



## NEWS RELEASE

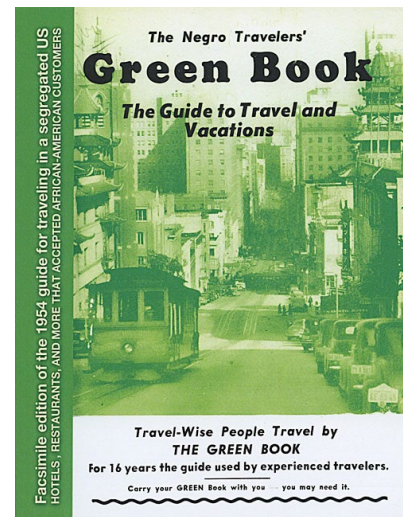
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### Washington State Historical Society's activities for all ages to participate in Black History Month, online and in-person

**Tacoma, WA** – Black History Month is an opportunity to explore the achievements and contributions of Black Americans in our past and honor those in our present. You can explore stories and make connections through online and in-person activities with the Washington State Historical Society (WSHS), including:

- **Join in a special event at MOHAI on February 19: [“The Green Book – More than a Guide.”](#)** The Negro Motorist Green Book was hailed as the “bible of Black travel.” First published in 1936, the guide identified establishments deemed friendly, safe, and willing to serve Black travelers during the era of Jim Crow segregation and “sundown towns.” This event applies a contemporary lens to segregation, Black migration, and the rise of leisure travel through art, presentations and conversation. Presented by The Black Heritage Society of Washington State, Washington State Historical Society, Black & Tan Hall, Bonnie Hopper-Artist, and Chris Hopper-Producer. Included with admission to MOHAI.
- **See a [FREE online exhibition](#) and try your hand at a guided art activity.** Take a look through [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visits Seattle](#) on the WSHS website. Learn about Dr. King’s visit to Washington State in 1961 as well as civil rights history in Tacoma. Click on “Art Activity with Valencia Carroll” and her video will guide you through how to make your own Right to Dream Star using a downloadable template and materials from around the house.
- **Stroll over to the [Bush Family monument](#) on the Capitol Campus.** Unveiled in November, 2021, this new monument honors Black pioneer George Bush and his family, who were among the first non-Native settlers in the Washington Territory. George and Isabella’s son William Owen Bush served in the inaugural Washington State Legislature and helped to found the school that became Washington State University. See the monument and the Bush Butternut Tree in Olympia, and read more about the Bush family on the WSHS website: [www.washingtonhistory.org/across-washington/washington-black-history-project](http://www.washingtonhistory.org/across-washington/washington-black-history-project).



- **Try a civil rights activity for kids at the [History Museum](#).** Review a self-guided [Civil Rights Activity for Kids](#) and visit the Washington State History Museum to find answers in the exhibition *Washington: My Home*. This activity sheet is available at museum admissions.
- **Read about [Nettie Craig Asberry](#),** a civil rights activist and suffragist who lived in Tacoma. Among other accomplishments, Asberry became president of the Washington State Federation of Colored Women, and was a founder of the Tacoma chapter of the NAACP. Download the article (free) from the WSHS website: [www.washingtonhistory.org/columbia-magazine](http://www.washingtonhistory.org/columbia-magazine).
- **Next month - Go deep into [The Negro Motorist Green Book](#) starting March 19** when the Washington State History Museum opens the immersive exhibition, created by the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and curated by Candacy Taylor, a leading Green Book scholar and award-winning author, photographer, and documentarian. This multimedia experience shares the national guide's rich history through photographs, art installations, interactives, historic objects, and recordings from travelers and Green Book business owners. It also focuses on the vibrant parallel world of African American businesses and the rise of the Black leisure class. Details at [www.washingtonhistory.org/exhibits](http://www.washingtonhistory.org/exhibits). In advance of seeing the exhibition, you can [explore SITES online Green Book experiences](#) for free!  
Details: <https://negromotoristgreenbook.si.edu/index.html> The exhibition was based on Candacy Taylor's book, *Overground Railroad: The Green Book and the Roots of Black Travel in America*, available at the [Tacoma Library](#).

Black History Month has been officially recognized since 1976, yet its roots date to 1915 when noted scholar and historian [Carter G. Woodson](#) participated in events marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of emancipation in Illinois. He was one among over ten thousand visitors who lined up to view exhibitions featuring notable accomplishments of Black Americans since the destruction of slavery. Motivated to highlight the Black community's ongoing contributions and history, Woodson began to publish the *Journal of Negro History* in 1916, and collaborated with other organizations including his fraternity Omega Psi Phi to create a week formally recognizing Black achievements. They launched Negro History Week in February, 1926. Nurtured by Woodson's organization, colleagues, and Black college students and communities, the annual one-week event grew and by the 1960s, the longer Black History Month had begun to replace Negro History Week. In 1976 the change became official. Each year there is a theme; this year, it is Black Health and Wellness. Black History Month is an opportunity to explore how history connects us all.

# # #

*Image credit:* The Negro travelers' Green Book, The Guide to Travel and Vacations. Compiled and published by Victor H. Green, 1954. This 1954 edition includes a list of hotels, taverns, beauty parlors, night clubs, restaurants, etc., in Everett, Seattle, and Tacoma that were African-American friendly. Facsimile edition, 2017. Front cover features a picture of San Francisco with a cable car; the back cover, a picture of a California mission. The Green Book was published annually from 1936-1967, fading out of business only after the civil rights laws of the 1960s brought about the end of legal segregation. Collection of Washington State Historical Society, catalog ID 2017.2.105.

#### **About The Washington State Historical Society and History Museum**

The Washington State Historical Society partners with our communities to explore how history connects us all. The Society's

most visible activity, the Washington State History Museum is located in downtown Tacoma on Pacific Avenue among a thriving cultural scene. The museum features interactive permanent exhibitions about Washington's past in the Great Hall, unique rotating exhibitions highlighting the Society's collections, and dynamic feature exhibitions, and hosts events and programs on a wide range of historical topics. The WSHS also offers curriculum, downloadable exhibitions, and statewide educational support as well as consultation, support and resources for museums and heritage organizations across the state.

[www.WashingtonHistory.org](http://www.WashingtonHistory.org)

**Address:** 1911 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98402m

**Hours:** 10:00 AM–5:00 PM Tues.-Sun. Third Thursday of each month, 10:00 AM–8:00 PM.

**Admission:** [FREE for members](#); Adults \$14; seniors (age 65+), students (age 6-17) and military (with ID) \$11; free for children 5 and under; family rate \$40 (up to two adults and four children under age 18). Patrons with a [Washington Quest card](#) and licensed Washington Foster Parents can attend for \$1 per person or \$2 per family. FREE for active duty military and up to 5 family members with ID as part of Blue Star Museums, through September 5, 2021.