

Find Your People, Find Your Places

A COMMUNITY GREEN BOOK →



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Overview

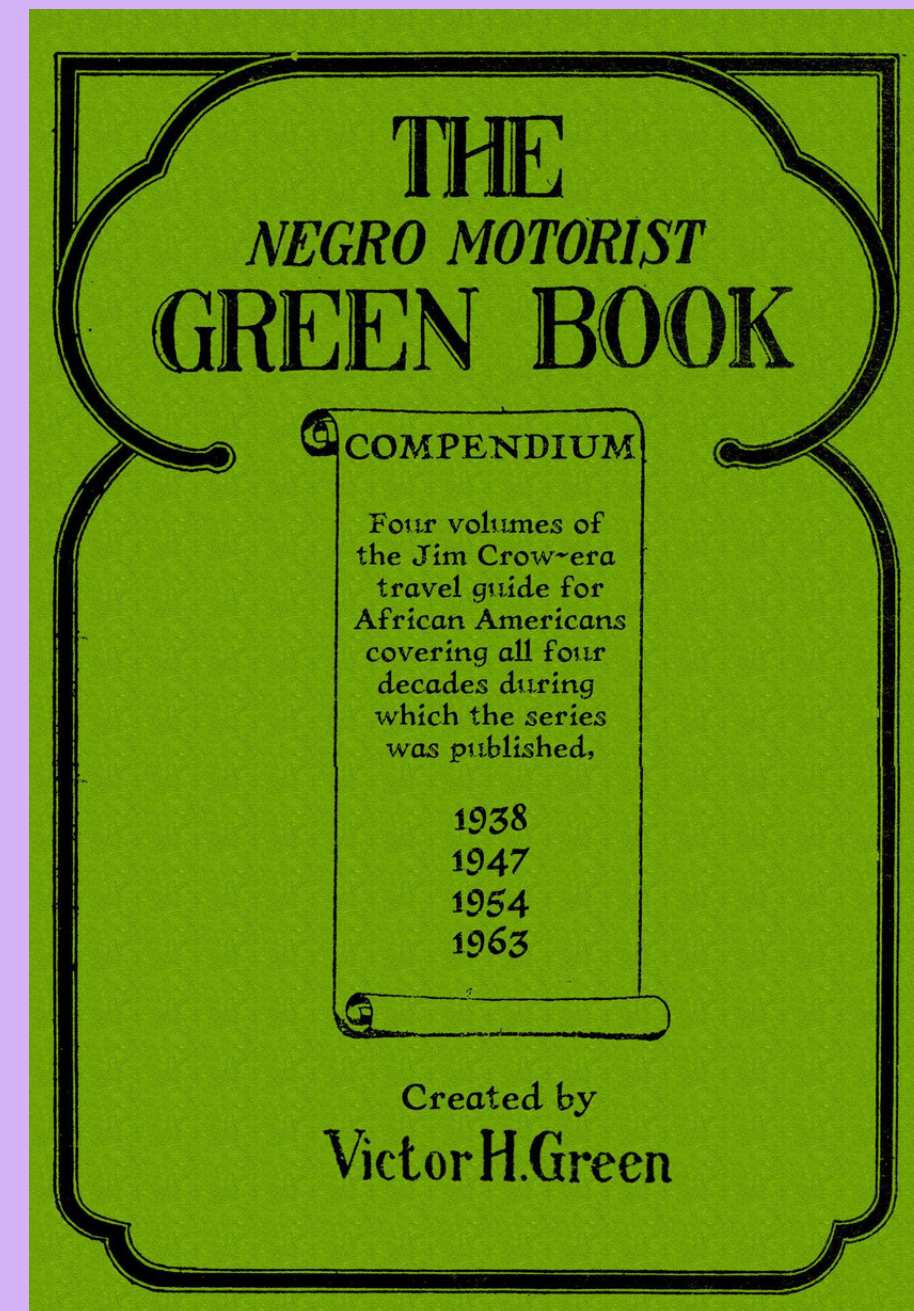
For many, summer is a season for travel. From Memorial Day to Juneteenth all the way to Labor Day, people across the country explore new sights, seek adventure and fun, and make the most of the season. However, for millions of Americans, this ritual was dangerous, controlled and limited.

