



# Nevada Recreation & Park Society Program Excellence Awards Application

## Nomination for the 2012 Program Excellence Awards

1. Program Title:	Black History Month Celebration
2. Category Assigned:	Special Event
3. Nominated by:	Candy Rutledge
Telephone:	702-455 -8200
4. Name of Agency/Organization:	Clark County Parks & Recreation
Address:	2601 E. Sunset Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89120
Telephone:	702-455 -8200
5. Name of Director/ Superintendent/Manager to Notify Regarding Award:	Jane Pike
6. Staff Responsible for Program:	Dawn Smith, Joseph House, Tamara Trowell, <i>Wendell Kelly</i>

**Deadline: Application must be received no later than March 2, 2012**

Mail application to: Incline Village Recreation Center • NRPS Awards Committee • 980 Incline Way • Incline Village, NV 89451  
 Attention: Pandora Bahlman • Email: NRPS@live.com



Black History Month Celebration – Clark County Parks & Recreation, Las Vegas,  
Nevada 89120—**SPECIAL EVENT CATEGORY**

Each year, Black History Month is a challenge to develop and present in the centers of Clark County Parks & Recreation so the most patrons are reached while remaining cost efficient. This year a Black History Portfolio was created and placed on our server so each facility could use it as a resource in developing their own creative way of bringing this celebration to their center throughout the month of February. The individual centers then brought their displays and participants to Walnut Community Center for a celebration that included displays from the centers, entertainment honoring Black history and speakers. Participants were then invited to a banquet to enjoy ethnic food while they continued discussions and presentations honoring those individuals who best express our Black heritage.

By placing the Black History Portfolio in a shared file, everyone had access to the flyer advertising the event at Walnut along with resources to print and copy for bulletin boards, speakers, art activities, interactive games and entertainers. In addition, a Black History Month Action plan was in the folder which each center could fill out and submit as a way of getting additional resources, equipment and staff to help them complete their program. Speakers and performers for the Black History Month activities all donated their services as did volunteers who helped set up displays, coordinate performances, set up bulletin boards and interacted with the patrons.

In this way, costs were kept at a minimum. Most centers spent under \$100 for materials with the major cost of the celebration of \$1500 spent on catering and ethnic food for the banquet at Walnut Community Center as a final celebration of the month.

As each center regularly reports over 2000 folks who attend programs and events each month, we can credibly state that the Black History Month Celebration was experienced by between 28,000 and 30,000 patrons throughout the Las Vegas Valley.

Success of this program was in large part due to the creative and hard work of the Black History Celebration Committee: Supervisors: Dawn Smith and Tamara Trowell; Recreation Specialists: Joseph House, Sharon Steele, and Wendell Kelly who created the project, designed the Black History Portfolio and worked with centers to ensure that their projects succeeded. Teamwork and collaboration among staff in various centers ensured the success of this project. Education blended with recreation to raise our collective appreciation of our Black heritage.

Clark County Parks &  
Recreation Presents a...

