Black History Month 2017
St. Louis Resource Guide

Annie Malone,
Homer G. Phillips,
and Cool Papa Bell
Black History Month:
St. Louis 2017

February is Black History Month. ARCHS encourages St. Louis area organizations to promote the important role African Americans have played throughout St. Louis’ history.

There are several activities taking place during the month. Educators can plan classroom activities or arrange outings to area historical attractions. Here are some local resources:

Attractions:

The Old Courthouse was the site of the notable Dred Scott v. Sanford court case, which ultimately led to the Civil War and would forever change America’s destiny. Special exhibits and mock trials occur on a scheduled basis.
https://www.nps.gov/jeff/planyourvisit/och.htm

The Griot Museum of Black History provides another opportunity for to learn about local African American history. The museum features wax figures, artifacts, and memorabilia with an emphasis on regional stories in relation to American history.
http://www.thegriotmuseum.com/

Plan to visit the Scott Joplin House State Historic Site, which is a National Historic Landmark. Step into the King of Ragtime’s home where he composed his legendary music.
https://mostateparks.com/park/scott-joplin-house-state-historic-site

Black history is alive all year long in St. Louis. In the spring, experience the Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing Celebration on the riverfront of north St. Louis.

St. Louis’ Walk of Fame features more than 100 bronze stars that are embedded in the sidewalks along Delmar Boulevard in the Loop neighborhood, with each honoring a famous St. Louisan, including many notable African Americans such as Maya Angelou, Chuck Berry, Nelly, Ozzie Smith, Tina Turner, and others.
http://www.stlouiswalkoffame.org/

St. Louis’ newest attraction for celebrating musicians is the National Blues Museum. The interactive museum educates visitors about the importance of the blues genre as Black history and its powerful influence on American music.
https://www.nationalbluesmuseum.org/
http://www.pbs.org/theblues/classroom/defhistory.html

At Calvary Cemetery you can visit the gravesites of Dred Scott and Madame Pelagie Rutgers, an African American woman who was one of the wealthiest land-holders in the mid-18th century.

Bellefontaine Cemetery houses the graves of Rev. John Richard Anderson, a witness to the murder of the Rev. Elijah P. Lovejoy, an abolitionist newspaper publisher; and Rev. John Berry Meachum, founder of the “freedom school” on the Mississippi River.
http://bellefontainecemetery.org/
The Ville. This is St. Louis’ most historically significant African American neighborhood, home to Sumner High School, the first school west of the Mississippi to provide secondary education for African American students; the former Homer G. Phillips Hospital, which was one of the first medical institutions in the country to train African American physicians; and the Annie Malone Children’s Home, founded by one of the first African American millionaires.

http://explorestlouis.com/things-to-do/neighborhoods/the-ville/

Events:

The Missouri History Museum offers Black History Month programming that includes: History of the Green Book lecture (February 16), The Story of Shelley v. Kraemer film screening (February 18), and Nobody’s Boy theatrical performances (February 4, 18, and 25).

http://mohistory.org/calendar/2017-02?mini=calendar%2F2017-02

The Lift Every Voice: Black History Month Celebration on February 17 at Powell Symphony Hall celebrates African American culture and traditions. Conductor Kevin McBeth, trumpeter Byron Stripling, and the STL Symphony IN UNISON Chorus will commemorate the legacy of African American art, music, and community.


The Black History Month Film Series at the Saint Louis Art Museum will be held on Sundays on February 5, 12, and 19 and will feature films starring, directed, or produced by African Americans.


St. Louis County Library’s 2017 Black History Celebration presents a keynote event with Dr. Bernice King. Dr. King will discuss and sign My Life, My Love, My Legacy, a new autobiography of her mother, Coretta Scott King. The event will take place January 27 at Library Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.

http://www.slcl.org/content/bernice-king-kicks-county-libraries-black-history-month-celebration

Various St. Louis County Library and St. Louis Public Library branches will host a variety of Black History Month events throughout February.

http://www.slcl.org/events

https://slpl.bibliocommons.com/events/search/q=black%20history%20month
Resources:

About African American History Month
http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/
http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month

Timeline of Missouri’s African American History

History of the Green Book (Route 66)
http://www.historyhappenshere.org/archives/7815

Lesson Plans:

Education World
http://www.educationworld.com/a_special/black_history.shtml

NEA

PBS
http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/2014/02/black-history-month-teaching-resources/

Preschool
http://www.preschoolrainbow.org/black-history.htm

.Gov
http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/teachers.html

Information provided by:
www.stlarchs.org