Community Events

African Heritage Month

Please note this is a non-exhaustive list of events that we have compiled. If you are aware of additional events not included here, please contact the Education Advisor, Amanda Wilneff via HRES@dal.ca.

January 25
African Heritage Month Opening Night Celebration
7:00pm in the Halifax Central Library

We hope you'll join us for our annual kick-off event as we head into another remarkable year of community programming. The evening will feature performances by Owen O'Sound Lee and Jupiter Reign, refreshments, and lots of memories (old and new!). You can attend in person, click to watch the live stream. Please note that seating at the event will be first come, first served. We recommend arriving early.

January 30
Flag Raising
9:30 am at Grand Parade Square

Attend an African Heritage Month flag raising and a special performance by Owen Lee at Grande Parade (weather permitting) before moving indoors to Halifax Hall for a proclamation reading by Deputy Mayor Austin and light refreshments.

Feb. 1-4, 9-11, 16-18, 23-25
City Hall Lit in Pan-African Colours
Grand Parade Square at Dusk

City Hall will be illuminated in black, green, red, and yellow in honour of African Heritage Month.

Feb. 1
African Heritage Month Launch Day & Flag Raising Ceremony
12:00PM-2PM in the LeMarchant Building at Dalhousie

We extend a warm and heartfelt invitation to join us at Dalhousie’s Annual African Heritage Month Launch Day event and Flag-raising Ceremony on Feb. 1 at 12:00 noon. The main event will be held at the LeMarchant Building on Dalhousie’s Halifax Campus, followed by a ceremonial flag raising on the Studley Quad. This gathering has been and continues to be the capstone event for our university community to not only recognize multifaceted identities and
rich legacies of Peoples of African Descent but also join in communion with one another to celebrate.

February 2  
**Celebrations and Revelations 2024 - Unyielding Roots**  
7:00PM at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

In honour of African Heritage Month, join us and Joy Bullen for a special musical performance. Second generation Canadians with roots in the Caribbean and Africa; Rashaan Rory Allwood, pianist / instrumentalist, and Kathryn Patricia Cobbler, Loop pedal violist, will premier their original compositions, with the outstanding soprano voice of Nadine Anyan. Rashaan and Kathryn will take you on a musical journey with pieces that reflect upon elements of the Caribbean immigrant and African diaspora experience. A program of original ambient jazz, folk, and classical compositions performed against a background film of images and events from life in the Caribbean and in Canada, exploring themes of being raised within multiple cultures and redefining beauty against a North American colonial landscape.


February 2  
**Opening Reception for As We Rise and Family Matters**  
7:00PM– 10:00PM at the Dalhousie Art Gallery

Artist Allen D. Crooks, Dr. Kenneth Montague of the Wedge Collection, and Curator Elliott Ramsey will be in attendance. At 8 PM, local DJ R$ $mooth will play a live set inspired by the recently released LP, As We Rise: Sounds from the Black Atlantic. Opening remarks will be held at 7:30 PM in the Sculpture Court, located on the 2nd floor of the Dalhousie Arts Centre. The event is open to the public and is free to attend. Light refreshments will be served in the Sculpture Court throughout the evening.


February 3  
**Exhibition Talk & Book/LP Signing with Dr. Kenneth**  
2:00 – 4:00 PM at the Dalhousie Art Gallery

Join art collector, curator and founder and director of Wedge Curatorial Projects Dr. Kenneth Montague and curator Elliott Ramsey for a presentation about the Wedge Collection, Canada’s largest privately owned collection committed to championing Black artists. They will discuss the work that inspired this significant project on global Black photography which is organized by Aperture (New York). Following the talk, Dr. Montague will be signing copies of the publication, As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic as well as the accompanying vinyl records, As
We Rise: Sounds from the Black Atlantic. Catalogues and LPs will be available for purchase through Dalhousie Art Gallery and the King’s Co-op Bookstore throughout the exhibition run.

February 3- April 7
As We Rise Exhibition
Dalhousie Art Gallery

The ethos of community is at the heart of the collection from which this exhibition is drawn. Established by Dr. Kenneth Montague, the Wedge Collection is Canada’s largest privately owned collection committed to championing Black artists. The title As We Rise is borrowed from a phrase that Dr. Montague’s father would often invoke: “Lifting as we rise.” By this, he emphasized the importance of parlaying one’s personal success into communal good. He believed in investing back in the Black community to which he and his family belonged.

https://artgallery.dal.ca/we-rise-photography-black-atlantic

February 3- April 7
Allen Crooks: Family Matters Exhibition
Dalhousie Art Gallery

As an artist, Allen Crooks skillfully navigates the intricate tapestry of community life, weaving together moments of everyday existence with a keen eye for social realism. His poignant photography captures the essence of shared experiences, celebrating the resilience and vibrancy of the African Nova Scotian community from varied perspectives. Family Matters goes beyond mere visual documentation; it is a heartfelt homage to the profound importance of familial connections, revealed through his intimate and deeply human treatment of each subject. Through Crooks' lens, this exhibition serves as a testament to enduring strength and rich cultural heritage, showcasing the beauty found in the nuances of daily life and the invaluable ties that bind us together.

https://artgallery.dal.ca/allen-d-crooks-family-matters

February 4
Annual Celebration of Black Nova Scotian Heritage
6:00PM with North Preston IODE

North Preston annual “Celebration of Black Nova Scotian Heritage“ through spiritual and personal testimonies. Celebrating the rich heritage of Canada’s largest Black community.