# Black History Month Celebration

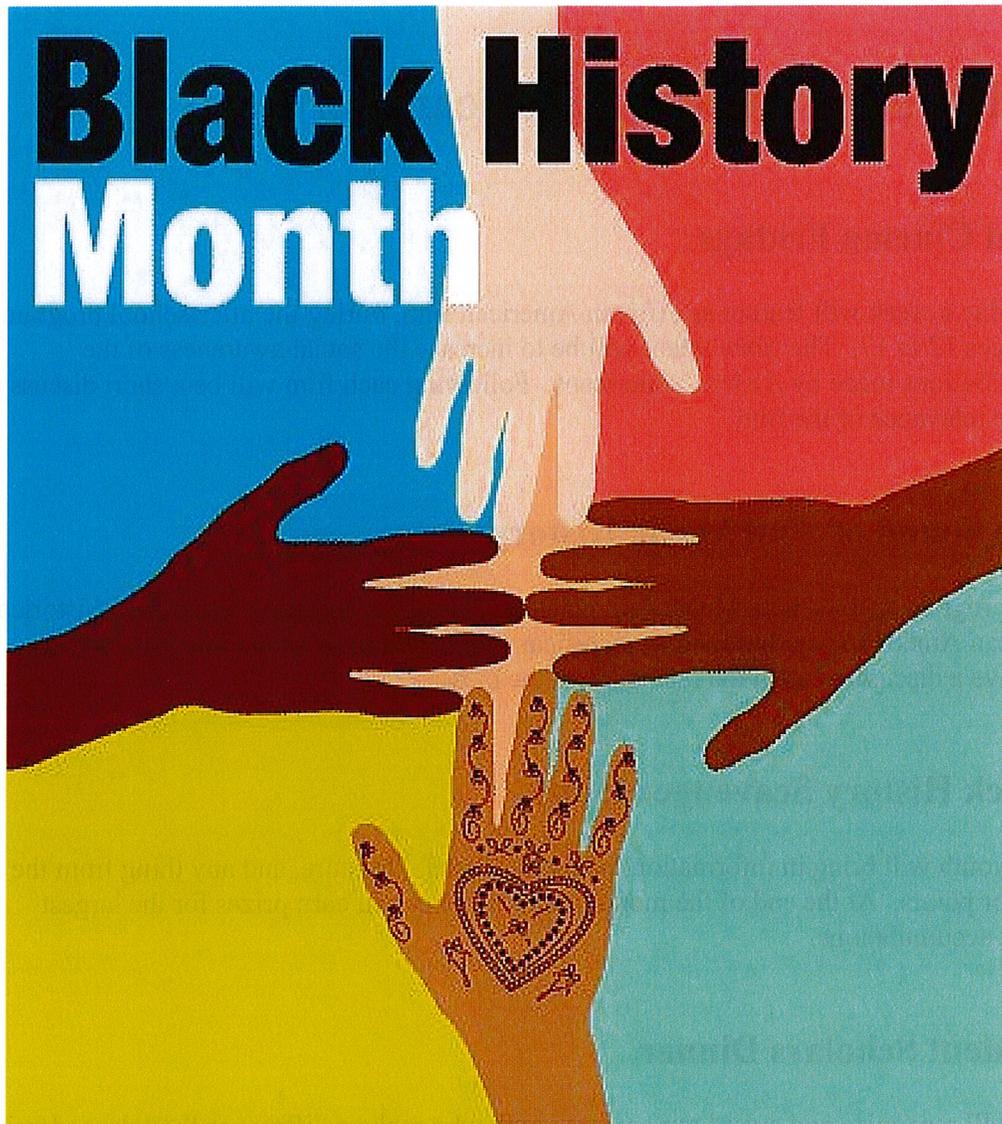
Walnut Rec. Center, February 25, 2012

A Series of performances, displays  
and speakers sharing and illustrating  
African American Heritage with a

**Soul Food Luncheon**

11:00pm to 2:00pm Free





# Activity Sheets

# **Celebrating African American Heritage**

## **Soul Cinema Fridays**

One day a week will feature an African American film, during the after-school program for ages 12 to 17. The films intent will be to increase the social awareness of the contributions made by African Americans. Following each film will be a short discuss as to the relevance of the film.

## **The Sound of Soul Music History**

Our program will attend a Music Appreciation Class. Each session features an historical African American who has made a significant contribution to music. Each class will involve a discussion as to the relevance of the music.

