



*Essex County*  
BLACK HISTORICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY



AMHERSTBURG  
FREEDOM MUSEUM

## 2026 Windsor-Essex Black History Month Activity Schedule

Essex County is rich in Black history. Canadians of African descent have played important roles in the cultural, political, social, and economic progress of our communities. Our region has been populated by people of African descent from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when free Black Loyalists as well as enslaved Africans were among the area's early residents; to the 19<sup>th</sup> century when formerly enslaved African Americans and free people of colour streamed into this area by the thousands, fleeing either bondage or oppression; to the modern era when immigrants from the continent of Africa and the Caribbean made this region their new home.

Here are some of the Black History Month events happening around our region... a combination of in-person and virtual activities this year.

### Joint Windsor-Essex Black History Month Kick-Off

**Description:** The annual Joint Windsor-Essex Black History Month Kick-Off will be happening on Friday, January 30th at 7:00 pm. at the Caribbean Centre, 2410 Central Avenue, Windsor. Featuring Black history highlights, poetry and music from across the African Diaspora, this free event is hosted by the Essex County Black Historical Research Society, the Amherstburg Freedom Museum, and the Windsor Essex Caribbean Association. We will publicly recognize the importance of Black History Month as well as encourage the community to participate in the array of Black History Month events hosted locally this year. Thanks to the sponsors and patrons who enable this to be a free event, including the University of Windsor Black Scholars Institute, Arbor Memorial, Women's Enterprise Skills Training, Black Women of Forward Action, and private donors. For information, contact [ecbhrs@gmail.com](mailto:ecbhrs@gmail.com).

**Date:** Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Location:** Caribbean Centre, 2410 Central Avenue, Windsor

### The River Bookshop Presents Story Time with Yejide Kilanko

**Description:** The River Bookshop is kicking off Black History Month with a big surprise! On February 1<sup>st</sup> at 11 am, Chatham-based author Yejide Kilanko is coming to River Bookshop for Story Time! Yejide is a Nigerian-Canadian writer, poet, and therapist whose works explore themes of identity, resilience, and social justice. Come meet Yejide and hear her read from her newest book, *What The Eyes See*, a folk tale about Yanibo the tortoise and Akambulo the hermit crab.

**Date:** Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Time:** 11:00am

**Location:** River Bookshop, 67 Richmond Street, Amherstburg

### Pan-African Flag-Raising

**Description:** The community is invited to gather at the University of Windsor Main Campus outside Chrysler Hall Tower on Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon for the ceremonial raising of the Pan-African flag. There will be remarks by Dr. Clinton Beckford, Dr. Cheryl Collier, and Dr. Shetina Jones. Following the flag-raising ceremony, attendees are invited to a reception with refreshments in the Black Scholars Institute lounge, located on the lower level of the CAW Student Centre, sponsored by the BSI, Assumption University, the CUBE, and Family Fuse.

Date: Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

Time: 12:00pm

Location: Outside Chrysler Hall Tower, University of Windsor, 401 Sunset Avenue

#### **Discussing Black Settlement and Community Formation in Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Windsor-Essex**

Description: Join the University of Windsor Department of History and the Amherstburg Freedom Museum for a Black History Month featuring alumni Max Bennett and Karleigh Kochaniec. Bennett and Kochaniec will discuss their past research and knowledge mobilization activities as Local Black History Interns at the Amherstburg Freedom Museum. This free event takes place at the School of Creative Arts (Armouries.)

Date: Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

Time: 7:00pm-8:30pm

Location: School of Creative Arts (Armouries), 353 Freedom Way

#### **Second Annual Beauty Is Me Fundraising Luncheon**

Description: The second annual Beauty Is Me fundraising luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, February 5th from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts (201 Riverside Dr. W., Windsor). Featuring keynote speaker Jeremiah Bowers, the event supports the non-profit Beauty is Me. Beauty is Me aims to support and uplift Black and biracial children and youth with a focus on empowering Black girls to celebrate their natural hair. To purchase tickets visit <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/beauty-is-me-2nd-annual-fundraising-luncheon-2026-tickets-1799518491249?aff=oddtctcreator>. Tickets: \$60.

