

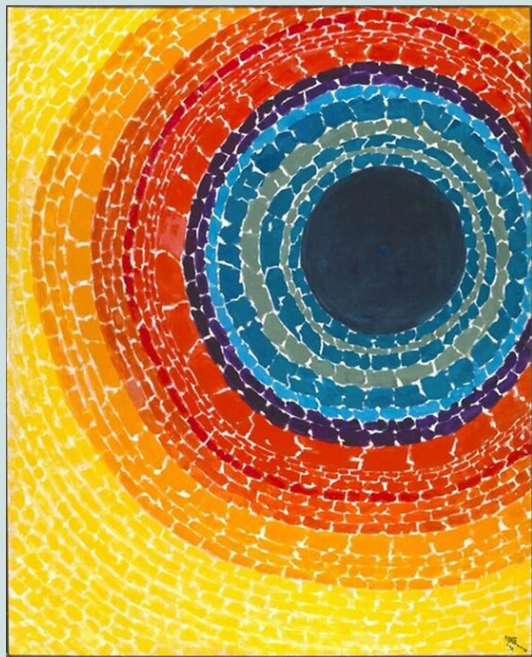
# DEIJB Bulletin

Michigan Chapter of AFS DEIJ Committee  
**FEBRUARY 2024**

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## Opportunities to Celebrate Black History Month



Painting: [Alma Woodsey Thomas](#)

### University Events

- [Central Michigan University](#)
- [Grand Valley State University](#)
- [Lake Superior State University](#)
- [Kalamazoo Valley Community College](#)
- [Michigan State University](#)
- [Northern Michigan University](#)
- [University of Michigan](#)
- [Western Michigan University](#)
- [Wayne State University](#)
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### Community Events

- [The Henry Ford Museum](#)
- [Detroit](#) area and [Metro Detroit](#)
- [Grand Rapids Black History Month Tours](#)
- [Flint Institute of Music](#)
- [The Wright](#) (free admission on second Sunday of each month)
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### Online Experiences

- [Smithsonian: African American Artists and Selected Works](#)
- [NAACP Black History Month Events](#)

Please join us on **February 2, 12-1 pm ET**, for a presentation highlighting [AFS Equal Opportunities Section](#). Our presentation is the second in the MIAFS webinar series. You can save the date and access the webinar by using the iCalendar link [here](#).

