

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





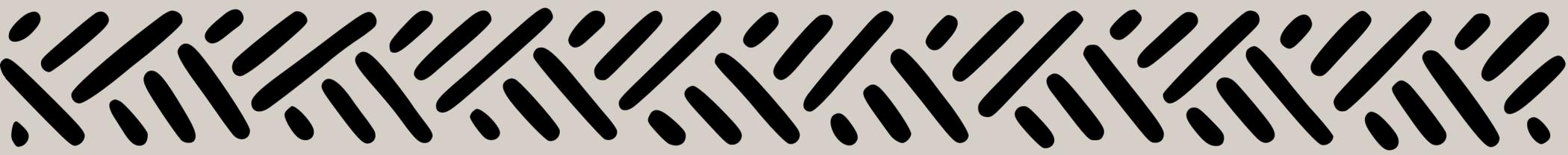
SNMA PRESENTS...

PHENOMENAL WOMAN, PHENOMENAL LEGACY: MAYA ANGELOU'S WORDS "STILL SINGIN' AND SWINGIN'"

Poet, memoirist, educator, dramatist, producer, actress, historian, filmmaker, and civil rights activist. We'll give you 30 seconds to name every person you know who fits that description. Go!... Don't worry; we (and basically everyone) would have a tough time, too. That's because, with over 50 honorary doctorate degrees, Dr. Maya Angelou has cemented herself in a league of her own and the most renowned and influential voices of our time.

Born Marguerite Annie Johnson on April 4, 1928, in the heart of St. Louis, Missouri, Maya Angelou's early years were far from easy. At just seven years old, she faced trauma after trauma that eventually left her mute for several years. She came to believe that her voice only held the power to cause harm. But as they say, "out of adversity comes strength," and Angelou's resilience would soon define her. Only through the guidance and mentorship of Mrs. Bertha Flowers, a family friend, Angelou discovered her love for literature and the power of words. Immersing herself in the works of Shakespeare, Dickens, and Poe, she found solace and a newfound sense of self-expression.

Fast forward to her late teens, and Angelou was already breaking barriers. Did you know that she became the first Black female streetcar conductor in San Francisco before her writing career? Because we sure didn't. Her journey continued as she ventured into dance and theater, touring Europe with the renowned "Porgy and Bess" production and rubbing shoulders with some of the era's greatest artists. Yet, as we all know, it was her literary prowess that truly set Angelou apart. In 1969, she captured the world's attention with the publication of her groundbreaking memoir, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings." This raw and honest account of her childhood experiences resonated deeply with readers, earning her international acclaim and solidifying her place as a literary icon.



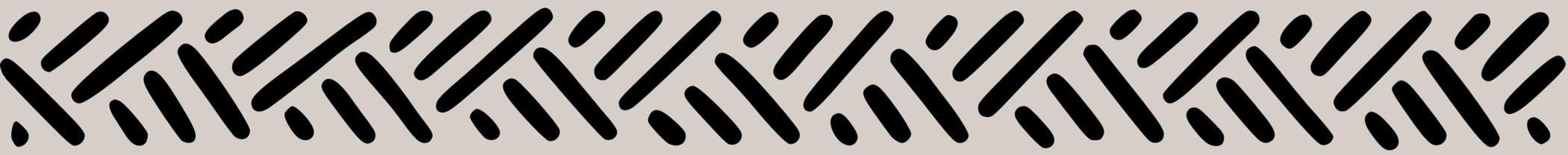


Her words became a rallying cry for social justice and equality, and her activism alongside luminaries like Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X made her a prominent figure in the civil rights movement.

Angelou's literary contributions went on to extend beyond memoirs, encompassing poetry collections like "And Still I Rise" (1978) and "The Heart of a Woman" (1981), as well as essays, plays, and screenplays. Her work garnered numerous accolades, including multiple Grammy Awards for her spoken word albums.

Maya Angelou's legacy transcends literature; it embodies the triumph of the human spirit over adversity and the power of storytelling to inspire change. Her voice continues to resonate with readers of all ages, reminding us of the importance of courage, resilience, and the enduring beauty of the human experience. Even the abridged version of other life accomplishments required two pages to give it proper justice. We strongly encourage you all to take the time to dive deeper into her amazing story, even if you feel you have heard it all before (trust us, you haven't). Nevertheless, it is for these reasons that SNMA proudly selected the late great Dr. Maya Angelou as the third and final 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: FAVOUR ONOSE

GARUBA

HAILING FROM ABUJA, NIGERIA, FAVOUR IS CURRENTLY IN THE 4TH YEAR AND FINAL PHASE OF HER MD PROGRAM. BEYOND HER ACADEMIC PURSUITS, FAVOUR FINDS JOY IN DANCING, WITH A PARTICULAR LOVE FOR AFROBEATS. INCORPORATING THIS CREATIVE EXPANSION OF WEST AFRICAN MUSIC STYLES ALLOWS FAVOUR TO EXPRESS HERSELF CREATIVELY WHILE STAYING CONNECTED TO HER CULTURAL ROOTS.

“DANCE OFFERS ME A SPACE TO EXPERIENCE SOLACE AND COMMUNITY. AMIDST STRESSFUL SEASONS, DANCE IS MY WAY OF ENJOYING THE MOMENT, LETTING ALL MY STRESSFUL THOUGHTS OR FEELINGS FLOAT BY AS I EMBRACE THE REJUVENATION DANCE OFFERS ME. I ALSO LOVE SHARING THAT MOMENT WITH MY COMMUNITY, WHICH MAKES IT MUCH MORE FUN.”

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

INFLUENCED BY THE FARM-TO-TABLE APPROACH, OWNER AND EXECUTIVE CHEF DAVID KIRKLAND FOCUSES ON HEALTHY, AMERICAN COMFORT FOODS AT TURN. HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE THE BISCUIT FLIGHT OF FOUR ASSORTED BISCUITS WITH SEASONAL HOUSE-MADE JAM, HONEY AND BUTTER, SHRIMP AND GRITS AND THE AREPA CORN CAKE. ORDER A SINGLE BLOOD ORANGE MIMOSA OR A WHOLE CARAFE AS YOU JAM OUT AT THE SUNDAY SLOW JAMS BRUNCH WITH DJS.



IG: @TURNSTL

A LOOK AT THE MONTH

FEBRUARY

2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1 BGSU-BHM-KICKOFF EVENT	2	3
4	5 FIRST NEWSLETTER	6 BHM KICKOFF TABLE	7	8	9	10
11	12 SECOND NEWSLETTER	13	14	15 BGSU- WHISPERS OF INTIMACY BOOK RELEASE CELEBRATION	16 BLACK HISTORY MOVIE NIGHT	17
18	19 BHM LUNCH TALK	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 THIRD 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!](#)