Date: Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 11:30am-1:00 pm

Location: St. Clair College Centre for the Arts, 201 Riverside Drive West

#### **By the Content of Their Character: Re-Examining Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dream in Our Time**

Description: If Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. were to issue a report card on the Western world today, measured against his dream that people be judged "not by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character," where would we find ourselves when held against that standard? Together we will examine what Dr. King's dream requires of us, and how it calls us to action in our time. This panel includes Bishop Edgar L. Vann, Dr. Camisha Sibblis, Elder Lana Talbot, and Mr. Michael Brown. The panel will be moderated by Dr. John Cappucci. Discussion and refreshments to follow. Free admission and parking. Everyone is welcome.

Date: Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Caribbean Centre, 2410 Central Ave.

#### **Come and Sing with the Combined Gospel Chorus of Southwestern Ontario!**

Description: Sing with us! Join us in a celebration of Black history, in collaboration with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra and Sandwich First Baptist Church Underground Railroad Museum. Sing gospel songs that brought us to freedom with members of Southwestern Ontario communities. The ability to read music is not required. Rehearsals weekly at Sandwich First Baptist Church, 3652 Peter Street. Dress rehearsal Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm-9:30pm, Capitol Theatre, 121 University Ave. W., Windsor, followed by two short concerts Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am and 11:30 am at the Capitol Theatre with Lana Talbot, Leader and Storyteller and Geoffrey Larson, Resident Conductor. For information contact [lana.e.talbot@gmail.com](mailto:lana.e.talbot@gmail.com) or 206-393-7400.

Date: Rehearsals throughout February (tba)

Location: Sandwich First Baptist Church, 3652 Peter Street, Windsor

#### **The Underground Railroad: Myths and Facts**

Description: Join us as community historian Irene Moore Davis discusses myths and facts regarding the Underground Railroad in Windsor-Essex County and beyond. Referring to decades of scholarship regarding the Underground Railroad, this presentation will dispel some of the common myths that have shaped many North Americans' understanding of what the Underground Railroad was, its significance, how it operated, who was involved, and Canada's role. Special emphasis will be placed on the stories of freedom seekers who made Windsor-Essex their home. Free event co-hosted by All Saints' Anglican Church and St. Augustine of Canterbury Anglican Church.

Date: Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 6:30pm

Location: St. Augustine of Canterbury Anglican Church, 5145 Wyandotte Street East

#### **Musical Celebration for the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Valentine Tea**

Description: For more than ninety years, the congregation of Windsor's British Methodist Episcopal Church has organized a Valentine Tea in February. This year, the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Valentine Tea will take place at All Saints' Anglican Church just steps from the original location of the BME Church in the McDougall Street Corridor. Enjoy tea and desserts, the New Life Fellowship Choir, a brief talk by Irene Moore Davis, art displays by the Artists of Colour, and special guest centenarian Mrs. Florence Logan, longtime President of the BME Church Aid Society. Hosted by Annette Middleton and the Carter sisters. Admission by donation.

Date: Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 3:00pm-5:00pm

Location: All Saints' Anglican Church, 330 City Hall Square West

#### **Art Windsor-Essex Presents AWE at Night**

Description: Tour the exhibitions at Art Windsor-Essex and enjoy interesting activities such as a fashion show by talented Black youth engaged in the Ujima Initiative (United Way Centraide Windsor-Essex-Chatham-Kent.) Enjoy drop-in art workshops, music, and light refreshments available for purchase. Visit <https://artwindsoressex.ca> for more information.