February 5-9
Black Health Awareness Week
Dalhousie Student Health and Wellness
Intentionally placed within African Heritage and Black History Month for its cultural and historical significance, Black Health Awareness Week will bring together the campus community for student-centered health promotion programs and education opportunities focused on anti-Black racism in physical health and the mental well-being of Black students.


**February 8**

**Panel Discussion on: Beyond Anti-Racism, Anti-Discrimination Statements and Charters**
5:30 – 8:00PM Online
Organized by the Diversity and Equity Committee (School of Social Work), Dalhousie Black Faculty & Staff Caucus, Dalhousie Faculty Association

**PANELLISTS**

**Dr. Barrington Walker**
The Afterlife of the Scarborough Charter: Towards Black Thriving in Canadian Higher Education

**Dr. Ajay Parasram**
Institutional Deficiencies and Anti-Racist Foundations at the End of the EDI Era

**Dr. Camisha Sibblis**
Black Studies in Canada

**Dr. Warren Clarke**
Challenging the Canadian white Settler Ideology and its Homogenizing Acronyms, which Define and Homogenize Black Intersectional Lived Experiences

**MODERATOR**
**Dr. David Westwood**

https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/2dee24b7-a2aa-43ff-a4bf-c8807c0cd962@60b81999-0b7f-412d-92a3-e17d8ae9e3e0

**February 10**

**2024 Black History Month Dinner and Performances**
6:00 PM - 11:30 PM at Rosario Hall, Mount Saint Vincent University
Welcome to the 2024 Black History Month Dinner and Performances! Join the Africa Festival of Arts and Culture at Rosaria Hall for an evening filled with delicious food, captivating performances, and a celebration of our history. Immerse yourself in the rich culture and heritage as talented artists showcase their talents through music, dance, and spoken word. This in-person event promises to be a memorable experience as we come together to honor the achievements and contributions of the black community. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to celebrate inclusion and diversity. Mark your calendars and get ready for a night of inspiration and entertainment!


Feb 15
Panel Discussion on African-Centred Approaches to Black Health
5:30 – 8:00PM Online
Organized by the Diversity and Equity Committee (School of Social Work), the Healthy Populations Institute Flagship Project, Improving the Health Outcomes of People of African Descent

PANELLISTS

Dr. Ejemai Eboreime
Afrocentric Health in Western Health Systems: Square Pegs and Round Holes?

Dr. Leah Jones

Crystal John
Nova Scotia Sisterhood: A NSHA Initiative Providing Programming and Health Care to Black Women in Black communities

Dennis Adams
Youth-Work that Works for Black Youth's Health

Akin Ogungbadero
Lack of Health Insurance and Associated Costs: Implications for Accessing African Centred Health Care

Mario Rolle

MODERATOR
Crystal Watson
February 15
Artist Talk: Allen D. Crooks
6:00 PM–7:30 PM at the Dalhousie Art Gallery

Halifax artist Allen D. Crooks will give an illustrated talk about his photography practice, influences and experience as the owner of the Halifax Darkroom, the only member-based darkroom in Eastern Canada.

February 21 & 22
Cultural Preservation & Community Capacity Building Forum
9:30AM-3:30PM at Atrium 340, Saint Mary's University
Organized by the Loyalist Collections Creative Society, Saint Mary's University and Black Cultural Center

Join us for a two-day forum focusing on African Nova Scotian cultural preservation and community capacity building. We are bringing together students, educators and community members for thought-provoking discussions and podcast recordings on past accomplishments and future opportunities for African Nova Scotian communities.

February 24
African Heritage Month Gala Dinner
5:30PM at the Halifax Convention Center

The Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia is hosting a Gala event presented by RBC to celebrate and honour the Black Presence in Arts & Culture in Nova Scotia and Canada. The 2024 African Heritage Month Gala Dinner will take place on Saturday, February 24th, at 5:30 pm at the Halifax Convention Centre. It will be an evening of great cultural entertainment, artistic engagement, and food. The headlining artist will be former Canadian Idol and award-winning artist, Gary Beals along with a host of cultural performers and artists. The spectacular evening will also include a pre-reception Cultural Village that will highlight organizations that support and elevate Black Culture, Heritage and Art. Tickets are $100 per person (plus fees), and corporate tables are also available.

www.bccns.com/gala2024

February 24
Super Saturday: Artist of the Month, Faith Ringgold
11:00AM – 3:00PM at the Alderney Gate Public Library

Join us for our Artist of the Month series! This month, we'll be celebrating African-American multimedia artist and author, Faith Ringgold with crafts and activities inspired by her work.

https://halifax.bibliocommons.com/events/6578af381abde542006396c7

February 24
Rhythm & Royalty: Celebrating African Kings & Queens
1:00PM – 3:00PM at the Woodlawn Public Library

Join us to get into the groove of African drums, fashion, art, dance, and movement, as we explore the epic saga of ancient African monarchs. Accompanied by African drums, at this event, you will learn about the storied lives and experiences of great figures from African Royalty. Award-winning playwright Tara Taylor will narrate the stories of African kings and queens, accompanied by the talented father and son duo Dr. Henry Bishop and Adrian Bishop, who will drum the heartbeat of the life of each extraordinary figure. Experience the rhythm and regalia of the motherland, Africa. Tickets are given out 30 minutes before the performance.

https://halifax.bibliocommons.com/events/657865551abde54200638913