

# NEWSLETTER

GREATER TULSA AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

APRIL 2026

MEETING: 4/14, 6 P.M.



Commissioner Larissa McNeil is the current Chair of the Culture and Engagement Committee. She is the coordinator of the African American Resource Center for the Tulsa Library and has been a commissioner since 2021.

## COMMISSION UPDATES

The commission voted to approve the 2026 Strategic Focus.

The objective of this focus is: *Through coordinated efforts as a commission, [GTAAAC will] help position Tulsa as a city where Black individuals and families choose to live, work, and build generational stability, strengthening economic opportunity and community vitality.*

To do this, GTAAAC has three strategic pillars - Education, Policy, & Culture - which align to the current commission committees. The committees will discuss the strategic questions from the perspective of their focus areas. These questions include:

1. What conditions in Tulsa might cause African-American individuals and families to leave or choose not to move here?
2. What conditions would attract and retain African-American individuals and families in Tulsa?

The commission is committed to supporting all African Americans in Tulsa, working to ensure that Tulsa can become a place that retains and attracts African Americans.

**What are your thoughts? Join us at our monthly meetings, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month (except in July and December), at 6 p.m., to share your ideas!**

## HISTORY CORNER

The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was organized in April 1960 at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, following a meeting organized by Ella Baker.

It emerged to coordinate student-led, nonviolent sit-ins and direct action against segregation, acting independently of older civil rights organizations.

Early leaders included Marion Barry, John Lewis, Diane Nash, and later Stokely Carmichael.

SNCC played a major role in the 1961 Freedom Rides, the 1963 March on Washington, and the 1964 Freedom Summer voter registration campaigns.



## EVENTS

**All Month** - Post Your Poetry at the Library: Suburban Acres Library, Opening Hours

**3** - First Friday Art Crawl: Downtown Tulsa, 6 p.m.

**3** - Rhythm & Verse: Guthrie Green, 6 p.m.

**4** - Black Excellence Ball & Banquet: 36<sup>th</sup> St. North Event Center, 6 p.m.\*

**11** - Color Me Jazzy Afternoon Paint & Sip: Rudisill Library, 2:30 p.m.

**11** - Black History Saturdays: Langston University-Tulsa, 8:45 a.m.

**16** - Live Music Night at Sisserou's: Sisserou's Restaurant, 6:30 p.m.

**18** - Spring Aboard the Soul Train: Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, 3 p.m.\*

**18** - The Pearl Soiree Scholarship Fundraiser: T.U. Allen Chapman Student Union, 6:30 p.m.\*

**21** - Investing in Tomorrow Scholarship Event: Hutcherson YMCA, 6 p.m.\*

**23** - Are You Smarter Than A KIPPster?: Arvest Convention Center, 5:30 p.m.\*

**23** - Educator Appreciation Night: Bob Dylan Center, 6 p.m.

**24-26** - Tulsa Reparations Summit: Langston University-Tulsa\*

**25** - Ring th Alarm: A Fight Against Childhood Obesity: Lacy Park, 11 a.m.

**26**: Author Tayari Jones at Magic City Books: 1:30 p.m.

- Dentotes ticketed event that requires cost for attendance