



Black History Month Resource Toolkit 2022

With institutional support from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), historian Carter G. Woodson started Negro History Week. In 1970, this time of remembrance and celebration became Black History Month. The National Women's History Museum invites everyone to join us in exploring the histories of Black women visionaries, builders, creators, thinkers, and more. Expand what you know about the past, and what you believe is possible for the future.

Pictured, left to right, top to bottom: Lorraine Hansberry, Mahalia Jackson, Katherine Dunham, Mary McLeod Bethune, Mollie Moon.

National Women's History Museum

February 1-4

"We Specialize in the Wholly Impossible."

How the Black Women's Club Movement Transformed Education

February 1

In 1907, Nannie Helen Burroughs started the National Trade and Professional School for Women and Girls with the motto, "We specialize in the wholly impossible." Learn more about how her work at the turn of the century shaped education for African Americans and all women. [Click Here](#)

February 2

#KnowHerName Mary McLeod Bethune served as president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs and the National Council of Negro Women, effectively expanding access to education and voting. She even advised President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Read her biography here. [Click Here](#)

February 3

Born into slavery in 1893, Anna Julia Cooper became the first Black woman to earn a Ph.D. from the Sorbonne, University of Paris, and is widely considered the Mother of Black Feminism. Listen to her feature on the *Womannica* podcast. [Click Here](#)

February 4

While starting the Palmer Memorial Institute—a day and boarding school for Black students—Charlotte Hawkins Brown also crusaded for racial justice and women's right to vote. Learn about how the state of North Carolina is preserving her history. [Click Here](#)



Nannie Helen Burroughs



Mary McLeod Bethune



Anna Julia Cooper



Charlotte Hawkins Brown

February 7-11

"Creating Their Own Image."

How Black Women Reimagined Cultural Landscapes

February 7

In addition to founding her own dance company, Katherine Dunham had a prolific career in modern dance and choreography in both the United States and Europe. Watch her perform *Ballet Creole* at the Cambridge Theatre in London.

[Click Here](#)

February 8

Jazz singer, pianist, and entertainer Gladys Bentley challenged gender norms through performance and aesthetics. View this collection of photos and correspondence to learn more about "America's Greatest Sepia Piano Player."

[Click Here](#)

February 9

Playwright Lorraine Hansberry became the first Black woman to have her play, *A Raisin in the Sun*, performed on Broadway. Listen to this podcast episode that features Hansberry's interview with Studs Terkel.

[Click Here](#)

February 10

Margaret Burroughs founded the DuSable Museum of African American History in 1961. Read more about her influence on building an arts and culture ecosystem that centered Black history and culture.

[Click Here](#)

February 11

Watch Mahalia Jackson, once known internationally as the "Queen of Gospel," sing at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963.

[Click Here](#)



Katherine Dunham



Gladys Bentley



Mahalia Jackson



Lorraine Hansberry

February 14–18

"Sell[ing] Shadows to Support Substance."

How Black Women Built Businesses to Support Philanthropy and Mutual Aid

February 14

#KnowHerName Born into slavery in Virginia, Clara Brown was among the first cohort of Black women who settled in Colorado. Read how she established a laundry business that enabled her to provide support and shelter for new families trying to get on their feet, and how she reconnected with her family after decades of separation.

[Click Here](#)

February 15

#KnowHerName In addition to chartering a bank in Richmond, Virginia—the former capital of the Confederacy—Maggie Lena Walker also led the Independent Order of St. Luke, one of the largest benefit societies in the 20th century. Read more about her accomplishments just a generation after slavery.

[Click Here](#)

February 16

#KnowHerName Read Madame C.J. Walker's biography to learn more about her philanthropy and commitment to ending economic precarity in Black communities in the United States, Caribbean, and Central America.

[Click Here](#)

February 17

Mollie Moon's career touched many fields, but her work with the deepest impact came while serving as founding president of the National Urban League Guild. Read about how she transformed the Ebony Fashion Fair show into an economic engine.

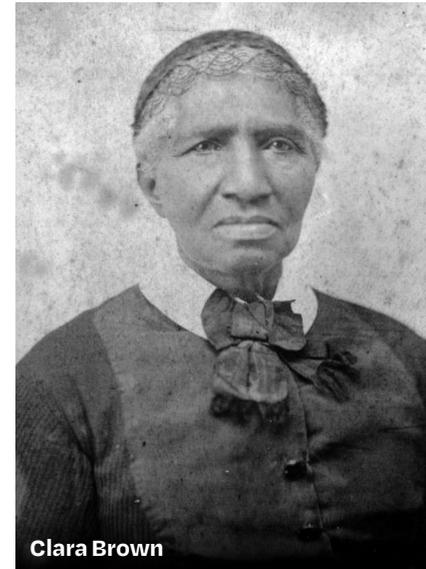
[Click Here](#)

February 18

Black is Beautiful, a cultural movement that countered racist stereotypes, became popular in the 1970s. Read about how performer and business woman Blanche Calloway founded Afram House, a mail-order business specializing in products for Black hair and skin. This business emerged when ad agencies launched campaigns encouraging Black people to bleach their skin and chemically straighten their hair.

[Click Here](#)

Photo credit: Public domain, Wikimedia Commons



Clara Brown



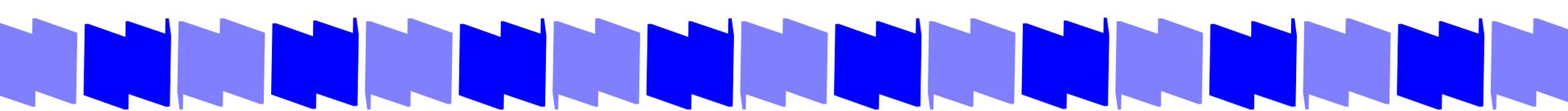
Maggie Lena Walker



Madame C.J. Walker



Mollie Moon



February 21–25

“How Long ‘til Black Future Month?”

How Black Women Have Shaped Emerging Technologies and Social Media

February 21

Watch the NeuroSpeculative AfroFeminism

Lab’s trailer of a virtual reality experience, where this speculative beauty shop also serves as a hub for brain optimization.

[Click Here](#)

February 22

In December 2014, the African American Policy Forum and Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies launched the #SayHerName campaign to bring awareness to Black women who have suffered state-sanctioned violence. Watch this visual lyric video, *Say Her Name (Hell You Talmhout)*, that is both a memorial and call to action. *Note, this resource is not intended for young learners.*

[Click Here](#)

February 23

Scholar activist Moya Bailey wrote *Misogynoir Transformed: Black Women’s Digital Resistance* to share how Black women use digital media to promote social justice. Watch her discuss “misogynoir,” a term that defines the specific misogyny that Black women face.

[Click Here](#)

February 24

While technologists have often promised an unbiased digital world, research indicates that we carry our biases from the physical world to the digital one. Watch this conversation with Data for Black Lives’ co-founder Yeshimabeit Milner, where she discusses the invisible forces in data.

[Click Here](#)

February 25

Black Americans are reclaiming land-honoring traditions like foraging. Learn about Alexis Nikole Nelson—Black Forager on TikTok—who shares her adventures on the platform with over 3 million followers.

[Click Here](#)

February 28

“No One Will Speak for Us but Ourselves.”

How Black Women Historians Have Centered Truth Telling

February 28

In communities, and in academia, Black women have carried the mantle of bearing witness and documenting history. Read this tribute to Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, one founder of the Association of Black Women Historians.

[Click Here](#)