Visit Columbus Metropolitan Library locations in January and February for free programs to celebrate black history.

Saturday, Jan. 18
Happy Birthday, Martin!
Celebrate Dr. King's birthday at a party featuring Lyn Ford. All Ages.
→ Martin Luther King Branch | 2 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 3
Snapshots from History
Congresswoman Joyce Beatty will discuss the experiences that inspired her. Plus, historic reenactor Anthony Gibbs will take us back in time to witness the struggles, sacrifices and service of the Tuskegee Airmen. Ages 12-17.
Groups: please register by calling 614-645-2275.
→ Main Library | 10 a.m.
Teen Book Talk
Learn about great teen books by black authors. Ages 12-17.
→ New Albany Branch | 4 p.m.
Scavenger Hunt
Put on your historian hat and learn about the past while exploring the library through a scavenger hunt. Learn about people and events that shaped history. Ages 7 and up.
→ Driving Park Branch | 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 4
Singing, Drumming and Dancing with BabaaRitah
Celebrate African history, unity and culture in this call and response program. Participate in song, dance and drumming from West Africa. Express yourself, share and have fun making music. All ages.
→ Whitehall Branch | 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 4
Mixed Media Mural
Join us and our friends from a local black-owned business as we work together to create a themed mural. Ages 12-17.
→ South High Branch | 5 p.m.

Take a Picture of Me, James Van Der Zee!
Explore the life and art of black photographer James Van Der Zee. Learn about Van Der Zee and the Harlem he documented, then have fun posing for some photos inspired by his work. Ages 7 and up.
→ Martin Luther King Branch | 5 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 6
Science: Let's React!
Join us and our friends from a local black-owned business as we learn about notable scientists and experiment with hands-on science activities. Ages 7-11.
→ Reynoldsburg Branch | 5 p.m.
Origins and Evolution of Hip-Hop in Columbus
Learn the history of hip-hop music and its positive contributions to the community with live break dancing and music. Ages 12-17.
→ Martin Luther King Branch | 6 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 7
Henry's Box
Join us for the fascinating story of one man's life and the difficult way he gained his freedom. Ages 7-11.
→ Canal Winchester Branch | 4 p.m.
Science: Let's React!
Join us and our friends from a local black-owned business as we learn about notable scientists and experiment with hands-on science activities. Ages 7-11.
→ Dublin Branch | 4 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 8
Science: Let's React!
Join us and our friends from a local black-owned business as we learn about notable scientists and experiment with hands-on science activities. Ages 7-11.
→ Martin Luther King Branch | 2 p.m.
Singing, Drumming and Dancing with BabaaRitah
Celebrate African history, unity and culture in this call and response program. Participate in song, dance and drumming from West Africa. Express yourself, share and have fun making music. All ages.
→ Hilliard Branch | 2 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 10
Mixed Media Mural
Join us and our friends from a local black-owned business as we work together to create a themed mural. Ages 12-17.
→ Parsons Branch | 3 p.m.
Singing, Drumming and Dancing with BabaaRitah
Celebrate African history, unity and culture in this call and response program. Participate in song, dance and drumming from West Africa. Express yourself, share and have fun making music. All ages.
→ Northside Branch | 4:30 p.m.
Black History Month 2020

Monday, Feb. 10
Turtle Shell Tales
→ Northern Lights Branch | 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 11
Singing, Drumming and Dancing with BabaaRitah
Celebrate African history, unity and culture in this call and response program. Participate in song, dance and drumming from West Africa. Express yourself, share and have fun making music. All ages.
→ Hilltop Branch | 5 p.m.

Mixed Media Mural
Join us and our friends from a local black-owned business as we work together to create a themed mural. Ages 12-17.
→ Martin Luther King Branch | 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 12
Singing, Drumming and Dancing with BabaaRitah
Celebrate African history, unity and culture in this call and response program. Participate in song, dance and drumming from West Africa. Express yourself, share and have fun making music. All ages.
→ Gahanna Branch | 5 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 13
Take a Picture of Me, James Van Der Zee!
Explore the life and art of African-American photographer James Van Der Zee. Learn about Van Der Zee and the Harlem he documented, then have fun posing for some photos inspired by his work. Ages 7 and up.
→ Reynoldsburg Branch | 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 18
Mixed Media Mural
Join us and our friends from a local black-owned business as we work together to create a themed mural. Ages 12-17.
→ Karl Road Branch | 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 19
Science: Let's React!
Join us and our friends from a local black-owned business as we learn about notable scientists and experiment with hands-on science activities. Ages 7-11.
→ Driving Park Branch | 4:30 p.m.
→ Mixed Media Mural
Join us and our friends from a local black-owned business as we work together to create a themed mural. Ages 12-17.
→ Barnett Branch | 5 p.m.

The Poet and His Song: Life and Works of Paul Laurence Dunbar
Experience an encounter with the famous literary figure Paul Laurence Dunbar. Dunbar, portrayed by Anthony Gibbs, was an inspiration to many writers for generations to follow. Ages 7 and up.
→ Shepard Branch | 5 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 21
Take a Picture of Me, James Van Der Zee!
Explore the life and art of African-American photographer James Van Der Zee. Learn about Van Der Zee and the Harlem he documented, then have fun posing for some photos inspired by his work. Ages 7 and up.
→ Parsons Branch | 4 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 23
Urban Strings Concert
Youth string ensembles perform inspiring and upbeat music from popular African-American composers and arrangers. All ages.
→ Main Library | 3 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 24
Singing, Drumming and Dancing with BabaaRitah
Celebrate African history, unity and culture in this call and response program. Participate in song, dance and drumming from West Africa. Express yourself, share and have fun making music. All ages.
→ Northern Lights Branch | 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 25
Mixed Media Mural
Join us and our friends from a local black-owned business as we work together to create a themed mural. Ages 12-17.
→ Franklinton Branch | 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 25
Anansi's Magical Tales
Learn about Anansi the trickster during a dramatic reading intertwined with amusing and unusual magic tricks. Ages 7-11.
→ Linden Branch | 5 p.m.

Science: Let's React!
Join us and our friends from a local black-owned business as we learn about notable scientists and experiment with hands-on science activities. Ages 7-11.
→ Marion-Franklin Branch | 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 26
Science: Let's React!
Join us and our friends from a local black-owned business as we learn about notable scientists and experiment with hands-on science activities. Ages 7-11.
→ Whetstone Branch | 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 27
Easy-to-Master Magic
Learn some magic illusions using ordinary objects and a deck of cards. Amaze your friends and families with tricks the professionals use in this interactive program. Ages 12-17.
→ Southeast Branch | 5 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 29
Turtle Shell Tales
→ New Albany Branch | 11 a.m.

Visit the new Martin Luther King Branch any time during regular business hours to see the African Treasure Chest and a collection of sculpture, pottery, textiles, masks and toys from Africa.