

MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 48

Proclaiming February 2026, as Black History and Black Future Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.

Multnomah County Finds:

- A. Black History did not start in the United States. For Black Americans and people from the African Diaspora, Black history begins in Africa. Millions of unknown and known stolen African men, women, and children came from the place where life, civilization, and knowledge began. All people from the African Diaspora come from generations of people who were farmers, healers, philosophers, scholars, ironsmiths, mathematicians, scientists, historians, leaders, warriors, healers, sailors, strategists, and creatives. Enslaved Africans were stolen and sold because of their unique skills, and this theft and kidnapping has had lasting and profound effects on the continent of Africa.
- B. Africans were stolen from ancestral lands, pulled from civilizations and countries, culled, and enslaved. The steady beat of a people bent but unbroken resided in every shackled foot falling onto every weathered ship's plank. Centuries later, the descendants of those enslaved people created institutions, traditions, and legacies. These Black Americans were strangers in a strange land no longer.
- C. Multnomah County recognizes that Black migrants are especially targeted at this time. The intersection they inhabit is particularly rough due to attacks from xenophobic policies and the increase in violent ICE activity. Black migrants are being deported at a disproportionately high rate.
- D. Black Queer intersectionality and Black History is Queer History is a part of Black History Month. From Marsha P. Johnson who threw "the shot glass heard around the world" at New York's Stonewall Inn in 1969 to Miss Major Griffin-Gracy whose life and legacy will be remembered as a godmother of the Transgender Rights Movement through her advocacy. The continued efforts of Black Queer Americans can be seen locally through community organizations like Black and Beyond the Binary Collective and national groups like The Black LGBTQIA+ Migrant Project (BLMP). We recognize the intersectionality of Black lives and the power they hold.

- E. Multnomah County recognizes that Black women are disproportionately affected by poverty and violence, but they are also more likely to volunteer their time and resources to help others. Black women and Black femmes have historically played a crucial role in the Black community, providing emotional support, guidance, and strength to their families and communities. Their contributions have often been unseen and unpaid, but they are essential to the well-being of Black people. Without Black women, there is no Black history or Black future. It is time for the work of Black women to be acknowledged, appreciated and applauded. Black women deserve protection, restoration, justice and support from the racial and gender disparities they have experienced for centuries. We will continue to honor the work, contributions and sacrifices of Black women and Black femmes during their season of rest and restoration.

- F. Black Americans were not truly able to call themselves Oregonians until 1868 under the ratification of the 14th Amendment. Frequently they were barred from employment, refused housing, and under constant threat of death. The sins of the past still haunt the present with waves of white nationalism reviving organizations such as the Klu Klux Klan and their deep roots within Oregon. In North Portland, the Black community has had multigenerational events that have further and further displaced its residences. We recognize the series of failures that continue to uproot Black Americans within our own community and promise to move with equity at the forefront of decision making.


- G. A centennial commemoration signifies not merely the passage of time, but a shared obligation to acknowledge the perseverance of individuals and communities whose stories have long been marginalized, and to ensure that this legacy is preserved and carried forward for future generations within Multnomah County.

Multnomah County Proclaims:

1. February 2026 as Black History and Black Future Month in Multnomah County, Oregon, and encourages all residents to participate in Black History Month events and activities, to reflect on the significance of this historic day, and to continue working towards racial equity and social justice.
2. The Board of County Commissioners will strengthen its data collection on programs to further identify disparities, track successes, and align with County values.

SIGNED this 4th day of February, 2026.

REVIEWED:
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FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By: 

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Employees of Color Employee Resource Group