Throughout history, Black people's movement has been heavily controlled, restricted, and surveilled. For too long, the act of traveling was fraught. Whether heading to a nearby restaurant, a public space, or crossing county or state borders, the natural desire to move freely and explore often led to harassment, violence, or worse. This reality forced Black travelers to remain constantly vigilant about their safety. Additionally, even when traveling was possible, there was always uncertainty about where they would be welcomed, treated with respect, and recognized as deserving patrons.

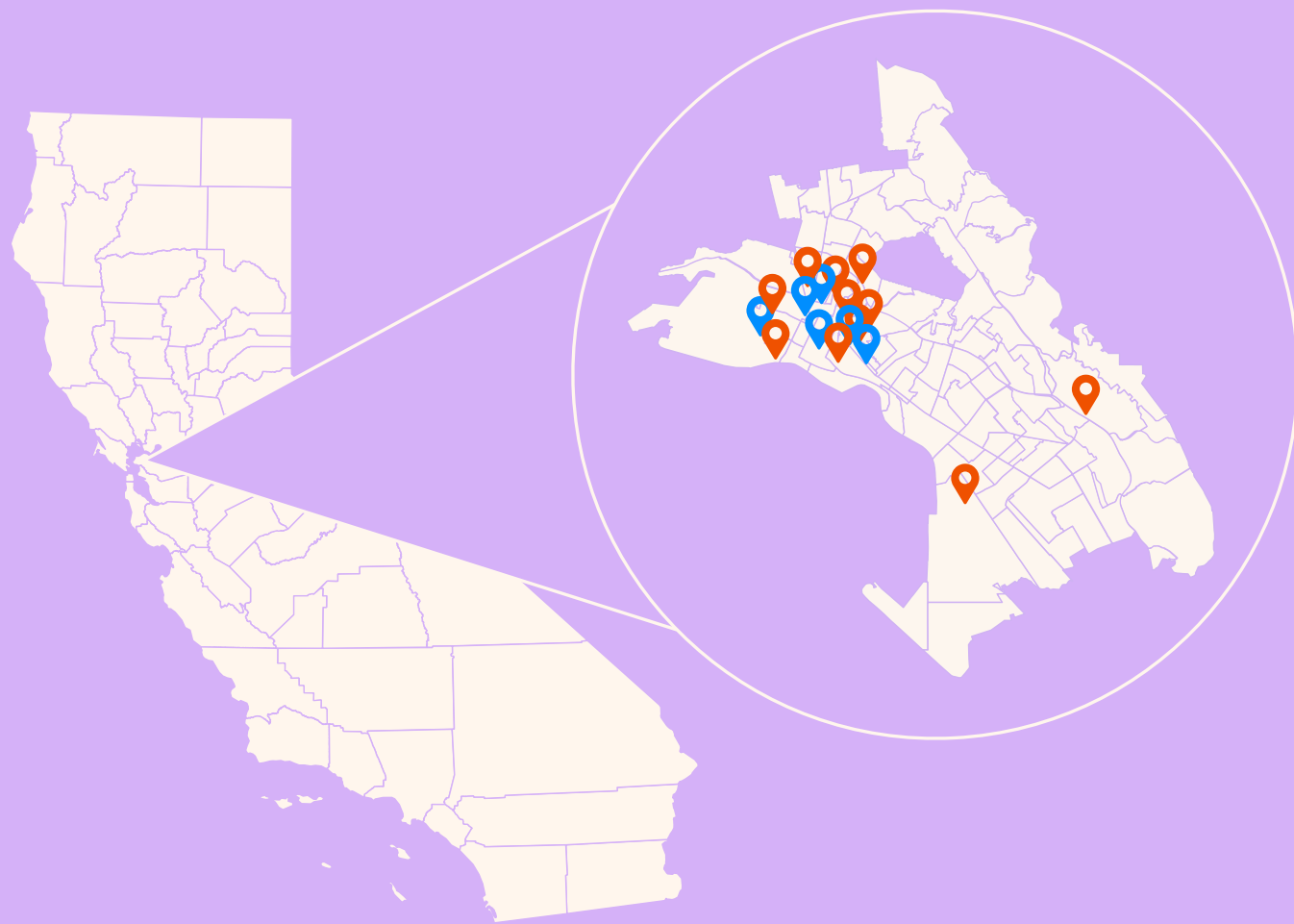
Between 1936 and 1966, during the Jim Crow era, Victor Hugo Green, a Black postal worker from New York City, published the Green Book, also known as The Negro Motorist Green Book or Green-Book. It listed lodging, diners, gas stations, and other businesses equipped to meet the needs of Black customers by city and state, primarily in major cities like Chicago and Detroit. This book served as an essential resource for Black Americans to explore their country, engage in the economy, and participate as curious, active citizens for decades until its discontinuation shortly after the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Black History Month — and Black excellence all year round — it's vital to reflect on the progress our country has made in treating Black Americans and to acknowledge the challenges that still exist. Today, Black Americans can access public spaces without legal restrictions, have control over their movement, participate fully in the economy with an increasing number of Black-owned businesses, and actively engage as civic activists striving to expand rights and freedoms for themselves and their communities. Yet, recent years have shown that racial hostility and the threat of government-backed violence against people of color continue to be serious concerns.

