



The Village Demands



Not Just Another Black History Month Celebration

Black History Month, envisioned by Black historian Carter G. Woodson in 1915 and observed nationally since 1976, is a month-long celebration of the contributions and achievements of Black/African Americans in the United States. Held in February each year, Black History Month is bookended by the start of a new year and being recognized in the shortest month of the year which makes this time susceptible to rushed and/or celebratory facades.

In light of the recent racial reckonings related to anti-Blackness, institutional racism, and the Movement for Black Lives, now is the time more than ever to recognize and honor the struggles and triumphs in our histories, and to reimagine a richer future in which our voices are amplified and our lives are valued.

Don't let February 2022 be just another Black History Month. Let us not just show up for the obligatory, half-baked office party, engage in performative commemorations, or partake in our organizations' empty resolutions. Instead, let's take this opportunity to celebrate Black History Month in ways that uplift Black communities. Here are twelve ways, in no particular order, to recognize, celebrate, and honor Black/African American people during Black History Month and beyond:

- Sponsor a Black student or colleague.
- Support a Black business.
- Donate to a Black organization.
- Listen to and believe Black people about their lived experiences.
- Agendize and prioritize exploring issues that impact Black people in your

- organization.
- Give Black employees release time to participate in BHM activities and events.
 - Institutionalize Black History Month activities by adding to your institution's calendar.
 - Provide funding to Black employee resource groups and student organizations.
 - Feature Black speakers in classes, presentations, and other institution-wide events.
 - Include works from Black authors, artists, and creatives in curricula.
 - Invest in learning about the Black histories, accounts and narratives that have been hidden, lost, or eliminated from your organization.
 - Let Black people celebrate and be in community with one another without regulation, scrutiny, or fear.

The Village Demands is a consortium of black professionals with expertise in a wonderful spectrum of areas and programming. Please contact us if you would like one of our professionals to collaborate with your institution to provide meaningful programming or as a dynamic speaker for Black History Month or training.

Learn more about our professionals

The Village Demands Statewide Coalition on Black American Affairs

[JOIN our Coalition](#)

[Email](#)

[Our Website](#)



Black Joy

In thinking about Black History Month and honoring the legacies of Black and African American people in the US, Black joy comes to mind: Black people laughing, singing, dancing, loving, living, and relishing in all their glory! One such place where all of these characteristics are present is the [Black Joy Parade](#).

The "Black Joy Parade is a hyper-positive non-profit based in Oakland, CA that celebrates the Black experience and community's contribution to history and culture with its signature parade and celebration, partnerships and events"

(<https://www.blackjoyparade.org/about>, n.d.).

The nonprofit organization that runs this event lists the following elements as cornerstones: Bold Blackness, Creative Expression, Economic Empowerment, and Unwavering Optimism. And, their website underscores their mission as “[providing] the Black community and allies a live experience that celebrates our influence on cultures past, present and future. We will unite a diverse community by creating a space to express each of our unique contributions to the Black experience. We invite you to be creative, be open, be present, be free.”



If you haven't been to Oakland's Black Joy Parade, you're missing out! Support the [Black Joy Parade](#) by becoming a vendor, a sponsor, volunteer, and/or patron. This amazing, groundbreaking event will be held during Black History Month on Sunday, February 27, 2022.



Photo 1 Courtesy of KQED

Photo 2 Courtesy of Black Joy Parade Facebook

Inspirational Quote

“We did not come to fear the future. We came here to shape it.”

- President Barack Obama.



Dr. Jeanne Wilson

Appointed to Serve as

Vice President of Student Services

for

Las Positas College

Dr. Jeanne Wilson is Vice President of Las Positas College in Livermore, California. She formally served as the Dean of Special Programs & Services at Chabot College. Previously, she served as EOPS/CARE/CalWORKS Coordinator/Counselor at Chabot College, and held various other positions at the College since she started in 2001. As a first generation college student and an African American woman raised in a single parent home, Dr. Wilson is sensitive to the needs of underserved communities, and has spent her entire career promoting diversity and social justice for students of all backgrounds. Throughout her 20 years' experience working at Chabot College, she developed the first Umoja Promise cohort, secured funding to develop the first Guardian Scholars program to support former foster youth, and founded the Black Education Association (BEA) modeled after the Chicano Latino Education Association (CLEA). Core to Dr. Wilson's beliefs, she strives to provide an equal-opportunity environment that fosters respect and communication across gender, racial or other culturally different socioeconomic groups for students and staff. Dr. Wilson earned a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership from Mills College in Oakland, a Master of Science in Marriage, Family, and Child Counseling from California State University, East Bay, and a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing from The American College for Applied Arts in Los Angeles.



Black/African American Faculty Needed as Mentors

California Community Colleges have partnered with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) to build pathways for HBCU graduate students seeking careers in California Community Colleges (CCC). Please consider this great opportunity to help ensure that Black students see more Black faculty in our community colleges in the future. Sign up to be a faculty mentor. [Learn more here.](#)

Remembering Sankofa

Striving for Greatness in a New Dawn

WESTERN REGION COUNCIL ON BLACK
AMERICAN AFFAIRS - ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JANUARY 28TH & 29TH, 2022
Las Vegas, Nevada

[Please click on the image above to learn more about this great conference.](#)

Inspirational Quote

“So many struggled so that all of us could have a voice in this great democracy and live up to the first three words of our constitution:

We the people.”

- Kerry Washington

In Case You Missed It

[Click here to subscribe to our YouTube Channel!](#)

Connect with
**The Village Demands Statewide Coalition
on Black American Affairs**

[JOIN our Coalition](#)

[Our Website](#)

[Email](#)



Inspirational Quote

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

- President Barack Obama.