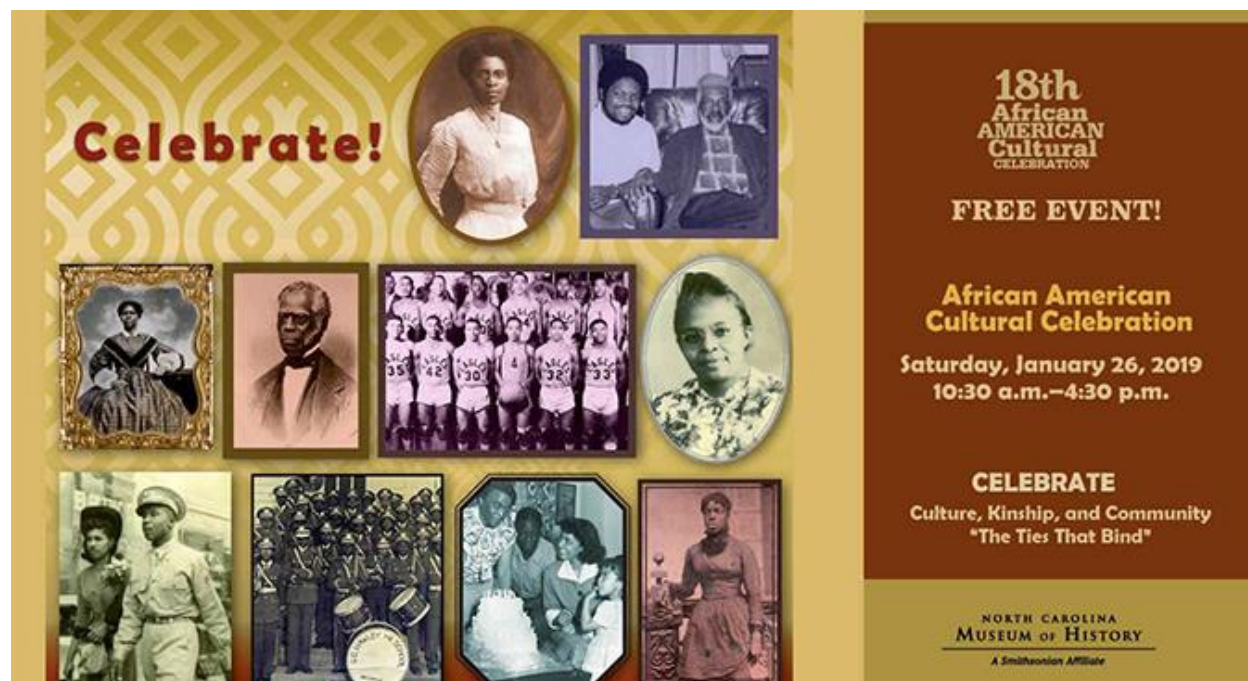


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## Kick Off Black History Month at the NC Museum of History's 18th Annual African American Cultural Celebration



**RALEIGH, N.C.** — Join the North Carolina Museum of History for its [18<sup>th</sup> Annual African American Cultural Celebration \(AACC\)](#), the state's official kickoff event for Black History Month. The theme of this year's festival is "**Culture, Kinship, and Community: The Ties That Bind.**" This jubilant and educational event for all ages will take place **Saturday, January 26, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** at the museum in downtown Raleigh. Named a Top 20 Event by the Southeast Tourism Society, the festival features more than 75 musicians, storytellers, dancers, chefs, historians, playwrights, authors, artists, reenactors, and more. *Admissions and parking are **FREE**.*

The past is interwoven with the present during the beginning processional of the festival, as the United States Colored Troops perform color guard and reenact history. This will be followed shortly after by the [Tryon Palace Jonkonnu Drummers](#)' routine of an African American celebration with roots that can be traced back to Jamaica and West Africa.

Young students of Goldsboro's [A Drummer's World Drumline](#) will demonstrate their musical skill and talent. Angela Thorpe, acting director of the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission (AAHC) and Dr. Valerie Ann Johnson, AAHC chair and a professor at Bennett College, will welcome everyone to the festival. [Mary D Williams](#) will conclude the opening procession with a performance of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" to start the festival.

