February Programs at the Museum Focus on Black History Month and More

For images, follow this [Dropbox link](#). Captions and credits are listed after program descriptions.

**January 31, 2022 (RALEIGH, N.C.)** — Join us in February as we celebrate Black History Month with a variety of Black-history related programs. Learn about HBCUs and Black leadership, as well as Black military veterans, raise a toast to Charlotte’s first Black-owned winery, and more. Plus, don’t miss our American Revolution Lecture Series with H. W. Brands, an award-winning author and history professor at the University of Texas at Austin. The lecture series is sponsored by the North Carolina Society of the Cincinnati. The museum and [Museum Shop](#) are open to the public with [special protocols in compliance with Executive Order 215](#). Admission is free!

**Top Five Things to Do This Month**
• Pick up a free Family Take-It, Make-It kit and make your own mini figurines similar to those of artist Pinkie Strother. Each kit includes craft supplies and instructions, activities, a book list, and more.
• Grab your kids and learn about our state’s part in the Space Program. Listen and read along to Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly.
• Our Community Class Series will discuss HBCUs and Black leadership. Join us as Dr. Jelani M. Favors discusses his award-winning book, Shelter in a Time of Storm: How Black Colleges Fostered Generations of Leadership and Activism, and further details how HBCUs became a refuge during the oppressive Jim Crow era.
• Sit back and relax for Coffee with a Curator as museum curators Earl Ijames and Charlie Knight discuss Black military veterans.
• Tune into our American Revolution Lecture Series with H. W. Brands, sponsored by the North Carolina Society of the Cincinnati. Brands will examine questions such as, what causes people to forsake their country and take up arms against it? And, what prompts their neighbors to defend that country against the rebels?

Read on for a current listing of February events and follow us on social media for updates and additional programming. You can also stay up to date on all events and exhibits at the museum website: ncmuseumofhistory.org. Programs are FREE unless otherwise noted. Advance registration, at ncmuseumofhistory.org/events, is generally required to receive a confirmation email with information about joining online presentations.

Did you miss a previous program? Many of the museum’s programs are being archived to enjoy any time on the museum YouTube channel.

Tar Heel Tales: Spaced Out!
Wednesday, Feb. 2, 1–2 p.m. via Demio

Ages 5–8; parents are encouraged to participate with their children.

It really is rocket science! Learn about our state’s part in the Space Program. Then listen and read along to Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly.

FREE Family Take-It, Make-It Kits: Mini Figurines
Register NOW, but pick up at the museum on Saturday, Feb. 5, 1–3 p.m.

The kit is designed for home use. Supplies are limited; classroom sets are not available.

One kit per family, please.
Start your celebration of African American History Month with family fun based on the work of artist Pinkie Strother! Each kit includes craft supplies and instructions, activities, a book list, and more.

Only 50 kits are available, so register soon! **Pick up your kit in the museum lobby** on Saturday, February 5, from 1 to 3 p.m. Those left at 3 p.m. will be given to walk-in visitors.

**History at High Noon: Seabreeze**
Wednesday, Feb. 9, 12–1 p.m. via Zoom

**Speaker:** Rebecca Taylor, Manager, Federal Point History Center, Carolina Beach

Join us for a special History at High Noon as we look at the history of Seabreeze Resort with Rebecca Taylor, the manager of Federal Point History Center. Taylor’s interest in the Seabreeze resort began almost 10 years ago, when she wrote a history of the community for a pamphlet to add to the center’s histories of Carolina and Kure Beaches. During the height of Jim Crow segregation, from the 1920s to the 1950s, African Americans had few opportunities to spend time enjoying oceanside recreational activities. Though North Carolina had several other segregated beaches, Seabreeze was the largest and had operated the longest.

With numerous hotels, as well as dance halls, restaurants, a pier, and even amusement park rides at the Seabreeze site, summer holiday weekends would attract up to 10,000 visitors. Famous for its clam fritters, as well as Hattie Green’s ferry across the sound to the beach strand where the iconic Monte Carlo was located, Seabreeze’s most lasting contribution to American culture is as the birthplace of the shag dance. The rhythm and blues, soul, and beach music that played there was notorious for drifting down streets and into other neighborhoods, attracting White teenagers from Carolina Beach who carried the “race music” and its dances back to the boardwalk.

Prominent musicians such as Bobby “Blue” Bland and Bo Diddley performed at Seabreeze. Overnight African American visitors, who by law could not stay at hotels reserved for Whites, included entertainers like Fats Domino, James Brown, and Ike and Tina Turner, who played for White audiences in Wilmington but slept at the 25-room Loftin Hotel. Devastated by 1954’s Hurricane Hazel and later hurricanes, and profoundly affected by eventual integration of nearby communities, the once-thriving Seabreeze site has little left today.

Rebecca Taylor has managed the Federal Point History Center in Carolina Beach for the past 14 years. Before that, she worked in public libraries for 30 years, primarily with the New Hanover County Public Library as a branch manager for multiple branches in Wilmington and Carolina Beach. With a bachelor’s degree in history and a master’s degree in library science, as well as a lifelong interest in history, Taylor works with the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society on everything from historical research and writing articles for the newsletter to organizing and cataloging the archives.

**History Adventures: Running to Home: Civil War Freedmen’s Colonies**
Wednesday, Feb. 9, 1–2 p.m. via Demio

Ages 9–12

**Guest Teacher:** Angela Thorpe, Director, NC African American Heritage Commission

When you’ve run for freedom, where is home? Learn about Civil War–era freedmen’s colonies, like one on Roanoke Island where nearly 4,000 African Americans took their freedom and created a place for themselves.