Date: Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 5:00pm-9:00pm

Location: Art Windsor-Essex, 401 Riverside Dr. W., Windsor

#### **Youth Fashion Show: BLACK: The Beautiful One with The Ujima Initiative at Art Windsor Essex**

Description: The Ujima Initiative in partnership and collaboration with Art Windsor Essex, presents a Black History Month Celebration of Culture and Fashion. Join us for BLACK: The Beautiful One. This colourful feast of fashion, culture, and story is centering a powerful tradition of unity, through sacred designs and patterns fused with contemporary styles that stand in a unique space of power and resilience. Enjoy colourful fabrics shaped by the hands of youth and guided by the truths of elders. In the BLACK we are all connected and seen. For more information visit

[https://artwindsoressex.ca/events-workshops/youth-fashion-show-black-the-beautiful-one-with-the-ujima-](https://artwindsoressex.ca/events-workshops/youth-fashion-show-black-the-beautiful-one-with-the-ujima-initiative/)

[initiative/](https://artwindsoressex.ca/events-workshops/youth-fashion-show-black-the-beautiful-one-with-the-ujima-initiative/) Free for Members of AWE, \$20 for AWE at Night in February: Enjoy an evening filled with art activities, community discussions, guided tours, and great vibes.

Date: Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 5:00 pm -5:30 pm

Location: Art Windsor Essex, 401 Riverside Drive West Windsor, Ontario N9A 7J1

#### **Windsor in Style: Identity, Culture, and Expression at Art Windsor Essex**

Description: What defines style in Windsor-Essex? Is it function, storytelling, culture, community, or reinvention?

This panel brings together local creatives to explore how lived experience, culture, and creative practice shape personal and collective style in our region. Drawing from backgrounds in design, costumes, community leadership, and the arts, panelists will reflect on how identity, movement, and environment influence how we represent ourselves. Rather than chasing trends, style in Windsor is often rooted in practicality, expression, and layered histories shaped by migration, industry, and creativity. Through personal stories and visual examples, this conversation will examine common misconceptions and how Windsor continues to define its own creative voice.

Moderated by: Moya McAlister Panelists: Stephen Drouin, Tracey Harding, & Angelina Ebegbuzie-Terry

Free for Members of AWE, \$20 for AWE at Night in February: Enjoy an evening filled with art activities, community discussions, guided tours, and great vibes.

Date: Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 6:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Location: Art Windsor Essex, 401 Riverside Drive West Windsor, Ontario N9A 7J1

#### **Dr. Lorene Bridgen-Lennie Presents “An Education without Walls: *The Voice of the Fugitive* and *The Provincial Freeman* as an Unconventional Classroom”**

Description: Join the Essex County Black Historical Research Society for their February members' meeting on Zoom, featuring board member and presenter Dr. Lorene Bridgen-Lennie. Dr. Bridgen-Lennie will share research that led to her chapter on Windsor-based Black abolitionist newspapers *The Voice of the Fugitive* and *The Provincial Freeman* in the recent book *The Black Press: A Shadowed Canadian Tradition* ed. Claudine Bonner, Boulou Ebanda de B'béri, and Nina Reid-Maroney (University of Toronto Press, 2025.) Dr. Bridgen-Lennie's talk is at 7:00 pm. A brief members' business meeting will follow the presentation.

Date: Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 7:00pm

Location: On Zoom, Meeting ID: 854 6710 9712, Passcode: 401709

#### **The Windsor Express Celebrates the Amherstburg Freedom Museum**

Description: The Amherstburg Freedom Museum will receive a portion of proceeds when the Windsor Express host the Glass City Wranglers on Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. This is one fun, family-friendly way to support Black history and universal inspiration. Visit [wfcu-centre.com/password](http://wfcu-centre.com/password), enter promo code **BHM26**, select your seat(s), and follow next steps to purchase tickets. **The promo code is valid until February 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm.**

Tickets: \$30 + \$4 processing fee.

Date: Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: WFCU Centre, 8787 McHugh Street, Windsor

#### **Local 444 Unifor BIWOC Committee Black History Celebration**

Description: The Unifor Local 444 Black, Indigenous, and Workers of Colour (BIWOC) committee cordially invites the community to a Black History Month celebration on Saturday, February 21st, 2026. Held at the Unifor Local 444 hall at 1855 Turner Road in Windsor, the program begins at 1:00 PM with a vibrant exploration of Black history through music, dance, and live storytelling. The afternoon will conclude with a community dinner served at 4:00 PM featuring traditional, "rib-sticking" favorites. In addition to the performances, the event will feature community booths where local organizations are encouraged to share the history of their foundations and their ongoing impact. Contact Tiffany Cullen to purchase tickets 226 345-1769.

