Black History Month, also known as African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history.

The story of Black History Month begins in 1925, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. That September, the Harvard-trained historian, Carter G. Woodson, and the prominent minister, Jesse E. Moorland, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by black Americans and other people of African descent. Known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the group sponsored a National Negro History Week in 1926 — choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The event inspired schools and communities nationwide to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs and host performances and lectures.

By the late 1960s, thanks in part to the civil rights movement and a growing awareness of black identity, the week had evolved into Black History Month. President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

There are many events all over the country you can take part in to celebrate Black History Month. In Los Angeles, you can check out the [20](https://www.events.starinc.org/africanart)[th](https://www.events.starinc.org/africanart)[annual African-American Art Festival](https://www.events.starinc.org/africanart), which includes a free outdoor festival with live entertainment, children’s art exhibits and more! In Dallas, you can check out a performance of [“Remembering Black Dallas: A Living Museum Play”](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/remembering-black-dallas-a-living-museum-play-tickets-88521469097?aff=ebdssbdestsearch) about a few “ordinary yet extraordinary” local African Americans who show what life was like in the late1800s to1960s. In New York, you can join New Yorkers, foodies, culture enthusiasts and world travelers as they come out and  support entrepreneurs from all over the diaspora in a festival environment at the [African Pop-up Festival 2020](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/african-popup-festival-2020-shopeatdanceconnect-tickets-87523064843?aff=ebdssbdestsearch). Back on the West Coast in San Francisco, you can check out the [Black History Month: Leaders in Tech Breakfast](https://generalassemb.ly/education/black-history-month-leaders-in-tech-breakfast/san-francisco/100131) where you can attend a panel discussion and Q&A featuring black professionals who work in the tech sphere. Lastly, in Chicago, you can enjoy the [Black History Month Celebration at Hayes](https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/events/black-history-month-celebration-hayes), where you can celebrate pioneers in various fields and enjoy performances, cultural interactive displays and tours.

 To learn about more events in your area this month, check out the list The Neighborhood curated!