

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2024 PROGRAM GUIDE

WETA

WETA celebrates Black History Month with special programming on television and radio. Many television programs can be streamed online using the free PBS App.

Visit weta.org/blackhistory for additional airdates and information.



26.1 via antenna
Comcast 26, 219, 800,1026
Cox 26, 1003, 1026
DirecTV 26, 26-1, Stream
Dish 8076
Fios 26, 526
YouTube.com/wetapbs



26.5 via antenna
weta.org/livestream PBS App
YouTube TV
Hulu + Live TV
Comcast 270, 1148
Fios 470
RCN 599



26.4 via antenna
Cox 802
Fios 475
RCN 37



WETA 90.9 FM Washington, D.C.
WGMS 89.1 FM Hagerstown WETA
vivalavoce.org
WETA Classical App

WETA ONLINE

weta.org
weta.org/passport
weta.org/pbsapp
weta.org/learningmedia



WETA SPOTLIGHT

Check out WETA's *Boundary Stones*
local history initiative.

Explore Washington's rich African American history with articles
and videos highlighting community leaders, artists, musicians,
pivotal moments in the local Civil Rights movement,
and much more!

Visit boundarystones.weta.org/blackhistory to start reading.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

8:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

EYES ON THE PRIZE

The acclaimed documentary series examines the history of America's Civil Rights Movement. *Part 1. Awakenings 1954-1956*. Individual acts of courage inspired Black Southerners to fight for their rights — igniting the incremental steps toward attaining civil rights.

9:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

EYES ON THE PRIZE – Part 2. Fighting Back 1957-1962.

In 1957, states' rights loyalists and federal authorities collide in the battle to integrate Little Rock's Central High School, and again in James Meredith's 1962 challenge to segregation at the University of Mississippi. In both instances, a Southern governor faces off with a U.S. president, violence erupts — and integration is carried out.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

9:00 PM **WETA PBS**

AMERICAN MASTERS: LITTLE RICHARD: THE KING AND QUEEN OF ROCK AND ROLL

Experience the meteoric rise and enduring legacy of Little Richard. This portrait of the "King and Queen of Rock and Roll" explores his far-reaching influence and advocacy for Black artists' rights in the music industry.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

8:00 PM **WETA METRO**

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: ZORA NEALE HURSTON: CLAIMING A SPACE

Take a glimpse at the biography of the influential author whose groundbreaking anthropological work would challenge assumptions about race, gender, and cultural superiority that had long defined the field in the 19th century.

8:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

THE BLACK CHURCH: THIS IS OUR STORY, THIS IS OUR SONG

In this two-part WETA co-production, host Henry Louis Gates, Jr. explores the roots of African American religion, beginning with the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the extraordinary ways enslaved Africans preserved and adapted their forefather's practices under the brutal realities of human bondage.

10:00 PM **WETA METRO**

BECOMING FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Discover how a man born into slavery became one of the nation's most influential leaders. Oscar-nominated filmmaker Stanley Nelson explores the role Douglass played in securing the right to freedom for African Americans.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

2:00 PM **WETA METRO**

GREAT PERFORMANCES AT THE MET: X: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MALCOLM X

Experience Anthony Davis' groundbreaking opera directed by Tony nominee Robert O'Hara. The new staging portrays Malcolm as an Everyman whose story transcends time and space.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

4:00 PM **WETA PBS**

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: VOICE OF FREEDOM

Explore the life of celebrated singer Marian Anderson. Initially barred from performing at Constitution Hall because she was Black, she triumphed at the Lincoln Memorial in what became a landmark moment in American history.

10:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

AMERICAN MASTERS: LITTLE RICHARD: THE KING AND QUEEN OF ROCK 'N' ROLL

Experience the meteoric rise and enduring legacy of Little Richard. Explore his far-reaching influence and advocacy for the rights of Black artists in the music industry.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5 - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

7:08 AM **WETA CLASSICAL**

CLASSICAL SUNRISE

Wake up to the music of renowned Black composers and performers, such as William Grant Still, Florence Price and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor.

