

# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## The Louisville Free Public Library celebrates Black History Month with programs throughout February

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (February 1, 2022)** – This February, the Louisville Free Public Library (LFPL) is offering more than thirty free programs in celebration of Black History Month. Programs include book discussions, film screenings, history talks, storytimes, and more, designed to inform, inspire, and engage audiences of all ages.

### Coming up at the Main Library –

This month, the Main Library (301 York Street) plays host to a number of professors and local experts exploring aspects of Black history too often overlooked. UofL Pan-African Studies professor Dr. Kalasia S. Ojeh will talk on the ongoing influence of the 1965 Moynihan Report in **When Past Meets Present: Public Policy & the 21st Century Black Family** (Mon., February 7, 6:30 p.m., Main Library). UofL Spanish professor Dr. Thomas Edison will explore the global Black experience in **The Other African-American: Black People in Nicaragua and Cuba** (Tues., February 15, 6:30 p.m., Main Library). And Jermaine Fowler, the founder of The Humanity Archive podcast will present **Living Black History: Reckoning with the Past** (Wed., February 23, 7 p.m., Main Library), a program about marginalized heroes, thinkers, and revolutionaries. These programs are free, but registration is requested: [LFPL.org/MyLibraryU](https://www.lfpl.org/MyLibraryU) or (502) 574-1623.

February also marks the return of the **Black History Month Film Series**. Presented in partnership with UofL Health Sciences Center Office of Diversity and Inclusion and Lean Into Louisville, the series is held every Sunday in February at the Main Library and features thought-provoking and award-winning films, followed by discussions with university professors and local experts. The 2022 lineup features Best Picture winner *12 Years a Slave*, the PBS documentary *Tulsa: The Fire and the Forgotten*, Best Picture winner *Green Book*, and Sundance award winner *The Last Black Man in San Francisco*. For more information and to register for this free series, visit [LFPL.org/BHFilms](https://www.lfpl.org/BHFilms).

From February 1-March 2, the Main Library's Bernheim Gallery will host **Black Citizenship in the Age of Jim Crow**. This panel exhibit, curated by the New-York Historical Society, explores Black Americans' struggle for full citizenship and racial equality – from the end of slavery in 1865 to the signing of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights acts 100 years later. The exhibit also includes items of local interest from the collections of the Kentucky Historical Society and Filson Historical Society. The exhibit is free and open to the public during regular library hours.

### Coming to a library near you –

Author and local historian Michael L. Jones sheds light on Louisville's music history in **The Soulful Sounds of Derbytown** (Thurs., February 10, 6:30 p.m., Crescent Hill Library). Local artist and Louisville legend Elmer Lucille Allen will teach adults how to **Create Art on Fabric** (Sat., February 12, 1 p.m., Western Library). Plus, book discussions covering fiction, memoirs, and nonfiction work from Black authors, including work by Isabel Wilkerson, James Baldwin, Gloria Naylor, and Esi Edugyan, will be held at locations throughout the city.

Black History Month at the library has something for all ages, with special storytimes, craft sessions, and showcases for children and teens as well. Local author Brittany J. Thurman will celebrate the debut of her first picture book with **A Very Fly Storytime** at the Northeast Regional Library (Sat., February 12, 11 a.m.) and the historic Western Library (Sat., February 19, 2 p.m.). The program will feature a reading and discussion with the author, as well as festivities for the whole family – including a jump rope contest. The popular **Black Superhero Showcase** makes its return to the Portland Library (Sat., February 12, 1:30 p.m.), and the South Central Regional Library hosts its first **African Americans in STEAM Showcase** (Mon., February 21, 3 p.m.). Teens are invited to test their knowledge at **Black History Trivia** (Thurs., February 17, 5 p.m., Western), or to create art using words in **Beautifully Spoken** (Thurs., February 17, 5 p.m., Portland).

For the complete list of LFPL's Black History Month programs, please visit [LFPL.org/BlackHistory](https://www.lfpl.org/BlackHistory).

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*Louisville Free Public Library connects the residents of Louisville and Jefferson County to knowledge and information at our 17 locations and on the web at [LFPL.org](https://www.lfpl.org). Come on in, the whole world's inside.*