

Black History Month at the National Museum of African American History and Culture

Each February, Black History Month shines a spotlight on African Americans' accomplishments that have influenced our nation's history from the very beginning, mirroring the National Museum of African American History and Culture's mission to present the full and truthful African American story.

Black History Month began in 1926 as "Negro History Week," a creation of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, a group of leading scholars led by famed historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Scheduled in February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, the annual event quickly became popular with African American communities and educational institutions nationwide. Over time, support steadily grew for expanding the observance, culminating in President Gerald R. Ford issuing a 1976 proclamation formally recognizing Negro History Week as Black History Month, and then Congress designating February as the "National Black (Afro-American) History Month" in 1986.

Next month, the Museum will celebrate Black History Month by presenting a variety of inspiring programming made possible by the exceptional generosity of our Charter Members. The series of events will include education, arts, and history programs. The full lineup of events will be available at www.nmaahc.si.edu/events, so check in with us on the web soon!