WEEKDAYS, STARTING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

8:00 AM **WETA PBS**

LYLA IN THE LOOP

A funny and engaging new animated series from PBS Kids features Lyla Loops and her fantastical blue sidekick, Stu, who use creative and strategic problem-solving and critical thinking to help their family, friends and community. *Repeats weekdays, 4 p.m. on WETA PBS Kids*

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

3:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

AMERICAN MASTERS: MILES DAVIS

Delve into the career of the musical genius, from his days as a Juilliard student to the development of his signature sound on recordings with his famous quintet. As the film tracks Davis' boundary-breaking musical triumphs, the meanderings of his complicated personal life are told with intimate reflections from those closest to him.

8:30 PM **WETA METRO**

WETA ARTS

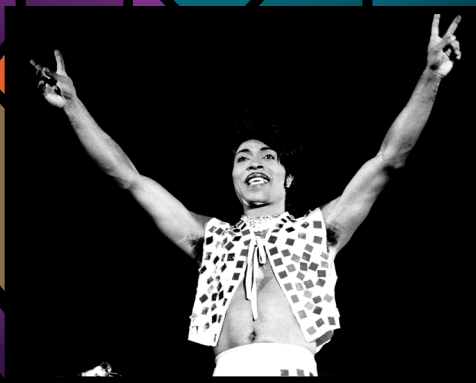
Emmy-award-winning arts and culture series *WETA Arts* features series host Felicia Curry, who conducts an exclusive interview with mezzo-soprano superstar Denyce Graves. Plus, a feature about Alma Thomas, the influential D.C. artist and educator.

Repeats same day, 9:30 p.m. on WETA PBS

10:00 PM **WETA PBS**

BARRY FARM: COMMUNITY, LAND AND JUSTICE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

This documentary examines the history and impact of redevelopment on African American communities, focusing on Barry Farms in Washington, D.C.



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

9:00 PM **WETA PBS & WETA METRO**

AMERICAN MASTERS: HOW IT FEELS TO BE FREE

The inspiring story of how iconic African American female entertainers challenged an entertainment industry complicit in perpetuating racist stereotypes and transformed themselves and their audiences.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

8:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

CAN WE GET ALONG? THE SEGREGATION OF JOHN MUIR HIGH SCHOOL

At his 30th high school reunion, filmmaker Pablo Miralles questions what has happened to his once integrated public high school in Pasadena, CA. He begins to understand how perceptions and policies have created almost insurmountable challenges to maintaining well-funded and diverse public schools.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

8:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

EYES ON THE PRIZE

Part 3. Ain't Scared of Your Jails 1960-1961. When lunch counter sit-ins spread across the South, Black college students take up leadership roles in the civil rights movement. "Freedom Riders" also try to desegregate interstate buses, but are brutally attacked as they travel.

9:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

EYES ON THE PRIZE

Part 4. No Easy Walk 1961-1963. The Civil Rights Movement discovers the power of mass demonstrations as the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. emerges as its most visible leader.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

7:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

AMERICAN MASTERS: JAMES BALDWIN: THE PRICE OF THE TICKET

A portrait of James Baldwin, one of the greatest American authors of the 20th century. The film uses rarely seen archival footage to meld intimate and eloquent interviews with family, friends, and colleagues, including Toni Morrison, Bobby Short, and Maya Angelou.

8:30 PM **WETA WORLD**

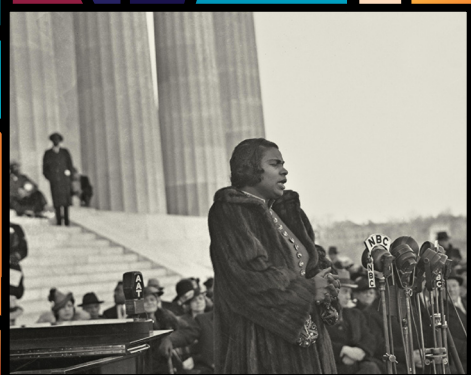
INDEPENDENT LENS: CODED BIAS

This documentary follows M.I.T. Media Lab computer scientist Joy Buolamwini as she exposes prejudices and threats to civil liberty in facial recognition algorithms and artificial intelligence.