**Community Class Series: HBCUs and Black Leadership**
Wednesday, Feb. 9, 7 p.m. via Zoom

**Presenter:** Dr. Jelani M. Favors, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

In its history, North Carolina has been home to 12 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). For generations, HBCUs have been essential institutions for the African American community. Their nurturing environments not only provided educational advancement but also catalyzed the Black freedom struggle, forever altering the political destiny of the United States.

Join us as Dr. Jelani M. Favors discusses his award-winning book, *Shelter in a Time of Storm: How Black Colleges Fostered Generations of Leadership and Activism*, and further details how HBCUs became a refuge during the oppressive Jim Crow era. He also will share how the institutions operated as vital seedbeds for politicians, community leaders, reformers, and activists, from North Carolina and beyond. Signed copies of *Shelter in a Time of Storm* are available for purchase in the Museum Shop.

A native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Dr. Jelani M. Favors is the Henry E. Frye Distinguished Professor of History at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He has received major fellowships to support his research, including an appointment as a Humanities Writ Large Fellow at Duke University in 2013, and he was an inaugural recipient of the Mellon HBCU Fellowship at the John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute at Duke in 2009.

In 2019 Favors released his first book entitled *Shelter in a Time of Storm: How Black Colleges Fostered Generations of Leadership and Activism*, which garnered the 2020 Stone Book Award and the 2020 Lillian Smith Book Award. Also, it was one of five finalists for the 2020 Pauli Murray Book Prize. Favors’s research and commentary have appeared in several publications and media outlets, including CNN, C-SPAN, MSNBC, *The Washington Post*, MarketWatch, *The Atlantic*, *The Root*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. He earned his PhD in history and his MA in African American Studies from The Ohio State University. He graduated with honors from North Carolina A&T State University with a BA in history.

**History and Highballs: French Broad Chocolate**
Thursday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m. via Zoom

Adults only, please.

**Speakers:** Dan Rattigan and Jael Skeffington, Founders and Owners, French Broad Chocolate

After a Costa Rican trip, Dan Rattigan and Jael Skeffington realized that life in the American Midwest just wouldn’t do. They left graduate school, packed their lives into a 40-foot, vegetable oil–powered bus, and purchased an abandoned cacao plantation, beginning a chocolatey journey in Costa Rica. Eventually, Asheville, NC, became their destination, and French Broad Chocolate was soon born. The business began from their home kitchen, but demand quickly outgrew the space. In 2008 the French Broad Chocolate Lounge opened, giving Asheville citizens an indulgent haven!

**History and Highballs: Ebony Wine and Spirits**

Thursday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m. via Zoom

Adults only, please.

**Speaker:** Camillya Masunda, Founder and Owner, Ebony Wine and Spirits

Join us as we welcome Camillya Masunda, founder and owner of Ebony Wine and Spirits, Charlotte’s first Black-owned winery! Ebony Wine was created to celebrate Black culture and unity across the globe. The company is on a mission to use its wine as a trophy and a symbol of solidarity, healing, and unity in appreciating the diversity of Black people.

**Conservation Assistance Day**

Friday, Feb. 18

Make an appointment and bring up to three objects for assessment and advice on care from a Museum of History conservator. The museum does not provide estimates on value. Learn more about **Conservation Assistance Day**.

*Appointment required.* Call Debbie Campbell at 919-814-6965 to set up an appointment.

**Coffee with a Curator: NC Black Military Veterans with Earl Ijames and Charlie Knight**

Tuesday, Feb. 22, 10 a.m. via Zoom

Join us virtually for Coffee with a Curator: NC Black Military Veterans, featuring Curators Earl Ijames and Charlie Knight.

*More information coming soon.*
American Revolution Lecture Series (link coming soon)
Thursday, Feb. 24, 7 p.m. via Zoom

Speaker: Dr. H. W. Brands, Award-Winning Author and History Professor, University of Texas at Austin

The American Revolution was more than a fight against the British: it was also a violent battle among neighbors forced to choose sides, Loyalist or Patriot. But what causes people to forsake their country and take arms up against it? What prompts their neighbors, hardly distinguishable in station or success, to defend that country against the rebels? Join us as Brands examines these questions and reminds us that before America could win its revolution against Britain, the Patriots had to win a bitter civil war against family, neighbors, and friends. Copies of Brands’ latest work, Our First Civil War: Patriots and Loyalists in the American Revolution, will be available for purchase in the Museum Shop.

Brands is a professor at the University of Texas at Austin, where he holds the Jack S. Blanton Sr. Chair in History. He was previously a member of the history faculty at Texas A&M University, where he taught for 17 years. He has written 30 books, coauthored or edited five others, and published dozens of articles and scores of reviews. His writings have received critical and popular acclaim. Two of his books, The First American: The Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin and Traitor to His Class: The Privileged Life and Radical Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, were finalists for the Pulitzer Prize. In his latest work, Our First Civil War, Brands tells the story of the American Revolution as it really unfolded—as a civil war between colonial patriots and those loyal to the British Crown and Parliament. Brands attended Stanford University and studied history and mathematics. After earning graduate degrees in mathematics and history, he received a doctorate in history from the University of Texas at Austin.

The American Revolution Lecture Series is sponsored by the North Carolina Society of the Cincinnati.

IMAGES: Dropbox link, caption and credits

Image: Civil War Freedmen’s Colonies
Credit: NC Museum of History

Image: Coffee with a Curator
Credit: NC Museum of History

Image: Ebony Wine and Spirits
Credit: NC Museum of History

Image: French Broad Chocolate
Credit: NC Museum of History
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. Before the COVID public closure, more than 465,000 people visited the museum annually 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 and 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 and other 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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