

GTAAAC NEWSLETTER

Greater Tulsa African American Affairs Commission



EVENTS

- Thursdays: The Duke Show Open Mic Night - My Momma's House, 6:30 p.m.
- 1: Afro Fest - Greenwood Cultural Center, 5 p.m.
- 4: African Americans & Labor Exhibit - Rudisill Library, 6 p.m.
- 7: First Friday Art Crawl - Downtown Tulsa, 5 p.m.
- 8: Oklahoma Invitational Black Rodeo - Expo Center, 1 p.m. or 7 p.m.
- 11: Board of Education Election Primaries - Local Polls
- 11: Black Wall Street Mixer hosted by BWS Chamber - Meta Horizon Worlds, 6:30 p.m.
- 13: "The Killing Floor" Free Film Screening - Circle Cinema, 7 p.m.
- 15, 16, 22, 23: Theatre North presents Trouble in Mind - Tulsa Performing Arts Center, Various Times
- 18: Lecture: African Presence in Early America II - Rudisill Library, 6:30 p.m.
- 18: "Bike Vessel" Free Film Screening - Circle Cinema, 7 p.m.
- 22: Black Futures Hackathon - Atlas School, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- 26: African American Heritage Bowl - Rudisill Library, 6:30 p.m. (Registration Open)

Black History Month 2025 "African Americans & Labor"

Information gathered from the Association for the Study of African American Life & History webpage linked here.

Every year, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the organization started by the "Father of Black History" Carter G. Woodson, determines a theme. Each theme focuses on a different facet of African American life and culture. This year's theme is African Americans and Labor.

According to the ASALH webpage, "the 2025 Black History Month theme, African Americans and Labor, focuses on the various and profound ways that work and working of all kinds - free and unfree, skilled, and unskilled, vocational and voluntary - intersect with the collective experiences of Black people. Indeed, work is at the very center of much of Black history and culture. Be it the traditional agricultural labor of enslaved Africans that fed Low Country colonies, debates among Black educators on the importance of vocational training, self-help strategies and entrepreneurship in Black communities, or organized labor's role in fighting both economic and social injustice, Black people's work has been transformational throughout the U.S., Africa, and the Diaspora. The 2025 Black History Month theme, "African Americans and Labor," sets out to highlight and celebrate the potent impact of this work."

Take the time to learn more history this month. Happy Black History Month!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The education committee is working to determine ways to tackle some of the problems facing African American students in our schools. Among these are literacy, chronic absenteeism, and family engagement.

As a way to ensure that students all across Tulsa are getting the necessary supports, the education committee is collaborating with the other Title V commission's (Asian Affairs, Indian Affairs, Hispanic / Latinx Affairs, and Tulsa Women's Commission) education committees to do this work. They had their first meeting in January. Updates forthcoming.

POLICY COMMITTEE

The policy committee is focusing on two areas in the beginning part of this year: introducing a policy on transportation and working with the Beyond Apology Commission. As stated in a previous newsletter, the policy committee has noticed how lack of adequate transportation has affected the livelihood of African Americans. The committee will introduce policy that provides suggestions on ways that community members will be able to access transportation to "need-to-get-to" places, such as places of employment, doctors' offices, interviews, etc. The purpose of the Beyond Apology Commission shall be to reconcile, restore, and unite Tulsa in a goal of shared prosperity for all Tulsans by advancing and restoring economic mobility, prosperity, and intergenerational wealth for the 1921 Race Massacre survivors, their descendants, and residents of North Tulsa, in particular the historic Greenwood District and surrounding neighborhoods.

CULTURE & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The culture and engagement committee have begun the process of working with the Tulsa Juneteenth committee to have their inaugural Spoken Word contest.

The contest will focus on the Juneteenth theme: "Family Reunion." A theme like this has great social and cultural implications for the African American community and is a perfect beginning theme for young people to explore family, heritage, and community.

More information on the contest forthcoming.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The Human Rights Commission presented the Lifetime of Compassion Award to Mike Brose, a social worker who has committed his career to ensuring that mental health issues get addressed with compassion and integrity.

The commission has been steadily hosting presentations about issues that plague the Greater Tulsa area, such as voter turnout, student literacy rates, and mental health. These presentations address the problems so that the commission can determine ways to actively support the work the community is doing to combat these issues.