9:00 PM **WETA PBS & WETA METRO**

GOSPEL LIVE! PRESENTED BY HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR.

This one-of-a-kind musical celebration honors the legacy and influence of Gospel music in America. Contemporary artists join celebrated gospel singers to perform their favorite gospel classics. This event is a companion presentation to the PBS four-hour documentary series Gospel, hosted by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. that acknowledges the rich history of Gospel music.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

3:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

UNFORGIVABLE BLACKNESS: THE RISE AND FALL OF JACK JOHNSON

This two-part film shows the gritty details of Johnson's life through archival footage, still photographs, and the commentary of boxing experts such as Stanley Crouch, Bert Sugar, the late George Plimpton, James Earl Jones, and more.

3:00 PM **WETA METRO**

AMERICA'S REQUIEM: A KNEE ON THE NECK

Written in honor of George Floyd, "A Knee on The Neck" is a Requiem Cantata with music by composer Adolphus Hailstork and text by librettist and poet Herbert Martin. This piece speaks to the challenges that Black Americans have endured.

8:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

THE BLACK CHURCH: THIS IS OUR STORY, THIS IS OUR SONG

The second part of the series continues with the Black church expanding to address social inequality and minister to those in need, from the exodus out of the Jim Crow South during the Great Migration to the heroic phase of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and '60s.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

4:00 PM **WETA PBS**

AMERICAN MASTERS: ROBERTA FLACK

The film follows the music icon from a piano lounge through her rise to stardom. From "First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" to "Killing Me Softly," Flack's virtuosity was inseparable from her commitment to civil rights. Detailing her story in her own words, the film features exclusive access to Flack's archives and interviews with Rev. Jesse Jackson, Peabo Bryson, and much more.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

9:00 PM **WETA PBS**

GOSPEL

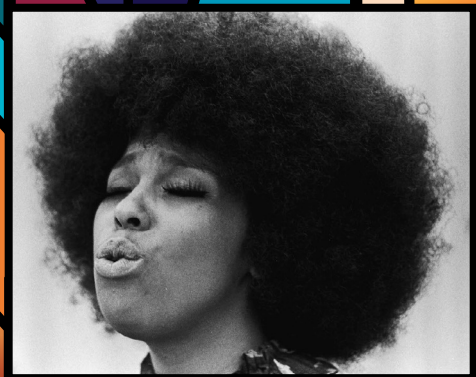
The four-hour WETA co-production explores the rich history of Black spirituality through sermon and song. **Hour 1. *The Gospel Train.*** Travel north to Chicago, where southern migrants Thomas A. Dorsey, Mahalia Jackson, and Sister Rosetta Tharpe fused blues and jazz with testimonies of God's goodness to create a genre enduring for generations. **Hour 2. *Golden Age of Gospel.*** Explore the dramatic explosion of Black sacred music and the segregated highways of the American South — which took the Lord's music into the mainstream.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

4:00 PM **WETA PBS**

GO-GO CITY: DISPLACEMENT AND PROTEST IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Go-Go City follows protesters for racial justice as they took to the streets in the summer of 2020, rallying around the city's unique Go-Go music scene as they strive to make their voices heard.



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

9:00 PM **WETA PBS & WETA METRO**

GOSPEL

Hour 3. Take the Message Everywhere. The gospel family dynasties dominate the charts while other children of the church use their musical prowess to influence soul music. Black pastors also distinguish their sound with prophetic voices and sermonettes. *Hour 4. Gospels Beyond Century.* Explore the movement that brought songs about faith to millions at clubs, cable TV, and urban radio.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

8:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

EYES ON THE PRIZE

Part 5. Mississippi: This is America? 1963-1964. Mississippi's grass-roots civil rights movement becomes an American concern when college students travel south to help register Black voters, and three activists are murdered. The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party challenges the regular Mississippi delegation at the Democratic Convention in Atlantic City.

9:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

EYES ON THE PRIZE

Part 6. Bridge to Freedom 1965. A decade of lessons is applied in the climactic and bloody march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. A major victory is won when the federal Voting Rights Bill passes, but civil rights leaders know they have new challenges ahead.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

8:00 PM **WETA METRO**

UNFORGIVABLE BLACKNESS: THE RISE AND FALL OF JACK JOHNSON

In this two-part series, WETA production partner Ken Burns chronicles the life and career of boxer Jack Johnson, the world's first African American Heavyweight Champion and one of the greatest fighters of the 20th century.

10:00 PM **WETA PBS**

DRIVING WHILE BLACK: RACE, SPACE AND MOBILITY IN AMERICA

This film examines the history of African Americans on the road and how the invention of the car brought African Americans new freedom and dangers.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

4:30 PM **WETA METRO**

MAKING BLACK AMERICA: THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

Part 1. Building Black America. In this WETA co-production, host Henry Louis Gates, Jr. introduces the organizations, networks and artistic impressions created by and for Black people in the fight for full citizenship.



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

3:30 PM **WETA WORLD**

AMERICAN MASTERS: AILEY

Meet the legendary Alvin Ailey, a choreographer whose dances center on the Black American experience with beauty, grace, and strength.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

3:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

AMERICAN MASTERS: MARIAN ANDERSON: THE WHOLE WORLD IN HER HANDS

Learn about international singer Marian Anderson, a woman who captivated European royalty and defied the conscience of 1939 America.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

3:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

INDEPENDENT LENS: SOUL FOOD JUNKIES

Filmmaker Byron Hunt ventures out to uncover the deep-rooted and complex history of soul food and Black culture, as well as the health concerns related to traditional Southern cuisine.

7:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

INDEPENDENT LENS: FERGUSON RISES

The film explores grief and resilience in the aftermath of the killing of Black teenager Michael Brown Jr. by a white police officer.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

2:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

IDA B. WELLS: AMERICAN STORIES

Few historical figures whose lives and work speak to the current moment more than the 19th-century crusading investigative journalist, civil rights leader, and passionate suffragist.

8:00 PM **WETA METRO**

LOCAL, U.S.A.: BUFFALO SOLDIERS, FIGHTING ON TWO FRONTS

The film examines the profound and often-contradictory roles played by Buffalo Soldiers in U.S. history and how they fought on two sets of front lines: military conflicts abroad and civil rights struggles at home.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

3:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

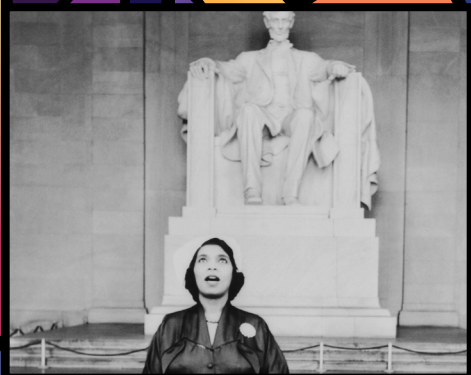
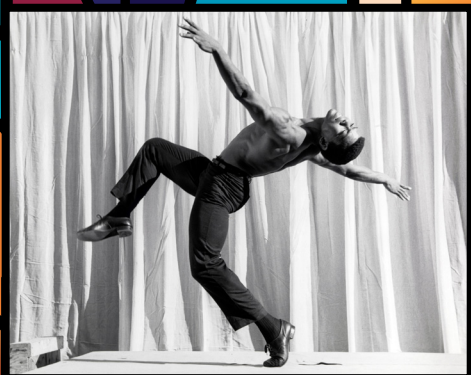
EYES ON THE PRIZE

Part 7. The Time Has Come 1964-1966. The fabric of the traditional movement changes after a decade-long cry for justice. A new sound is heard in the Civil Rights Movement: the call for power. Malcolm X takes nationalism to a younger generation of Black leaders. Stokely Carmichael and the SNCC move from "Freedom Now!" to "Black Power!"

4:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

EYES ON THE PRIZE

Part 8. Two Societies 1965-1968. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the SCLC go north to help Chicago's civil rights leaders in their nonviolent struggle against segregated housing. A police raid in a Detroit Black neighborhood sparks an uprising, leaving 43 people dead. The Kerner Commission finds that America is becoming "two societies, one black, one white, separate and unequal."



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

8:00 PM **WETA METRO**

UNFORGIVABLE BLACKNESS: THE RISE AND FALL OF JACK JOHNSON

WETA partner Ken Burns chronicles the life and career of boxer Jack Johnson, the world's first African American Heavyweight Champion and one of the greatest fighters of the 20th century.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

4:30 PM **WETA METRO**

MAKING BLACK AMERICA: THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

Part 2. The Work of the Imagination. Featuring host Henry Louis Gates, Jr., this episode explores the genesis of the educational, economic, political, and cultural organizations that paved the way for Black life to flourish despite the Jim Crow laws.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

4:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

FIGHT THE POWER: HOW HIP HOP CHANGED THE WORLD

Part 1. The Foundation. Public Enemy's Chuck D narrates this classic docuseries about the birth of Hip Hop as social commentary. Discover the events that led to the birth of Hip Hop and its first socially conscious hit, "The Message," by Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five in 1982.

7:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

HARRIET TUBMAN: VISIONS OF FREEDOM

Harriet Tubman was a conductor of the Underground Railroad, a Civil War scout nurse, a spy, and one of the greatest freedom fighters in our nation's history. Discover the inspiring woman behind the legend who repeatedly risked her life and freedom to liberate others from slavery.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

3:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

FIGHT THE POWER: HOW HIP HOP CHANGED THE WORLD

Part 2. Under Siege. Explore the 1980s and the Reagan Era with emerging Hip Hop creators like Public Enemy, KRS-One, Ice-T, and N.W.A.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

3:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

FIGHT THE POWER: HOW HIP HOP CHANGED THE WORLD

Part 3. Culture Wars. Follow the unstoppable rise in popularity of Hip Hop, a force attacked by all sides of the political establishment, in the 1990s during the Clinton years.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

3:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

FIGHT THE POWER: HOW HIP HOP CHANGED THE WORLD

Part 4. Still Fighting. Chuck D examines the evolution of Hip Hop as its artists turn into multimillionaires and successful entrepreneurs.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

8:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

EYES ON THE PRIZE

Part 9. Power! 1966-1968. The call for Black Power takes various forms in communities across Black America. Carl Stokes becomes the first Black mayor of a major American city. The Black Panther Party is born in Oakland, armed with books, programs, and guns. Substandard teaching practices prompt parents to gain control of a Brooklyn school district but lead them to a showdown with New York City's teachers' union.

9:00 PM **WETA METRO**

INDEPENDENT LENS: THE PICTURE TAKER

A compelling biography of Ernest Withers, whose photographs helped chronicle important events in the civil rights movement.

9:00 PM **WETA WORLD**

EYES ON THE PRIZE

Part 10. The Promised Land 1967-1968. Martin Luther King, Jr. stakes new ground for himself and the fragmenting Civil Rights Movement. King opposes the war in Vietnam. His SCLC embarks on the Poor People's Campaign. While organizing, King detours to support striking sanitation workers in Memphis, where he is assassinated.

10:30 PM **WETA METRO**

AWADAGIN PRATT: BLACK IN AMERICA

A candid conversation with the internationally renowned pianist on his climb to fame and what it is like to be a person of color in the United States.

PHOTO CREDITS:

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