

SNMA PRESENTS...

BLACK HISTORY & THE ARTS

African American art is infused with African, Caribbean, Afro-Latin, and 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, SNMA examines the varied history and life of African American arts and artisans within St. Louis.

***EXPERT AND THEME ADAPTED FROM THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY





SNMA PRESENTS...

THE BLACK REP: STL'S PERMANENT IMPACT ON BLACK THEATER

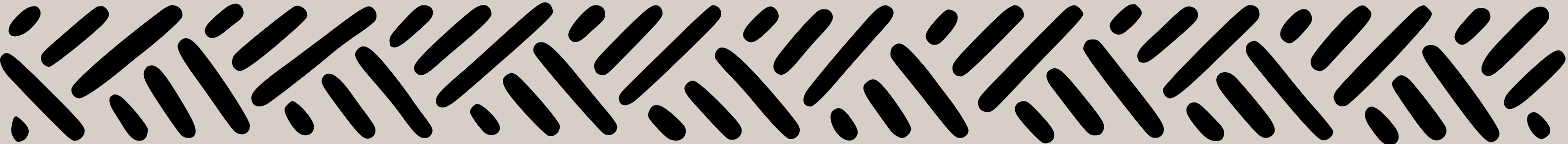
Step into the world of Black Rep, the country's first professional black theatre company! Founded in 1976 by fellow Washington University student Ron Himes, the Black Rep has evolved from a university group to the most prominent professional black theater company in the United States. Unhappy with the limited diversity in the performing arts, Himes followed the path any determined WashU student might choose when faced with rejection and discrimination: he took matters into his own hands.

The Black Rep found a permanent home in St. Louis in 1980 at the Greeley Presbyterian Church after touring the nation for just over four years. The 1980s served as a time of experimenting with and diversifying their offerings, showcasing works by regional dance companies, and presenting a series of musical films. Eventually, the group chose to concentrate primarily on live black theater and has been hot ever since, hosting over a dozen world premieres by esteemed black playwrights such as Wole Soyinka, Mbongeni Ngema, and August Wilson.

Since moving to their current home off N. Skinker Boulevard, they have drawn over 25,000 annually and cemented themselves as the most diverse audience and theater troupe in St. Louis. Additionally, they express their commitment to education through their award-winning program, which reaches 80,000 individuals yearly through classes, workshops, and its Summer Performing Arts Program. A cultural gem, the Black Rep preserves the legacy of black playwrights while nurturing the next generation of black artists. For these reasons, we at SNMA proudly highlight the Black Rep to kick off our "Black People and the Arts" Black History Month.

Want to know more? [CLICK HERE](#)





SNMA PRESENTS...

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK



STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: TODD SHONIWA

TODD, A PASSIONATE FIRST-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT, SEAMLESSLY BALANCES THE COMPLEXITIES OF MEDICAL STUDIES WITH HIS LOVE FOR THE PIANO. IN THE QUIET MOMENTS BETWEEN RIGOROUS LECTURES AND DEMANDING LABS, HE FINDS SOLACE IN THE MELODIES HE CREATES, ADDING A HARMONIOUS TOUCH TO HIS JOURNEY THROUGH THE WORLD OF MEDICINE.

"I'VE BEEN PLAYING FOR ABOUT TWELVE YEARS. I STARTED PLAYING BECAUSE I THOUGHT ALICIA KEYS WAS THE BEST THING TO HAPPEN TO MUSIC, AND I LOVED PLAYING HER SONGS. PIANO USED TO BE ALL ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE FOR ME, BUT NOW IT'S BECOME A HAVEN WHERE I DON'T HAVE TO BE PERFECT. THERE'S A BIT OF A CHILD-LIKE ENJOYMENT THAT COMES FROM IT "

SNMA'S STL BLACK BUSINESS OF THE WEEK (BBOTW): BLACK COFFEE

BLACK COFFEE OFFERS A DELIGHTFUL SELECTION OF REFRESHING DRINKS THAT WILL HELP YOU START YOUR DAY AND KEEP IT GOING! FOUNDED BY ALOHA MISCHÉAUX IN 2021, THEY PRIDE THEMSELVES IN SOURCING AND SERVING COFFEE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WITH A MISSION TO CONNECT AND SUPPORT FARMERS, ROASTERS, AND BRANDS OF COLOR BY WORKING ON THEIR FARMS, PURCHASING THEIR BEANS, AND HIGHLIGHTING THEIR STORIES.



IG: @BLACKCOFFEE.WORKS





A LOOK AT THE MONTH

F E B R U A R Y

2 0 2 4

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1 BGSA BHM KICKOFF EVENT	2	3
4	5 FIRST NEWSLETTER	6 BHM KICKOFF TABLE	7	8	9	10
11	12 SECOND NEWSLETTER	13	14	15 BGSA: WHISPERS OF INTIMACY	16 BLACK HISTORY MOVIE NIGHT	17
18	19 THIRD NEWSLETTER BHM LUNCH TALK	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 FOURTH NEWSLETTER	27	28	29	1	2

FEBRUARY 1ST: BLACK HISTORY MONTH KICKOFF EVENT

DUC TISCH COMMONS FROM 7-9PM (HOSTED BY THE BLACK GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION)

FEBRUARY 6TH: BHM DONUT HANDOUT TABLE (CATERED BY LOCAL BLACK BUSINESS “EDDIES SOUTHTOWN DONUTS”)

FARRELL TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER ATRIUM FROM 8:30 TO 9:30AM

FEBRUARY 15TH: “WHISPERS OF INTIMACY”

SKANDALARIS CENTER, MALLINKRODT 128 AT 6:30PM (HOSTED BY THE BLACK GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION)

FEBRUARY 16TH: MOVIE NIGHT VIEWING OF “BOB MARLEY: ONE LOVE” (RSVP REQUIRED FOR FREE TICKET)

AMC ESQUIRE 7 (MORE DETAILS TO COME)

FEBRUARY 19TH: HOUSING IN STL - LUNCH TALK WITH DEAN ROSS (RSVP REQUIRED FOR FREE LUNCH)

FARRELL TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER 12PM (ROOM PENDING) (ATTENDANCE IS ELIGIBLE FOR HEJ CREDIT)

FIND MORE AMAZING EVENT CELEBRATING BLACK CULTURE AND PROMOTING EQUITY ON THE [WASH U HAPPENINGS PAGE!](#)