In honor of Green's legacy and Black History Month, this year, Fenton members of the Inkwell developed and designed our own Green Book, celebrating a list of people, places, and things where we live. Our 2026 Green Book features Black historic sites, Black-owned restaurants and businesses, cultural institutions, and notable local luminaries. We hope others use this list in their daily travels over the year as a reminder of our past and how far we still have to go to be a country where everyone is able to move, explore, and live with full freedom.



The Negro Motorist Green Book Compendium, 1966



NOTABLE LOCAL LUMINARIES

- **Ryan Coogler**, Award-winning filmmaker
- **Angela Davis**, world-renowned American political activist, scholar, author, and feminist philosopher
- **MC Hammer**, Award-winning musicians and rap pioneer
- **Vice President Kamala Harris**, the first female, first African American, and first Asian American vice president, and the highest-ranking female and Asian public official in American history
- **Mayor Barbara Lee**, longtime U.S. Representative and the first Black woman to serve as mayor of Oakland
- **Huey P. Newton**, African American revolutionary and political activist who co-founded the Black Panther Party
- **Bobby Seale**, African American revolutionary and political activist who co-founded the Black Panther Party
- **Zendaya**, Award-winning actress and singer and the youngest performer to win a Primetime Emmy Awards for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series



California

[OAKLAND]

HISTORIC & CULTURAL SITES



- [African American Museum and Library at Oakland](#)
- [Black Panther Party Museum](#)
- [Cathedral Building \(1615 Broadway\)](#)
Featured in the film Sorry to Bother You (2018)
- [DeFremery Recreation Center](#)
DeFremery Park was often a place for Black community gatherings in the 1960s, and was also the meeting location for the Black Panther Party
- [Oakland Museum of California](#)
Features the exhibition Black Spaces: Reclaim & Remain
- [The West Oakland Mural Project](#)
A 2000-square-foot public art masterpiece, installed on a private home in the heart of West Oakland, CA. This mural recognizes and honors the role of the women in the Black Panther Party movement and all they did for the communities they served