## **Black History Scavenger Hunt**

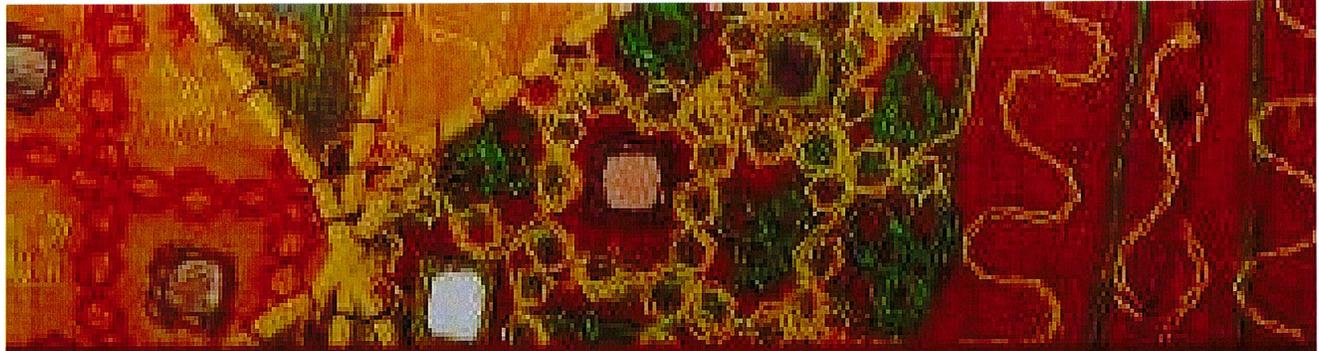
Our youth will bring in information, pictures, poems, literature, and any thing from the list for points. At the end of the month, three winners will earn prizes for the largest point accumulations.

## **Student Scholars Dinner**

We will recognize and award our centers youth who make a difference though academic excellence by maintain a 3.0 or higher in their academic studies. The guest speaker:

## **Black History Hour**

Black History hour, featuring documentaries which explore the African American Culture in the areas of: Sports, Civil Rights, and The Arts. Following each film will be a short discuss as to the relevance of the film.



C E L E B R A T E

# Black History Month

**By Exploring  
Black Art**

## **What is Art?**

- **Webster:** human skill as opposed to nature; creative skill; profession, craft, trick, system of rules.
- **Someone's definition:** art is what rich people say it is.
- **National Endowment of the Arts** defines art as a Reflection of the past, Enrich the present and image the future.

## **Why study the arts**

- history
- visions and images of day to day

## **Name a Black Arts in the field of...**

- **Photography:**  
Gordon Parks, Charles Van Dere,
- **Sculpting:**  
David Hammonds,
- **Drawing/ Printmaking:**  
Tom Feelings, Jacob Lawrence, Charles Bibb
- **Painting:**  
Jean Michelle Basquait
- **Film:**  
Spike Lee, John Singleton, F. Gary Gray, Martin Scorsese, Steve Spielberg

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH



## **Facts & Information**

Black History Month celebrates contributions made by African Americans and people of African descent around the world. It was started by an African American man named Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1926. Back then, it was called Negro History Week and was celebrated the second week of February. Now it is celebrated for the whole month of February in the United States and Canada, and the month of October in the United Kingdom.

### **Why was Black History Month started?**

Dr. Woodson studied African American culture and encouraged other people to study it, too. He felt it was important for people to recognize the great contributions black people have made. He devoted his life to educating people as a teacher, a writer, and a publisher. He was also a political activist who worked to make sure the government treated African Americans fairly.

Negro History Week was set for the second week in February to celebrate the birthdays of two people who worked hard for African Americans: Abraham Lincoln, the white president who freed the slaves, and Frederick Douglass, the first African American Vice Presidential nominee.

Negro History Week became Black History Month in 1976, in celebration of our nation's 200th birthday.

### **How do people feel about Black History Month?**

Some people feel it's unfair to set aside a month celebrating the history of one race. Others say that celebrating black history separately from American History underlines the idea that African Americans are not Americans, and their history is set apart from mainstream culture. But people who think black history is important say that as long as there is racism, unfairness, and a lack of understanding of black culture, there is a place for Black History Month.

### **Ways to Celebrate Black History Month**

No matter what your background, everyone can celebrate the importance of Black History Month. Celebrate the achievements and inventions of the black people featured in this article by reading about them below. Which important figures below contributed something that means a lot to you? Find a way to commemorate those achievements that affect your everyday life, whether it's through art, film, literature, music, education, civil rights, sports or even food!



# Exploring Black Film & Movies

## 100 Black History Month Movies, TV and Documentaries:

The following is a list of films which illustrate in some way or form the African American experience whether through documentary, biographical, historical or fiction film. Not all of these films are intended for all audiences. Please check the rating and the subject matter of your selected film for ages and audience appropriate content. List created by Joseph House and are in no particular order.

