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Why Black History Month Every February

By Daryl Michael Scott

Editor's note: The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) announced the theme of Black History Month 2023 as "Black Resistance" to acknowledge how African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression in all forms. ASALH founded the annual commemoration of Black history in 1926. This article by the organization's former national president explains. Please visit their website for more details: https://asalh.org/

The story of Black History Month begins in Chicago during the summer of 1915. An alumnus of the University of Chicago with many friends in the city, Carter G. Woodson traveled from Washington, DC, to participate in a national celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of emancipation sponsored by the state of Illinois. Thousands of African Americans traveled from across the country to see exhibits highlighting the progress their people had made since the destruction of slavery. Awarded a doctorate from Harvard three years earlier, Woodson joined the other exhibitors with a Black history display. Despite being held at the Coliseum, site of the 1912 Republican convention, an overflow crowd of six to twelve thousand waited outside for their turn to view the exhibits. Inspired by the three-week celebration, Woodson decided to form an organization to promote the scientific study of Black life and history before leaving town. On September 9, Woodson met at the Wabash YMCA with A. L. Jackson and three others and formed the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH).

He hoped that others would popularize the findings that he and other Black intellectuals would publish in *The Journal of Negro History*, which he established in 1916. As early as 1920, Woodson urged Black civic organizations to promote the achievements that researchers were uncovering. A graduate member of Omega Psi Phi, he urged his fraternity brothers to take up the work. In 1924, they responded with the creation of Negro History and Literature Week, which they renamed Negro Achievement Week. Their outreach was significant, but Woodson desired greater impact.



He told an audience of Hampton Institute students, "We are going back to that beautiful history and it is going to inspire us to greater achievements." In 1925, he decided that the association had to shoulder the responsibility. Going forward, it would

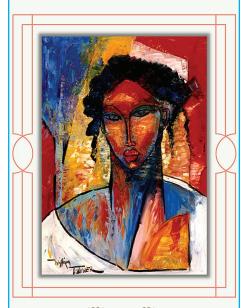
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Getting Registered into the System for Awards Management (SAM.gov) Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, West Virginia Women's Business Center Contact: Melissa Loder, 304-623-7448, Melissa.Loder@sba.gov

Fee: Free; registration required

The West Virginia Women's Business Center is hosting a valuable webinar on the System for Awards Management (SAM.gov). Join us as Melissa Loder (SBA's West Virginia District Office) and Sommer Straight (RCAC Procurement Technical Assistance Center—PTAC) guide you through how to register for your SAM.gov account. They will also provide tips, FAQs, and directions on where to get additional assistance, as well as answer questions you may have. To register, visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ getting-registered-in-the-system-for-awardmanagement-samgov-tickets-483757992177

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar Thursday, February 23, 2023, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov

george.tapia@sba.gov Fee: Free; registration required

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world? Interested in learning how your business can market your services or goods to the federal government? Register on line at https://www. eventbrite.com/e/how-to-sell-to-the-federalgovernment-tickets-21790713611 SBA helps to ensure small businesses get fair opportunities to share federal government prime contracts. Topics will include: How to Register, Small Business Certifications, Finding Opportunities, Marketing Your Firm, Federal Supply Schedules, Getting Paid, Tips to Prepare Your Offer, How to Seek Additional Assistance. All training sessions are held via Microsoft Teams Meeting. Participants must ensure Microsoft Teams is functioning.

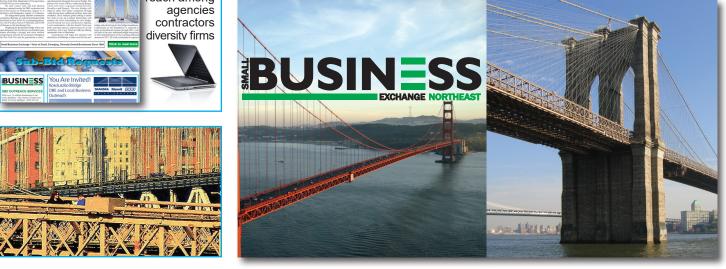
SBA and SOS Monthly Webinar

Thursday, March 2, 2023, 9:00 am–11:00 am Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, New Hampshire Secretary of State Corporation Division

Contact: Miguel Moralez, 603-225-1601, miguel.moralez@sba.gov

Fee: Free; registration required Starting a new business? Looking for capital and finance options? Looking for general advice on starting or maintaining your business? Hear from representatives from the local SBA office and the New Hampshire Secretary of State Corporation Division. This workshop (currently held online during the pandemic) is offered on the first Thursday of every month. To join this free webinar, copy and paste the link below into your browser, then register for tickets for the date of your choice to receive the access code. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/secretary-ofstate-quickstart-and-small-business-administration-programs-tickets-262004180557



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