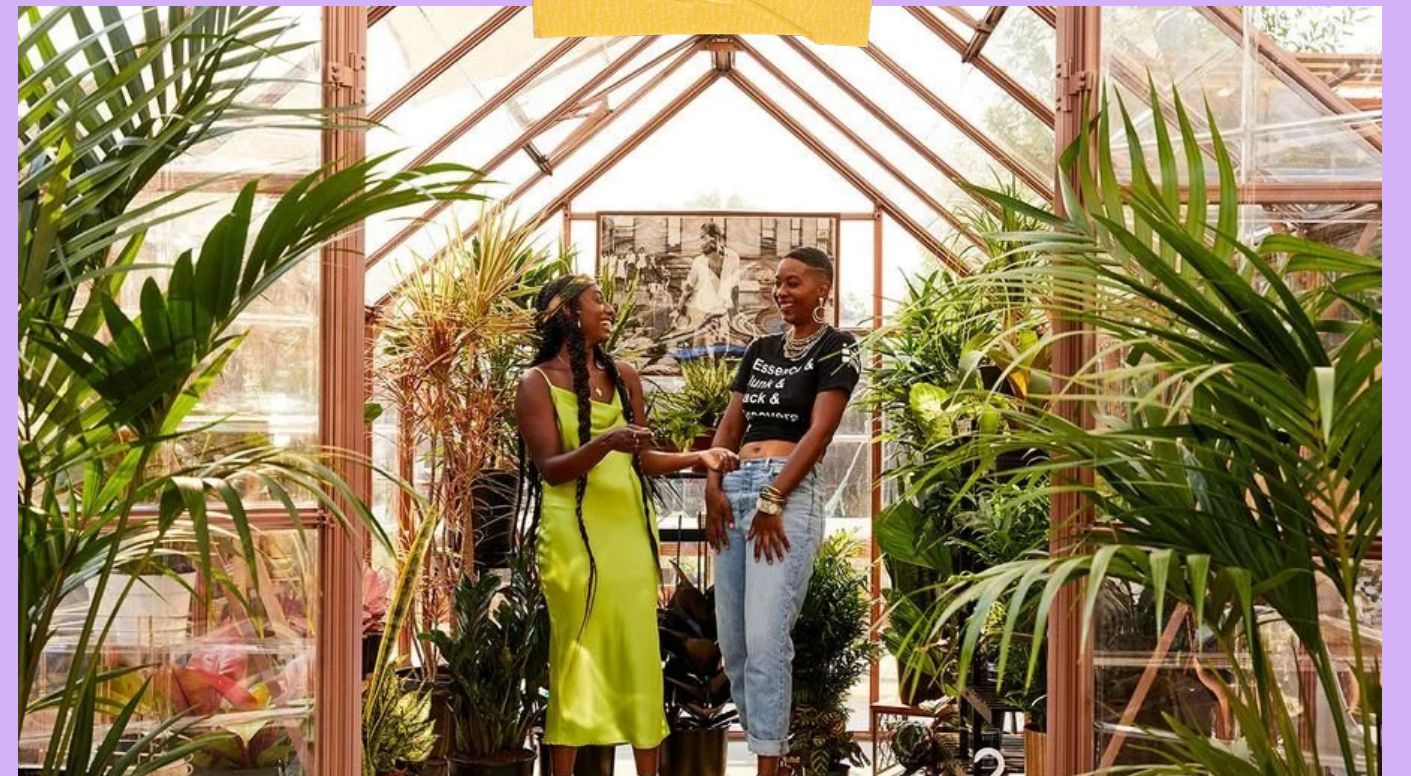
BLACK OWNED ESTABLISHMENTS & NONPROFITS



- [Blk Girls Greenhouse](#)
Plant and specialty home goods shop
- [Black Cultural Zone](#)
- [Black Joy Parade](#)
Famously hosts the "Black Joy Parade" during Black History Month
- [Eat. Learn. Play](#)
Founded by Stephen and Ayesha Curry
- [Kinfox](#)
Coffee shop
- [Marcus Books](#)
Oldest Black-owned independent bookstore
- [Everrett and Jones Barbeque](#)
- [Oakland Black Cowboy Association](#)
- [Oakland's Own](#)
Apparel brand
- [Sobre Mesa](#)
- [Souley Vegan](#)



