



## DEI Perspectives: Black History Month

### Local Black History Month events

Each February, we honor Black History. While we shouldn't need to wait until February each year to learn about the experiences of Black Americans throughout history, there are several events and activities here in King County to do just that. From movies to lectures, museums, and readings, here are some of the many local resources for education on racial justice in our communities during Black History Month:

- [2024 Black History Month Events in the Greater Seattle Area](#) (YMCA blog)
- [How to Celebrate Black History Month in Seattle](#) (Seattle Met)
- [Things to Do this Black History Month](#) (United Way of King County)
- [10 Events to Participate in during Black History Month](#) (KING 5 TV)

### Ella Baker



Among the many notable people in Black History is Ella Baker. Ms. Baker was a pioneer of the civil rights movement in the South. She held key roles in the NAACP, MLK's Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. She believed in grassroots organization and that oppressed peoples can advocate for themselves.

She recruited people to join the movement, raised money, and started chapters of the NAACP all over the South. She believed more in the power of the people in the field putting in the hard work to enact change than the leadership leading them. Above all, she respected the people she encountered, which helped her in all aspects of her work.

Ms. Baker was the first staff person hired for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, where she worked diligently to increase Black American voter turnout. She saw the potential of university students in the civil rights movement and helped form the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. The SNCC was divided into two parts: one for direct action and the other for voter registration. As one of the adult advisors of SNCC, she was called the "godmother of SNCC."

Ella Baker remained an activist through her life, up until her death at the age of 83.

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