Yellow: Biographical Movie or Documentary

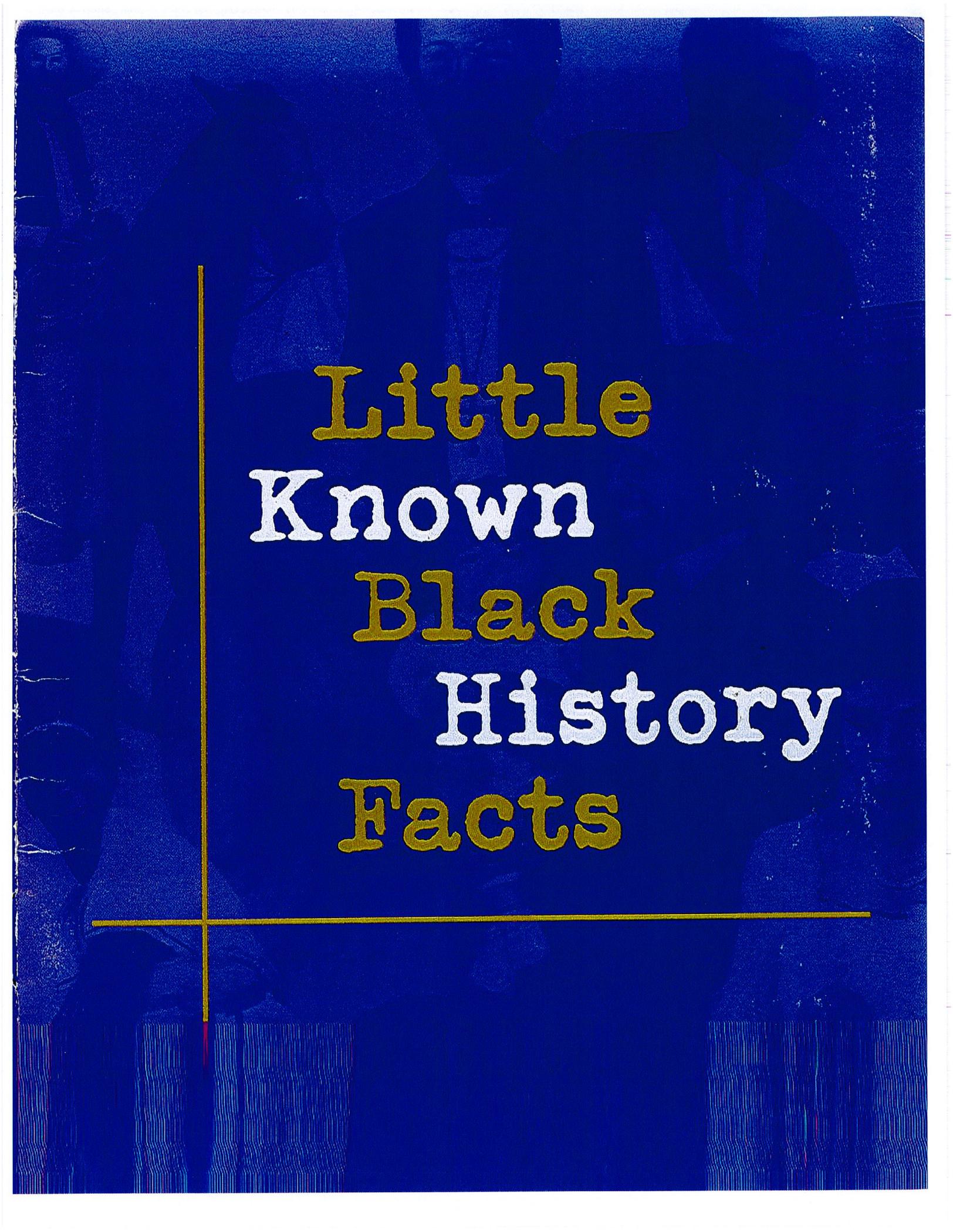
Green: History Events involving historic figures