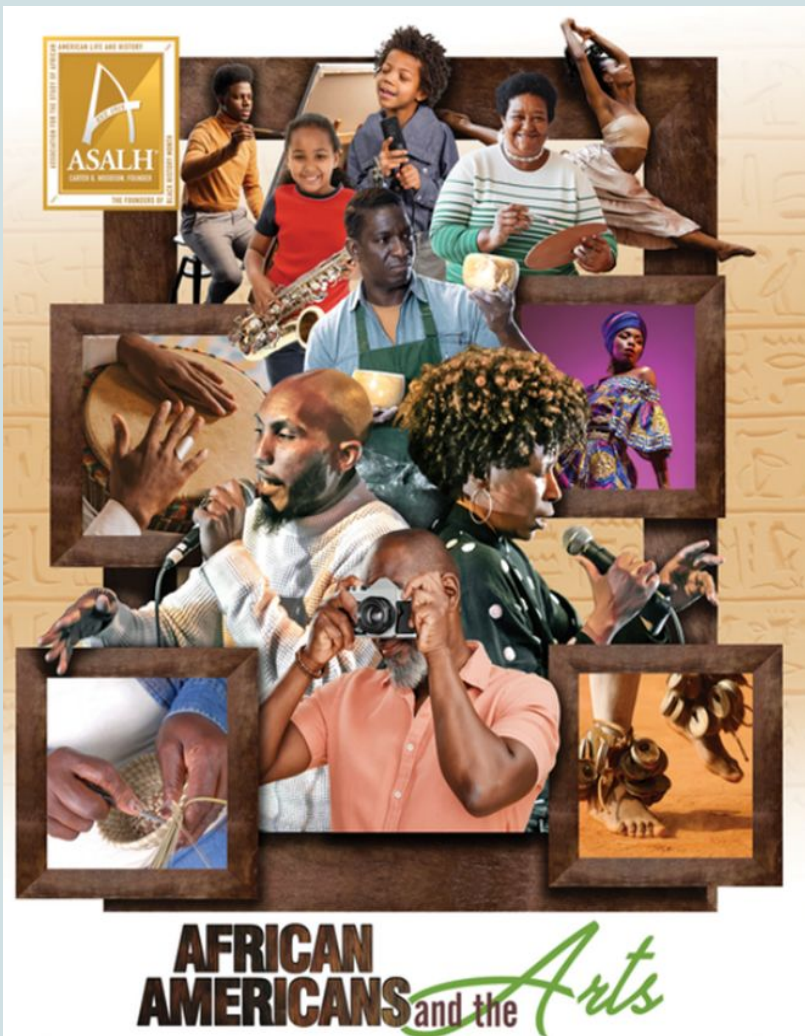


## MI AFS DEIJB Annual Meeting Travel Award

We are excited to announce a travel award to help cover meeting-related expenses for individual(s) who otherwise may not be able to attend the [Michigan AFS Annual Meeting](#) (March 21- 22, 2024). We strongly encourage applicants belonging to underrepresented groups in fisheries and related disciplines to apply, although this is not necessary to receive financial support.

The travel award description can be found [here](#), while applications can be submitted to the DEIJB committee via [Google Form](#). Any information you choose to provide will remain confidential and will not be shared outside of the MIAFS DEIJB.

# Black History Month: A Celebration of African American in the Arts



In 1967, as part of the Nation's bicentennial celebration, President Ford dedicated February as Black History Month<sup>1,2</sup>. In particular, he called on all citizens to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history”<sup>2</sup>. Each year, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) chooses a theme for Black History Month. These themes reflect not only how African Americans view themselves, but also the influence that social movements have on racial ideology and the aspirations of the black community<sup>3</sup>. For 2024, ASALH has chosen to celebrate [African Americans and the Arts](#), in an effort to highlight the contributions that people of African descent have made to all forms of cultural expression including literature, film, music, visual and the performing arts. Even during enslavement, African Americans expressed their experiences through art, leading to the development of Spirituals, the nation's first contribution to music. Through the development of Blues, famed African American musicians, such as Robert Johnson, McKinley ‘Muddy Waters’ Morganfield and Riley “BB” B. King, ultimately shaped the development of gospel, soul, and other popular forms of music. In addition to music authors such as Phillis Wheatley, David Walker, Maria Stewart and Maya Angelou have helped to shape American literature<sup>3</sup>.

Art in its various forms provides an opportunity for its creators to express their thoughts and experiences with life, history, society, and politics. By sharing their creations and the meaning behind them, artists provide an alternative avenue, outside of mainstream formats, for discussions regarding social issues. Historically, Western intellectuals denied or minimized the contribution of African artists, even limiting access to formal training and the ability to exhibit their works. Regardless, African American artists have persisted, contributing meaningfully to the development of the arts in the United States<sup>3,4</sup>. Movements such as the [Harlem Renaissance](#) and [Black Arts](#) helped bring the works of African Americans to wider public notice and shaped future generations of American artists and intellectuals<sup>5</sup>. During February, take the opportunity to experience African American Art. While doing so, consider that no matter how turbulent or dark the times they live through were, African Americans continued to express their experiences through art. Their past and future contributions have a significant influence on American culture, not only shaping our national identity but also how the world views the United States.

## References

1. President Gerald R. Ford's Message on the Observance of Black History Month. *Selected Gerald R. Ford Presidential Speeches Page* [fordlibrarymuseum.gov](http://fordlibrarymuseum.gov).
2. Neuman, S. It's Black History Month. Here are 3 things to know about the annual celebration. *NPR* [npr.org](http://npr.org) (2023).
3. Black History Themes. [asalh.org/](http://asalh.org/) (2024).
4. African Americans in the Arts. *Black History in America* [myblackhistory.net](http://myblackhistory.net).
5. A New African American Identity: The Harlem Renaissance. *Smithsonian* [nmaahc.si.edu](http://nmaahc.si.edu).