Tickets: \$10

Date: Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

Time: Doors Open 12:30pm, program starts at 1pm, dinner at 4pm.

Location: Unifor Local 444 hall at 1855 Turner Road in Windsor

### **Author Visit and Book Signing with Nikki Clarke**

Description: The Amherstburg Freedom Museum is pleased to host author and media personality Nikki Clarke for a book signing. Clarke is the author of *The Paper Clip Princess* and *The Black Canadian History Colouring Book*. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Date: Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

Time: 4:00pm-6:00pm

Location: Amherstburg Freedom Museum, 277 King Street, Amherstburg

### **Annual Black History Month Brunch**

Description: The Windsor Essex Caribbean Association is inviting everyone to the annual Black History Month Brunch. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for kids under 13. For information and to purchase tickets, please call (519) 945-0213, connect at [info@wecawindsor.ca](mailto:info@wecawindsor.ca), or visit the Caribbean Centre. Sponsored by the Coalition of Racialized Workers.

Date: Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

Time: 1:00pm-3:00pm

Location: Caribbean Centre, 2410 Central Avenue

### **Voices & Verses – A Black History Month Collaboration**

Description: Join us for a special afternoon of literature, art, and community as The River Bookshop and the Amherstburg Freedom Museum partner to celebrate Black History Month in a creative space surrounded by the works of members of the Artists of Colour. The River Bookshop will be on-site to sell books, and those interested in participating in the River Bookshop's book club for February can purchase *Code Noir* at a discounted rate.

Date: Sunday, February 22nd, 2026

Location: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Amherstburg Freedom Museum, 277 King Street, Amherstburg

Time: 2:00pm-4:00pm

Admission: FREE | Donations Welcome

### **We've Come This Far by Faith: A Black History Month Evening Prayer Service**

Description: All are welcome to participate in an ecumenical Black History Month prayer service with speaker Rev. Jennifer Leath. Light refreshments to follow. Co-hosted by All Saints' Anglican Church, St. Augustine of Canterbury Anglican Church, and Tanner-Price African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Date: Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

Time: 5:00pm

Location: St. Augustine of Canterbury Anglican Church, 5145 Wyandotte Street East

### **Flowers for a Cause Benefiting the Amherstburg Freedom Museum**

Description: Windsor-Essex, mark your calendars! From February 24<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>, join Fashion Week Windsor at Chapter Two Brewing Co between 6 PM – 8 PM to purchase flowers in support of the Amherstburg Freedom Museum. Every bouquet = support toward programming and scholarships. Every purchase – brightening the future of education, research, and awareness. Come out, grab your flowers, and be part of something that truly blossoms beyond the vase.

Date: February 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm

Location: Chapter Two Brewing Co, 2345 Edna Street

### **Windsor Essex Community Health Centre - Black History Month 2026**

Description: Connect to your roots & celebrate black brilliance, past, present & future. Dinner, live music, and a special presentation from The Amherstburg Freedom Museum. Limited seats available. Register now at <https://forms.gle/So97XB53xhEQp77c9>

Date: February 25th

Time: 4:00-7:00pm

Location: WFCU Arena – 8787 McHugh St., Windsor

### **Black History Month Trivia!**

Description: Join the Amherstburg Freedom Museum at WindsorEats Food Hall for a fun evening of Black History Month Trivia. Presented by the Amherstburg Freedom Museum. No registration required. Organize into teams or play solo. Celebrate Black History Month, test your knowledge of Black history and culture, and compete for bragging rights. Come for happy hour starting at 5:00 pm, featuring Black history-themed signature beverages, or arrive at 7:00 pm in time for trivia.

Date: Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 7:00pm-8:30pm

Location: WindsorEats Food Hall, 400 Erie Street East #Unit 3

### **From Mango to Maple Archival Project Launch**

Description: Join us for the soft launch of a new archival project, From Mango to Maple: Caribbean Diaspora at Windsor-Essex, involving archive collection building, research, outreach, and community engagement with respect to Windsor's Caribbean community. This is a joint project of the Black Scholars Institute and Leddy Library (University of Windsor) Archives. The soft launch will take place Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. For information contact the Project Leader, Antoinette Seymour, University of Windsor Archivist, [antoinette.seymour@uwindsor.ca](mailto:antoinette.seymour@uwindsor.ca) or 519-253-3000 ext. 3129.

