of the Black hair industry.

Harriet Tubman House: An Armchair Tour

Monday, February 23, 5-6 pm

Martin Luther King Branch, 2901 N. MLK Jr. Dr.

Enjoy this slideshow featuring the Harriet Tubman House in Auburn, New York.

Black History Story Quilt

Tuesday, February 24, 4-5 pm

Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Create a story quilt-like collage inspired by Faith Ringgold.

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