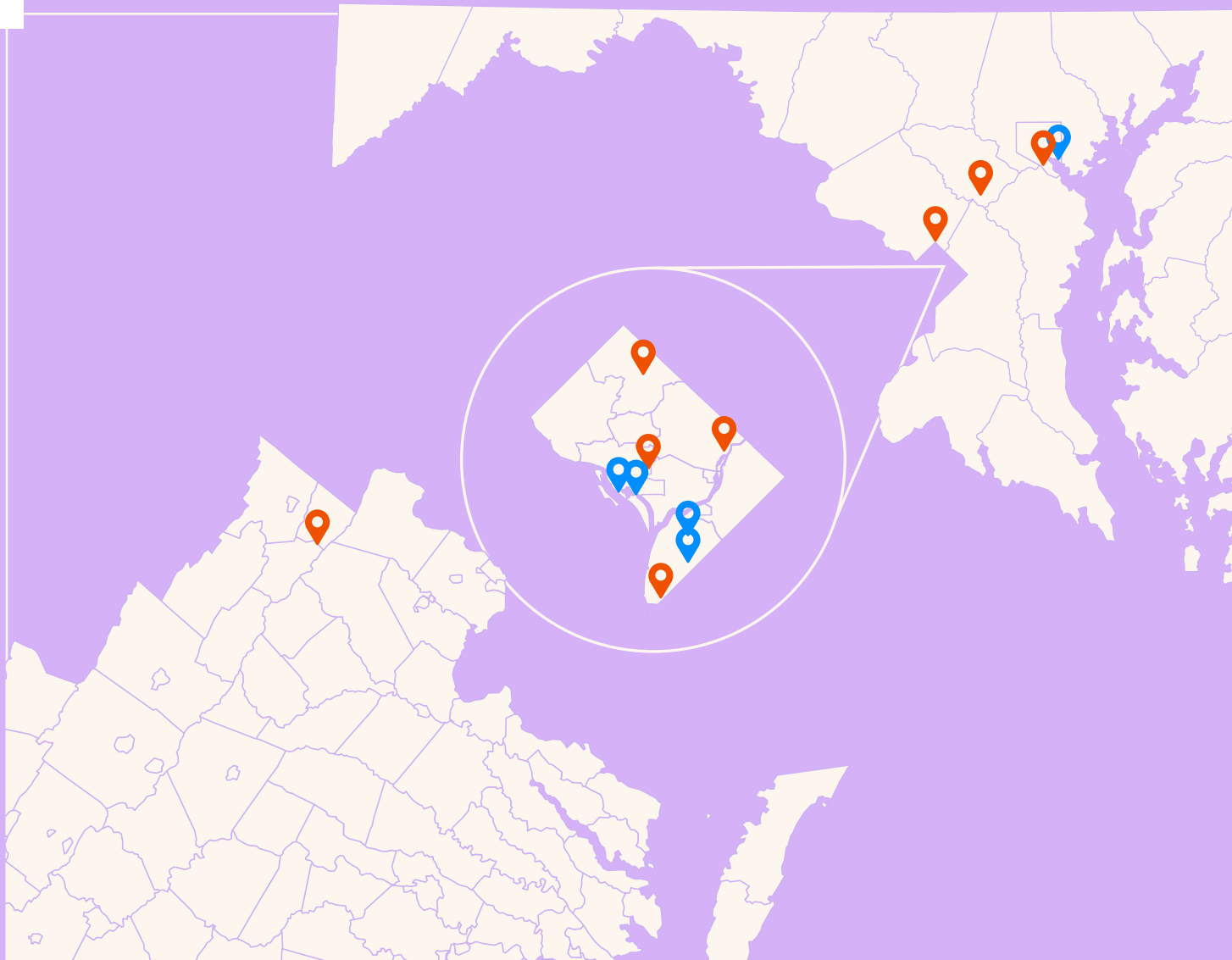
The West Oakland Mural Project



Blk Girls Greenhouse

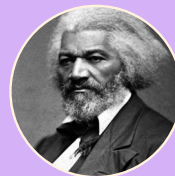


Kinfofx



NOTABLE LOCAL LUMINARIES

- **Chuck Brown**, “Godfather of Go-Go,” who created the signature musical sound of Washington, D.C.
- **Frederick Douglass**, Renowned abolitionist, author, and orator
- **Duke Ellington**, Legendary jazz composer and pianist, a defining figure of Washington’s “Black Broadway” on U Street
- **Missy Elliott**, Groundbreaking rapper, producer, and songwriter
- **Justice Thurgood Marshall**, a pivotal civil rights attorney (NAACP) who argued *Brown v. Board of Education* before becoming the first Black U.S. Supreme Court Justice.
- **Marvin Gaye**, Revolutionary Motown singer known as the “Prince of Soul”
- **L. Douglas Wilder**, First elected African American Governor in U.S. history serving the state of Virginia.
- **Pharrell Williams**, Grammy and Academy Award-winning producer, singer, and fashion designer
- **Wanda Sykes**, Award-winning comedian and actress