Blue: Historical Drama about Black History event

Violet: Black Film illustrating the Afro-American Experience

Red: Films or shows that inspire us or force us to see ourselves differently

1. **Roots (1977)**: Alex Haley chronicles the story of his own family across many generations. Beginning with Kunta Kinte, an 18th century African who is captured and sold into slavery in the United States and tracing Kinte's life and the lives of his descendants in the U.S. until he comes to Haley himself. This film gives a thorough look into the history of one African-American bloodline.
2. **Glory (1989)**: Considered one of the best civil war movies ever made, *Glory* is the true story of how Colonel Robert Shaw leads the first all-black volunteer company in the United States Civil War. Shaw and his company not only battle the enemy, but also struggle to fight the racism and prejudices within their own Union army.
3. **Amistad (1997)**: Based on the true story of a slave mutiny that took place aboard a slave ship traveling from Cuba to the United States in 1839 and the legal battle that followed. This film examines the fundamental definition of personhood and freedom.
4. **Malcolm X (1992)**: Based on the book "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" by Alex Haley, *Malcolm X* tells the story of the provocative leader's journey to civil right activism through religious conversion.
5. **A Raisin in the Sun (1961)**: Based on the screenplay by Lorraine Hansberry (who was the first black female playwright to make it on Broadway), this film examines the struggles a young black father and husband encounters when trying to support his family during a time plagued by racism and segregation.
6. **The Rosa Parks Story (2002)**: This film tells the iconic story of Rosa Parks, whose refusal to obey a Montgomery, Alabama segregation law prompts the first major Civil Rights demonstration in the country.
7. **The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman (1974)**: Based on the novel by Ernest J. Gaines, this television movie was one of the first films to explore African American characters with true depth and sympathy. The film follows Jane Pittman as she recounts memories of being a young slave in the American South at the end of the Civil War to her views on the current civil rights movement when she is 110 years old.



**Little**  
**Known**  
**Black**  
**History**  
**Facts**

# Little Known Black History Facts

Special thanks to:

Tom Joyner

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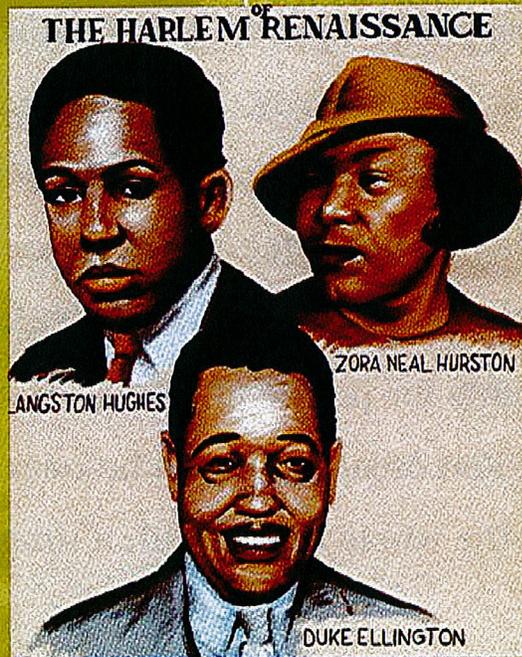
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# THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE



## Harlem's Heroes

The Harlem Renaissance was a flowering of African American creativity that exploded in America in the 1920s. The Renaissance is usually thought of as primarily a literary movement of novelists and poets. Talented writers certainly did flourish during this period: Langston Hughes and Countee Cullen wrote poems, Nella Larsen and Jean Toomer wrote novels, and Zora Neale Hurston wrote about black folklife. But the Renaissance was much broader in its scope, and a great deal more than writing was happening. Aaron Douglas painted extraordinary pictures, and

## Harlem Renaissance

sculptor Augusta Savage turned stone into portraits. In music, Louis Armstrong was playing jazz, and Bessie Smith sang the blues. Broadway was open to black musical theater with zestful singing, dancing, and comedy. The whole country was moving to the rhythm of a black dance called the "Charleston." In politics, Marcus Garvey was calling for black self-reliance and identification with African heritage. W.E.B. Du Bois was fighting against segregation and for civil rights for people of color. It is astonishing that so much energy, talent, and creativity could be released all at once, and that it could infuse the whole nation with a unique new vigor and originality.