# Carter G. Woodson the Man Behind Black History Month

From an inauspicious start as the son of illiterate former slaves, Carter G. Woodson became the second African American to earn a Ph.D. at Harvard University. He eventually became the Dean of the College of Arts and Science at Howard University, where he taught history<sup>1</sup>. Being denied attendance to the American Historical Association conference, despite being a due-paying member, led Woodson to realize the white-dominated historical profession “overlooked, ignored and even suppressed” the contributions of African Americans<sup>2</sup>. This led Woodson to found both the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (1915) and the scholarly *Journal of Negro History*, which is still published today as the *Journal of African American History*<sup>2</sup>. Woodson’s dedication to highlighting the contributions of black Americans persisted, and in 1926 he launched Negro History Month on the second week of February. He chose this week as it holds birthdays of two grate abolitionists, Abraham Lincoln and [Frederick Douglass](#)<sup>1,2</sup>.



Painting: Calvin Coleman

The progression from Negro History Week to Black History Month took 50 years, spanning dark years of racial violence and active repression of black history. It was not until the Civil Rights and Black Consciousness movements of the 1960’s that the calls for improved teaching of black history reached ears around the nation. This led President Ford to declare February as Black History Month in 1967<sup>1</sup>. Although Black History Month has a different theme each year there is always one underlying factor. Without the resilience, determination, dedication and persistence of Woodson and countless unnamed others the history of African Americans and their contributions would still be marginalized, underrepresented, and underappreciated.

## References

1. Neuman, S. It’s Black History Month. Here are 3 things to know about the annual celebration. NPR [npr.org](https://www.npr.org) (2023).
2. Carter G. Woodson. *National Association for the Advancement of Colored People* [naacp.org](https://naacp.org). (2024).

## February Resources

### Read

- [Be an Ally to Black Women in Fisheries Science](#)
- [Breaking Systemic Barriers: Being Black in the Aquatic Sciences and Related Fields](#)
- [Celebrate Black History Month with NOAA Fisheries - 2021](#)
- [Celebrate Black History Month with NOAA Fisheries - 2022](#)
- [Celebrating Black Scientists in Fisheries & Biology](#)
- [Celebrating Black History Month with five scientists who changed our understanding of the ocean](#)
- [Outdoor Life Article: Why We’re Failing to Recruit African American Hunters \(and How to Fix It\)](#)
- [Bowhunting.com - How to Get Minorities Involved in Hunting](#)

### Listen

- [Mamie Parker – From Fishing with Mom to Becoming a Top Fisheries Official](#)
- [The Hunting Collective \(MeatEater Network\): Ep. 89](#)
- [Hunting While Black and Questioning Our Culture Competency with Dr. Carolyn Finney](#)
- [MeatEater: Is Hunting Too White?](#)
- [Organization: Hunters of Color](#) - Hunters of Color is a nationwide 501(c)(3) nonprofit by led by BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) working towards increasing BIPOC participation in hunting for the sake of conservation, food sovereignty, and to preserve our ancestral traditions.
- [N.onT.ypical Outdoorsman TV](#)

## February:

### Awareness Month & Days

- [Black History Month](#)
- [American Heart Month](#)
- [National Freedom Day](#) - Feb 1
- [Rosa Parks Day](#) - Feb 4
- [Safer Internet Day](#) - Feb 6
- [Chinese New Year](#) - Feb 10
  - [Year of the Dragon](#)
- [International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#) - Feb 11
- [International Epilepsy Day](#)- Feb 12
- [Mardi Gras](#)- Feb 13
- [International Childhood Cancer Day](#)- Feb 15
- [World Day of Social Justice](#)- Feb 20



The MIAFS Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Belong Committee will continue “to cultivate a chapter culture that ensures all members feel welcome and respected; recruits and retains members with underrepresented identities and backgrounds; and works with the Executive Committee to create and advocate for policies and procedures that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion at the chapter, regional, and international levels”.

As always, please contact us if you would like to become involved with the DEIJB committee or if you come across items that you would like to have shared. You can reach us at [miafsdeij@gmail.com](mailto:miafsdeij@gmail.com) (or you may contact us [anonymously](#)).

Warm Wishes -

Kyle Brumm (he/him), Dana Castle (she/her), Lydia Doerr (she/her), Tracy Galarowicz (she/her), Kynzie House (she/her)



[Evening Rendezvous, 1962](#)



## [Norman Lewis](#)

Born New York City 1909

Died New York City 1979