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20th Annual African American Cultural Celebration

Kick off Black History Month virtually with the NC Museum of History



Images: [Dropbox link](#) for promotional images, courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

January 7, 2021 (RALEIGH, N.C.) – This January marks the North Carolina Museum of History’s 20th presentation of the [African American Cultural Celebration](#), an event that recognizes the contributions of African Americans, past and present, and the impacts they have made and continue to make to North Carolina’s history and culture. This year’s celebration will be held *only* as a virtual experience and is scheduled for Saturday, January 30, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with digital platforms providing community organizations, authors, artists, musicians, filmmakers, and scholars opportunities to showcase their skill, knowledge, and culture.

While this year’s annual festival will be held entirely online—to ensure the safety of presenters, guests, and staff—the museum has worked to ensure that an assortment of interactive activities continues! You’ll

still be able to engage with live-streamed events that include performances, panel discussions, and inspiring music, but you can do so from anywhere in the state and from the safety and comfort of your home. **All interactive sessions are free but require advance registration.** Attendance to some live programs may be limited. You can watch additional on-demand videos any time.

“While we won’t be able to celebrate in person this year, we are thrilled to virtually continue our 20-year tradition of showcasing the talents of African American artists and performers, amplifying the voices of African American authors and community activists, and highlighting the little-known or untold Black history and scholarship from across the state,” says Alyson Vuley, Community Programs and Festivals Coordinator for the North Carolina Museum of History.

Registration is required for all live sessions of the celebration. While all events are **free**, space may be limited. Be sure to sign up today!

While this year’s theme is Health and Healing, which includes a range of discussions on health and wellness, information about health disparities, and suggestions for promoting and preserving their health, **highlights of the virtual festival will also invite you to**

- listen to 105 Voices of History, a national initiative to provide members of HBCU choirs one voice and increase the visibility of their valuable talents, as they perform “Lift Every Voice and Sing”;
- dance along to the Allen Boys, a sacred steel band from Mount Airy;
- celebrate literature and the spoken word with the North Carolina Association of Black Storytellers;
- watch Neal Thomas create a beautiful basket from parts of a white oak tree; and
- enjoy the dance film *Remembrance*—choreographed by Tamara Williams, performed by students in the dance program at the University of North Carolina–Charlotte, and recorded by Charlotte filmmaker Marlon Morrison—which honors Ring Shout traditions.

For a fun, educational, and safe experience, register for your virtual seat today so you’ll have access to the on-demand videos and interactive live-streams that you want to take part in during the 20th annual African American Cultural Celebration. Register, and find a full schedule of all performances and presentations at NC-AACC.com (<https://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org/aacc-2021/schedule-of-events>). Become a museum member during this virtual festival, and get your MOHA/museum membership for half price—so *you* can support community and educational outreach programs, like this one!

Held in partnership with the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission and sponsored, in part, by the City of Raleigh, based on recommendation of the Raleigh Arts Commission; the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County; the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission; WakeMed Health and Hospitals; Publix; and Wegmans.

For more information, visit NC-AACC.com or call 919-814-7039. *The event's official hashtag is #AACC2021.*

For information about the NC Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate museum, call 919-814-7000 or access ncmuseumofhistory.org or follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [YouTube](#).

About the NC Museum of History

The North Carolina Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate, fosters a passion for North Carolina history. This museum collects and preserves artifacts of state history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. **Admission is free.** Last year, more than 465,000 people visited the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

About the Smithsonian Affiliations Network

Since 2006, the North Carolina Museum of History has been a Smithsonian Affiliate, part of a select group of museums, cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share Smithsonian resources with the nation. The Smithsonian Affiliations network is a national outreach program that develops long-term collaborative partnerships with museums, educational, and cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. More information is available at affiliations.si.edu.

About the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational, and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries, and natural assets in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums, and Jennette's Pier, as well as 39 state parks and recreation areas, the North Carolina Zoo, the nation's first state-supported symphonic orchestra, the State Library of North Carolina, the State Archives of North Carolina, the North Carolina Arts Council, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, and the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, along with the state Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, call 919-814-6800 or visit DNCR.nc.gov.

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