



EVENTS THIS MONTH

Black History Month
African Americans and the Arts

**National Children's
Dental Health Month**

- 2/1** Happy 100th Day of School
- 2/2** Happy Groundhog Day
- 2/10** Happy Lunar New Year
- 2/13** Mardi Gras Parade
- 2/14** Valentine's Day Class Party
- 2/16** Lunar New Year Lunch
- 2/19** NO SCHOOL
President's Day
- 2/29** Leap Year!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

This month is filled with so many wonderful celebrations and learning opportunities! From celebrating the 100 th day of school, to Mardi Gras, to Valentines Day, to Lunar New Year and of course celebrating Black History Month.

It's the year of the Dragon! Several different countries and cultures have their own unique ways to celebrate the New Year, here are a few book recommendations thanks to our friends at TeachAAPI.



LATE STARTS

Don't forget your child's late start day for this month, they may arrive **no earlier than 9am** on that day. This is when your child's teachers have their monthly meeting.

- 2's: Tuesday, 2/6
- 3's: Tuesday, 2/20
- 4's: Tuesday, 2/27



STAFF BIRTHDAY

2/11: Mr. Joe



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

LOOK WHO'S TURNING

- 3!** – Rumi D., Louelle T., Isabella B., Charlie P., Ace Y., Margo S.
- 4!** – Noah H., Obi M.
- 5!** – Nolan B., Grayson C.



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY

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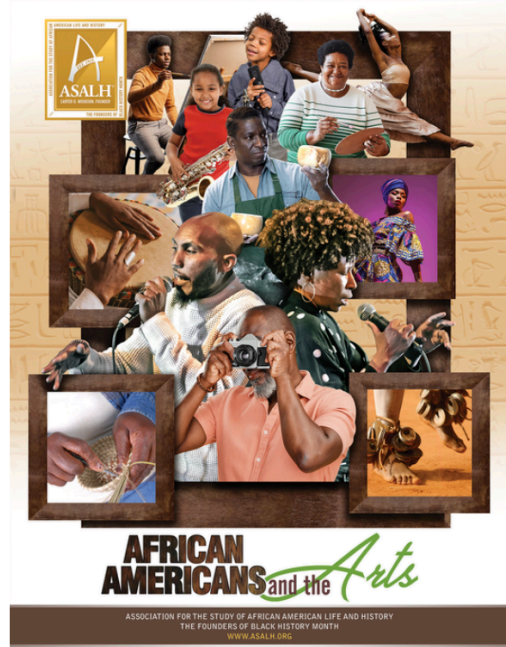
2024 BLACK HISTORY THEME: AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE ARTS

African American art is infused with African, Caribbean, and the Black American lived experiences. In the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression, the African American influence has been paramount. African American artists have used art to preserve history and community memory as well as for empowerment. Artistic and cultural movements such as the New Negro, Black Arts, Black Renaissance, hip-hop, and Afrofuturism, have been led by people of African descent and set the standard for popular trends around the world. In 2024, we examine the varied history and life of African American arts and artisans.

For centuries Western intellectuals denied or minimized the contributions of people of African descent to the arts as well as history, even as their artistry in many genres was mimicked and/or stolen. However, we can still see the unbroken chain of Black art production from antiquity to the present, from Egypt across Africa, from Europe to the New World. Prior to the American Revolution, enslaved Africans of the Lowcountry began their more than a 300-year tradition of making sweetgrass baskets, revealing their visual artistry via craft.

The suffering of those in bondage gave birth to the spirituals, the nation's first contribution to music. Blues musicians such as Robert Johnson, McKinley 'Muddy Waters' Morganfield and Riley "BB" B. King created and nurtured a style of music that became the bedrock for gospel, soul, and other still popular (and evolving) forms of music. Black contributions to literature include works by poets like Phillis Wheatley, essays, autobiographies, and novels by writers such as David Walker and Maria Stewart. Black aesthetics have also been manifested through sculptors like Edmonia Lewis and painters like Henry O. Tanner.

In the 1920s and 30s, the rise of the Black Renaissance and New Negro Movement brought the Black Arts to an international stage. Members of the armed forces, such as James Reese Europe, and artists such as Langston Hughes, Josephine Baker and Lois Mailou Jones brought Black culture and Black American aesthetics internationally, and Black culture began its ascent to becoming a dominant cultural movement to the world. In addition to the Harlem Renaissance, today we recognize that cities like Los Angeles, Chicago, and New Orleans also were home to many Black artists.



To learn more, scan here



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