DMV

[D.C., MARYLAND & VIRGINIA]



“I am proud to live in the state that birthed Harriet Tubman, and is now home to two of the wealthiest African American counties in the country and the largest state legislative black caucus in the country. I am proud of my ancestry that traces through D.C., formerly known as the “Chocolate City”. Visitors to the DMV can expect great food, great music, and inspiring history. I am proud to be surrounded by Black excellence and Black joy everywhere I go and to have an abundance of Black owned businesses to support. The DMV is truly special to me.”

MORGAN TRAVERS

HISTORIC & CULTURAL SITES

- **Gogo Museum & Cafe**
Washington, D.C.
- **The National Museum of African American History and Culture**
Washington, D.C.
The world’s largest museum dedicated to African American history and culture and the eighth most visited museum in the country
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial**
Washington, D.C.
- **Frederick Douglass National Historic Site**
Washington, D.C.
- **The Lewis (The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African History & Culture)**
Baltimore, MD
Highlighting Baltimore’s history as a major hub of the slave trade and showcasing the lives and arts of African American Marylanders

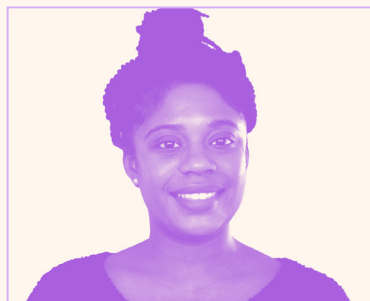
BLACK OWNED ESTABLISHMENTS & NONPROFITS

- **Ben’s Chili Bowl**
- **The Breakfast Club**
Black-Owned Brunch Spot
- **Salamander Resort and Spa**
Black-Owned Spa
- **Ginger Roots**
Woman and Black-Owned Herbal/Spice Shop
- **Ebene**
Woman and Black-Owned Pilates Studio
- **Mahogany Books**
Black-Owned Bookstore that also ships out orders through their website
- **The Spice Suite**
- **PRMP Brow and Studio**



“I love D.C. As a native Washingtonian, I grew up with Black culture all around me – from my teachers to the music to our local politicians. We were loud and proud. I grew up with a sense of self and history because many of the people in my life looked like me. To outsiders looking in, D.C. is about the national monuments, the seat of federal government, the White House, but there’s always been another side to D.C. And we like go-go music, Old Bay (IYKYK) on our food, use a special local slang and are proud of the fact that Black excellence is on every corner from the historic Dunbar HS, the first Black public high school in the country, to the home of Frederick Douglass, one of my favorite places to visit. I am thankful for the opportunity to grow up in such a culturally vibrant city, and I hope that history isn’t forgotten. Those experiences and all of my memories helped to shape who I am today.”

