

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.

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





SNMA PRESENTS...

THE NATIONAL BLUES MUSEUM: HIGHLIGHTING THE NATION'S MOST SOULFUL COLOR

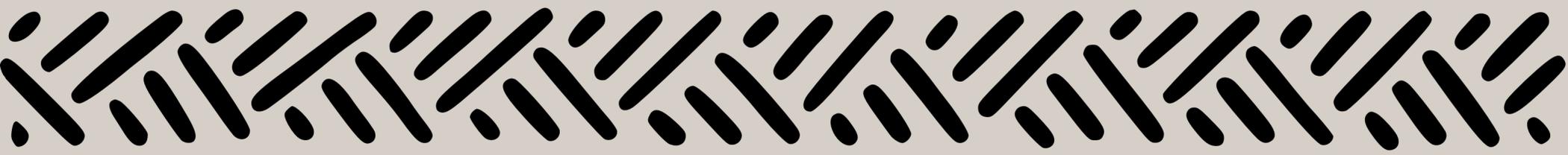
Amidst the historic streets of downtown St. Louis, where echoes of a musical legacy are woven into the very fabric of the city, there exists a sanctuary of sound and soul. As you approach the unassuming facade of the National Blues Museum, a symphony of rhythm seeps through the cracks of its walls, teasing the senses with the anticipation of a journey into the heart of America's musical roots. You have now entered a portal to the past, where the strains of the Delta blues and the electric hum of Chicago intertwine, creating a harmonious narrative that transcends time.

The National Blues Museum was founded in 2016, with none other than Surly King, the daughter of B.B. King, delivering a speech during the opening ceremony. Situated in a meticulously renovated historic building in downtown St. Louis, \$14 million later became the historical landmark that stands before us today.

The facility opened fueled by only one mission: preserving the legacy and honoring the history of the music that gave voice to generations. The museum has not only done this with its captivating exhibits but also through its involvement with the community, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to cultivate their love of music. For example, their program "School Days and Guitar St. Louis" provides masterclasses, music lessons, and workshop events at underserved public schools across St. Louis. Their "Blues on the Block" concert series creates a vibrant, family-friendly atmosphere where all St. Louisans can experience the thrill of a live blue performance without a cost barrier (You heard me right. It's completely FREE, so mark your calendars!)

The National Blues Museum is more than a physical space; it is a living embodiment of the soul-stirring journey that is blues music. As it continues to weave the threads of the past with the vibrancy of the present, the museum ensures that the blues, with all its raw emotion and timeless resonance, remains a vibrant force in the hearts and minds of those who walk through its hallowed halls. For these reasons, we at SNMA proudly selected the National Blues Museum as the second highlight in our "Black People and the Arts" Black History Month newsletter series.

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





SNMA PRESENTS...

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK



STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: GRACE UWASE

HAILING FROM BOISE, IDAHO, WITH ROOTS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, GRACE UWASE IS CURRENTLY IN HER 5TH YEAR OF THE MSTP PROGRAM. BEYOND HER ACADEMIC PURSUITS, GRACE FINDS JOY IN EXPLORING VARIOUS DANCE FORMS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

"I LOVE DANCE BECAUSE IT INHERENTLY MAKES ME SEEK OUT OTHER PEOPLE, AND I LOVE LEARNING AND DISCOVERING NEW THINGS I CAN DO WITH MY BODY. THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO LEARN, WHETHER IT'S A NEW MOVE OR DANCE STYLE. ALSO, I LOVE THAT I GET TO TURN DOWN MY BRAIN AND LET MY BODY TAKE OVER."

SNMA'S STL BLACK BUSINESS OF THE WEEK (BBOTW): IN DA LOOP

ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE A COMMUNITY GETAWAY, IN DA LOOP PIZZA INVITES YOU TO ENJOY HANDMADE PIZZA, HANDCRAFTED COCKTAILS, BURGERS, WINGS, AND MORE! IF THE DELICIOUS FOOD AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEREN'T ENOUGH BLACK EXCELLENCE FOR YOU, THEN WAIT UNTIL YOU HEAR THE KICKER.

NOT ONLY DO THE OWNERS, DEMADISON FIFE AND DARREN NEWMAN, EXHIBIT BLACK EXCELLENCE, BUT THEY ALSO UPLIFT IT. YOU CAN CATCH THEM SHOWCASING THE WORK OF LOCAL BLACK ENTREPRENEURS IN ALL THEY DO, RECENTLY FEATURING CHOCOLATE GIRLS' COOKIES AND ADORNING THE WALLS WITH PORTRAITS INSPIRED BY HIP-HOP AND RAP, CRAFTED BY THE LOCAL ARTIST NOBLE.



IG: @INDALOOPSTL



A LOOK AT THE MONTH

FEBRUARY

2024

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 BOOK RELEASE CELEBRATION	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**~~

~~DUG 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 15TH: BOOK RELEASE CELEBRATION OF LOCAL PHYSICIAN AND HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE DR. UCHE BLACKSTOCK

FLORISSANT VALLEY BRANCH LIBRARY AT 7:00PM (BOOK TITLE: LEGACY: A BLACK PHYSICIAN RECKONS WITH RACISM IN MEDICINE)

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!](#)