



National History Day at NMAAHC Topic List 2022

African American History of Washington D.C.

Use this list to help you find and explore topics for the National History Day 2021 – 2022 contest theme: *Debate & Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences*. These topics highlight the African American history of Washington D.C. from 1790 to the early 2000s.

Free Blacks and Slaves, 1790 - 1861

- Establishing the Republic: Enslaved and Freed African Americans and building the New Capitol and White House
- African Americans, Washington D.C., and the War of 1812
- Communicating Freedom in Religion: Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
- Islam, Free Blacks, and the Early Republic: Yarrow Momout
- The Benevolent Society of Alexandria
- Free African Americans and the Retroceding of Alexandria to Antebellum Virginia
- Solomon G. Brown and the Smithsonian Institution
- Communicating Freedom and Fashion: Elizabeth Keckley and the Presidency
- Communicating Freedom in Education: The Miner School
- Freedpeople, the Confiscation Act, and the Contraband Camps of Washington D.C. (1862 - 1865)
- The 1st United States Colored Infantry during the Civil War

From Freedom to Jim Crow, 1862 – 1917

- The D.C. Emancipation Act (1862)
- Major Alexander Augusta, Medicine, and the Union Army
- Communicating Law and Liberty: First African American Lawyer before the Supreme Court
- Anna Julia Cooper, Helen Cook, and the Colored Women's League of Washington D.C.
- Mary Church Terrell and the National Association of Colored Women
- Racial Integration and the Annual White House Easter Egg Hunt
- The Founding of the Phyllis Wheatley YMCA (1905)
- Communicating Respectability: The Black Aristocracy: P.B.S. and Nina Pinchback and the Black Elite during Jim Crow



From Freedom to Jim Crow, 1862 – 1917 (Cont.)

- The Founding of Black Sororities and Fraternities at Howard University
- Communication and the Arts: The Howard Theater at 620 T Street
- Major James E. Walker and the 1st Separate Battalion of the District of Columbia National Guard
- The Women Wage-Earners Association (1917)

Building A Black Community, 1918 – 1945

- Communicating Culture: Georgia Douglas Johnson and Washington Literati of the Harlem Renaissance
- Leisure and Jim Crow: Thanksgiving Day Howard-Lincoln Football Game
- The National Capital Country Club for Affluent African Americans (1925)
- Communicating Inclusion: Tea at the White House: Mrs. Jessie DePreist and First Lady Mrs. Herbert Hoover
- Numa Adams and Howard Medical School
- The NAACP, Jim Crow, and African American Gold Star Mothers in 1930
- National Theatre, Segregation, and *Porgy and Bess* (1931)
- Protest and the New Negro Alliance of 1933
- Communicating Citizenship: President Franklin Roosevelt and the Black Cabinet of the New Deal
- Marion Anderson, Constitution Hall, and the Daughters of the American Revolution
- A. Philip Randolph, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Executive Order 8802

Desegregation and Urban Development, 1946 – 1970

- The Police Brutality Committee of the National Negro Congress (1947)
- Mildred Lindsay, Segregation, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation
- The National Theater vs. the Actor's Equity Association
- Communicating for Equality: *Hurd v. Hodge* (1948): Housing and Black Washingtonians
- Earl Lloyd and the Washington Capitols
- Representative William Dawn and the House District Committee (1955)



Desegregation and Urban Development, 1946 – 1970 (Cont.)

- Louis Lautier and the National Press Club
- Dr. Edward W. Hawthorne and the Study of the Human Heart
- The Capitol Ballet Company
- The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (1963)
- Cortez Peters Sr. and African American Secretaries in the U.S. Government
- Patricia Roberts Harris: The First African American Woman Ambassador
- Edward William Brooke III: The First African American Senator Since 1881 (1967)
- Establishment of the Anacostia Museum, Smithsonian Institution
- The Poor People's Campaign of 1968 and Resurrection City
- Alma Thomas and the Washington Art School

Black Power and the Struggle for Home Rule, 1970 – 2000

- The Founding of the Black Congressional Congress
- The Washington Chapter of the All-African People's Revolutionary Party (1972)
- D.C. Black Repertory Theater and Sweet Honey in the Rock
- The D.C. Voting Rights Amendment (1978)
- Mayor Marion Berry and the District of Columbia
- Robert L. Johnson and the Establishment of Black Entertainment Television
- Langston Golf Course and the National Register of Historic Places
- Denyce Graves and the Metropolitan Opera
- The Million Man March (1995)
- The African American Civil War Memorial (1998)
- The Grassroots Community Activism of Barack Obama

**To find these more information these resources and related items, visit :
<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/collection>.**

Topics taken from *The Black Washingtonians: The Anacostia Museum Illustrated Chronology*.

All items and images are part of the Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, unless otherwise is noted.