DARIA HALL



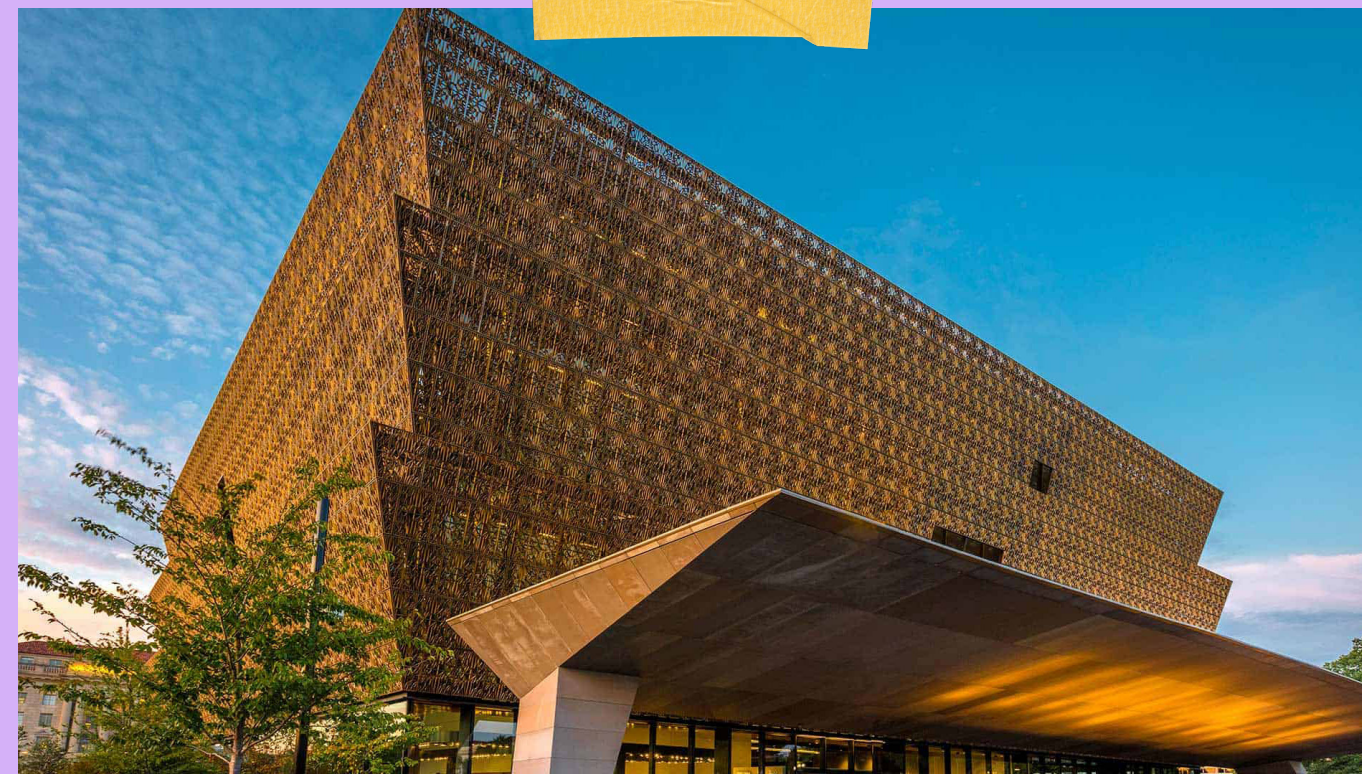
“The Black legacy of Washington, D.C, is alive and well. It is an honor to live in the city Benjamin Banneker helped create and be reminded of what Black excellence and talent can achieve.”

VALERIE JEAN-CHARLES



“What I love about living in D.C. is being part of a community full of Black people from every walk of life, and the history and culture made here influence the world. For example, I’m a huge fan of punk music, and DC has a thriving punk scene that was pioneered by the Black punk band Bad Brains. D.C. has a deep history of Black resistance that’s not only seen in art and music like punk and go-go, but also in history and politics. On every corner, there is a monument to Black history and Black resistance that inspires me to challenge the status quo and build a better, more equitable future.”