Excitement builds throughout the day as dancers, singers, storytellers and other presenters fill the museum building. Among the highlights are [Chris Feed](#), a lead performer on Tyler Perry's "Daddy's Little Girls" soundtrack, performing R&B on the Staircase Stage, and [Keijuane Hester](#), founder and owner of Favor Desserts in Durham and Greensboro, who will share his journey from drug trafficking to being an entrepreneur.

Children will be busy with hands-on activities that include traditional African games, a head-wrapping demonstration, a cowrie-shell necklace-making activity and others. Food will be available an outdoor Farmers Market, so enjoy lunch and plan to stay awhile.

During the day, take advantage of firsthand opportunities to learn about the state's African American culture, past and present. **Here's a sampling of what you can experience:**

- A dance tribute to artist Ernie Barnes and his painting *Sugar Shack*, featuring J. Ivy, poet, writer, voice-over artist, photographer, and NCCU Dance Group, facilitated by Nicole Oxendine.
- Music and dance groups that include 11-year-old Raleigh violinist Tyler Butler-Figueroa, jazz vocalist Frankie Alexander, the Chicago-style step group Capital City Steppers, and the spoken word artist Robin Mills, to name a few.
- Hands-on activities that include designing a family story stick, making and mailing a memory card, crafting a cowrie-shell necklace, creating a doctor's head mirror with staff from the Pope House Museum in Raleigh, and taking a spin on the Wheel of History to test your knowledge.
- Learn about the legacy of Mama Dip from her child and grandchild, Spring and Tonya Council; or listen to Whitt-ness the Journey tell the stories of African Americans in the Appalachians ("Affralachians") through the music of the banjo and fiddle.
- Engage with organizations like Black Jedi Zulu who focus on fostering hip-hop culture and the arts.
- Let off some STEAM with Lollipop and Mop Top, the Hip-Hop Scientist, or meet and play alongside the Jonkonnu drummers of Tryon Palace.
- Check out the race car and talk with members of the Eugene Coard drag-racing team about their experiences on and off the track, then take the seatbelt challenge!

So, mark your calendars for the **18th annual African American Cultural Celebration**. For a **full schedule** of all **performances** and **presentations**, visit [NCMOH-programs.com](https://www.ncmoh-programs.com) or call 919-814-7000.

For additional images of last year's event, visit: <https://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org/aacc-2019/photographs>.

The museum's annual African American Cultural Celebration is sponsored, in part, by the City of Raleigh, based on recommendation of the Raleigh Arts Commission; the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission; MOHA, the Museum of History Associates; AARP; Progressive Business Solutions; the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, with funds from the United Arts Campaign; Wells Fargo; MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge F&AM of North Carolina Inc.; CarMax; the North Carolina Writers' Network; and several anonymous donors.

But that's not all! Explore even more Black History with our latest exhibits and displays...

### **ON DISPLAY NOW: The Green Book Lobby Case**

Open NOW through February 28

You've heard of [Green Book](#), the recent film, but what do you know about the real Green Book and its ties to North Carolina? Throughout Black History Month, see an edition of the artifact—and a small display about it—that inspired the multiple award-nominated movie.

#### ***Did you know ....***

The original Green Book was started by and named for Victor Hugo Green, a New York City-based postal carrier. Known for several years as *The Negro Travelers' Green Book: The Guide to Travel and Vacations*, the Green Book detailed restaurants, stores, beauty shops, hotels, and private “tourist homes” that were welcoming to black travelers during the Jim Crow era of legal racial segregation.

*Find the Green Book case behind the information desk. Images via N.C. Museum of History and Universal Pictures.*

### **NEW Exhibit Opening: Freedom! A Promise Disrupted: North Carolina, 1862–1901**

Friday, Jan. 25

Start our annual kickoff to Black History Month a day early with this exhibit on the triumphs and struggles of North Carolina's Reconstruction era, a time when formerly enslaved men, women, and children—as well as many nonwhite citizens—set out to claim the rights and possibilities of new post-Civil War freedoms; unfortunately, the time was limited from the outset, then cut short by a backlash of racism and terrorism.

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

#### **About the NC Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate**

The NC Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 400,000 people visit 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 N.C. African American Heritage Commission (honorary sponsor)**

The N.C. African American Heritage Commission is a part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The Commission is charged to preserve, protect and promote North Carolina's African American history, arts, and culture for *all* people!

**About the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources**

The NC 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 nature 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, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the NC Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the NC Arts Council, State Preservation Office, and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit [www.ncdcr.gov](http://www.ncdcr.gov).

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