Date: Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 6:00pm

Location: BSI (Black Scholars Institute) Hub, lower level of the CAW Student Centre, University of Windsor, 401 Sunset

### **BLX Fashion Show**

Description: Attend a Black History Month Fashion Show, a free event hosted by Black Leadership and Excellence (BLX) featuring food, fashion, music, vendors, and more, at the University of Windsor in Winclare Hall.

Date: Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Winclare Hall, University of Windsor, 401 Sunset Avenue

### **BKIA Presents *Chains to Changes* – Black History Month Youth Production**

Description: Chains to Changes is Black Kids in Action's 7th annual Black History Month stage production a powerful original performance that journeys through the historical, emotional, and cultural transitions from oppression to empowerment. Through spoken word, drama, music, and movement, this youth-led production highlights resilience, celebrates Black excellence, and inspires hope for the future. Featuring a cast of 45 talented young performers, the show centers youth voices as they reinterpret history and envision a world shaped by unity, courage, and transformation. This year's production also includes a special community give-back showcase and performances for local schools, making it both an artistic celebration and an educational experience during Black History Month. Entry fee is \$30 per person before January 31st. After, the fee will be \$45 per person. Visit [bkia.ca](http://bkia.ca) to purchase tickets.

Date: Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: Community Show – 7:00pm

Location: The Capitol Theatre, 121 University Ave W, Windsor

### **Black Health Preventative Health Fair**

Description: The Windsor Essex Community Health Centre will host a health fair with sickle cell education, cancer prevention, connections to mental health care, Black health, AMANI, diabetes testing, blood pressure checks and more.

Date: Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 10:00 am-3:00 pm

Location: Windsor Essex Community Health Centre (WECHC) Sandwich, 3326 College Avenue, Windsor

### **"W.E. Ride & Dine" - A Windsor Black History and Culinary Bus Tour!**

Description: A 4-hour bus tour of Windsor's historical sites, learning about local Black history, and our part in the Underground Railroad. Ride & Dine: delight in authentic Black cuisine, including a mix of diverse offerings. Our guests will sample flavours from Black-owned restaurants that tell stories of culture and heritage. Guests are taken on a coach bus tour around Windsor, guided by community historian Irene Moore Davis, including stops and photo ops at the historic Jackson Park Bandshell, the Tower of Freedom Underground Railroad Monument and more. Savour the journey that blends culinary adventure with a profound connection to Windsor's Black history—an experience that celebrates both the palate and the past! The tour is held on Saturday, February 28 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., lasting four hours. Food samples and bottled water will be provided. Beverages will be available for purchase at each restaurant. The Bus Tour travels rain or shine, so please dress for the weather.

Tickets must be purchased in advance: visit [werideanddine.com](http://werideanddine.com).

Date: Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 11:00am-3:00pm

Location: Start and end at WindsorEats Food Hall, 400 Erie Street East #Unit 3

### **Nigerian Canadians for Cultural Educational and Economic Progress (NCCEEP) - OMOLUABI Black History Month Celebration**

Description: Join us on February 28, 2026, for a free, public celebration of Black history, culture, and values in Windsor. This event is an inclusive space for cultural celebration, community connection, and heritage appreciation. For more information, visit [ncceep.com](http://ncceep.com) or contact by email [info@ncceep.com](mailto:info@ncceep.com).

Date: Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 2:00-4:00 pm

Location: TBA

**Note:** This activity schedule is a living document. Check out our online/social media channels for the latest, most up to date information!

### **Keep up to date on 2026 Black History Month events happening in our region!**



Visit <https://amherstburgfreedom.org/bhm/> for the latest and most accurate information.



Look for updates on the **Amherstburg Freedom Museum** and **Essex County Black Historical Research Society** Facebook and Instagram pages.