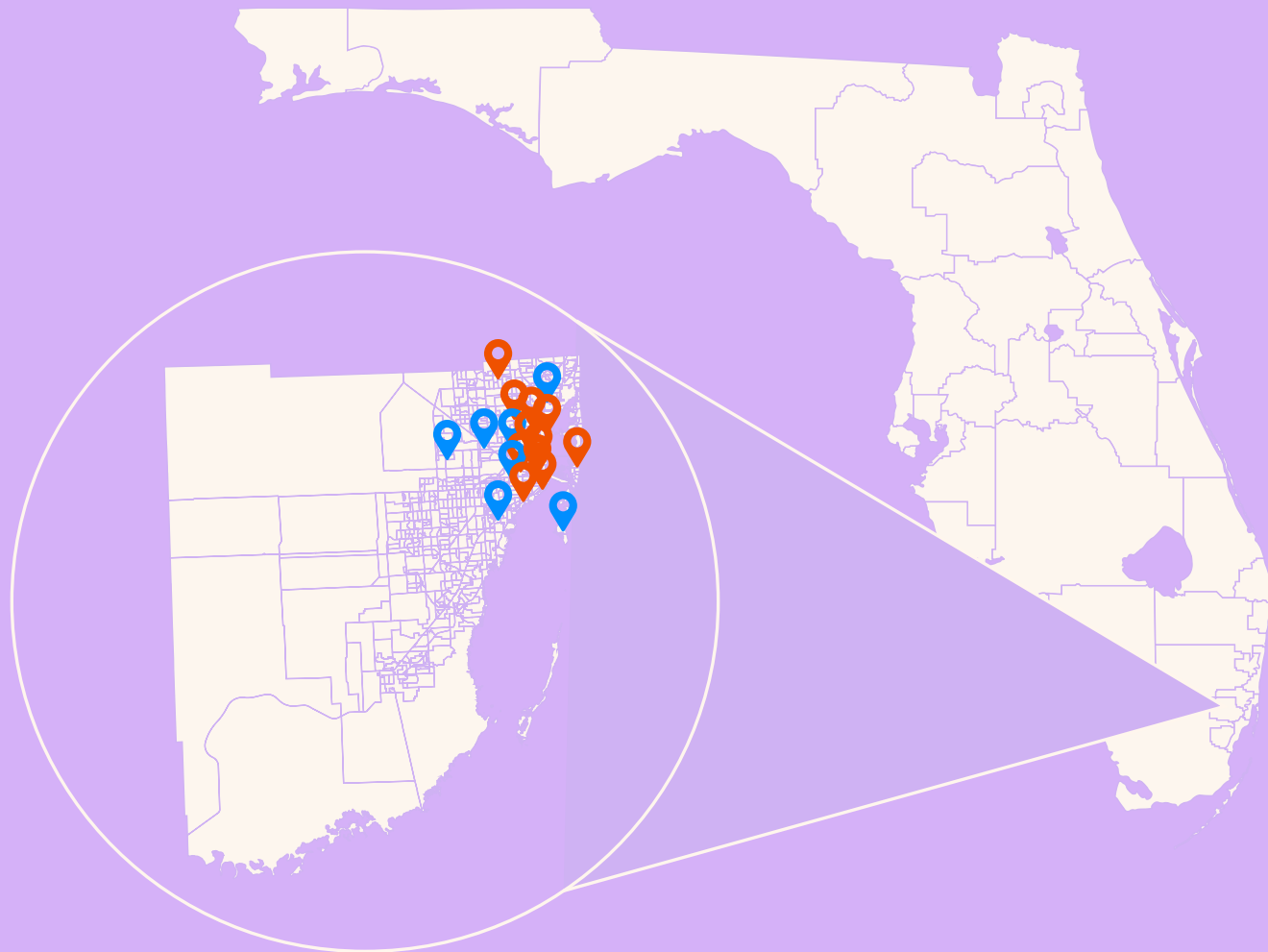
ADIA AIDOO



The National Museum of African American History and Culture



Mahogany Books



NOTABLE LOCAL LUMINARIES

- **Laila Ali**, one of the greatest female professional boxers of all time and American television personality
- **Reverend Theodore Gibson**, preeminent civil rights leader who served as president of the Miami NAACP, leading to the desegregation of downtown lunch counters
- **G.E. Graves**, attorney who fought against segregation in Miami, representing the NAACP in high-profile cases
- **Sidney Poitier**, the first Black man to win an Academy Award for Best Actor
- **M. Athalie Range**, first African American to serve on the Miami City Commission and the first woman and African American to head a state agency in Florida
- **Garth Reeves**, publisher of The Miami Times, a crucial voice for the Black community
- **Barry Jenkins**, Oscar-winning film director and screenwriter



Florida

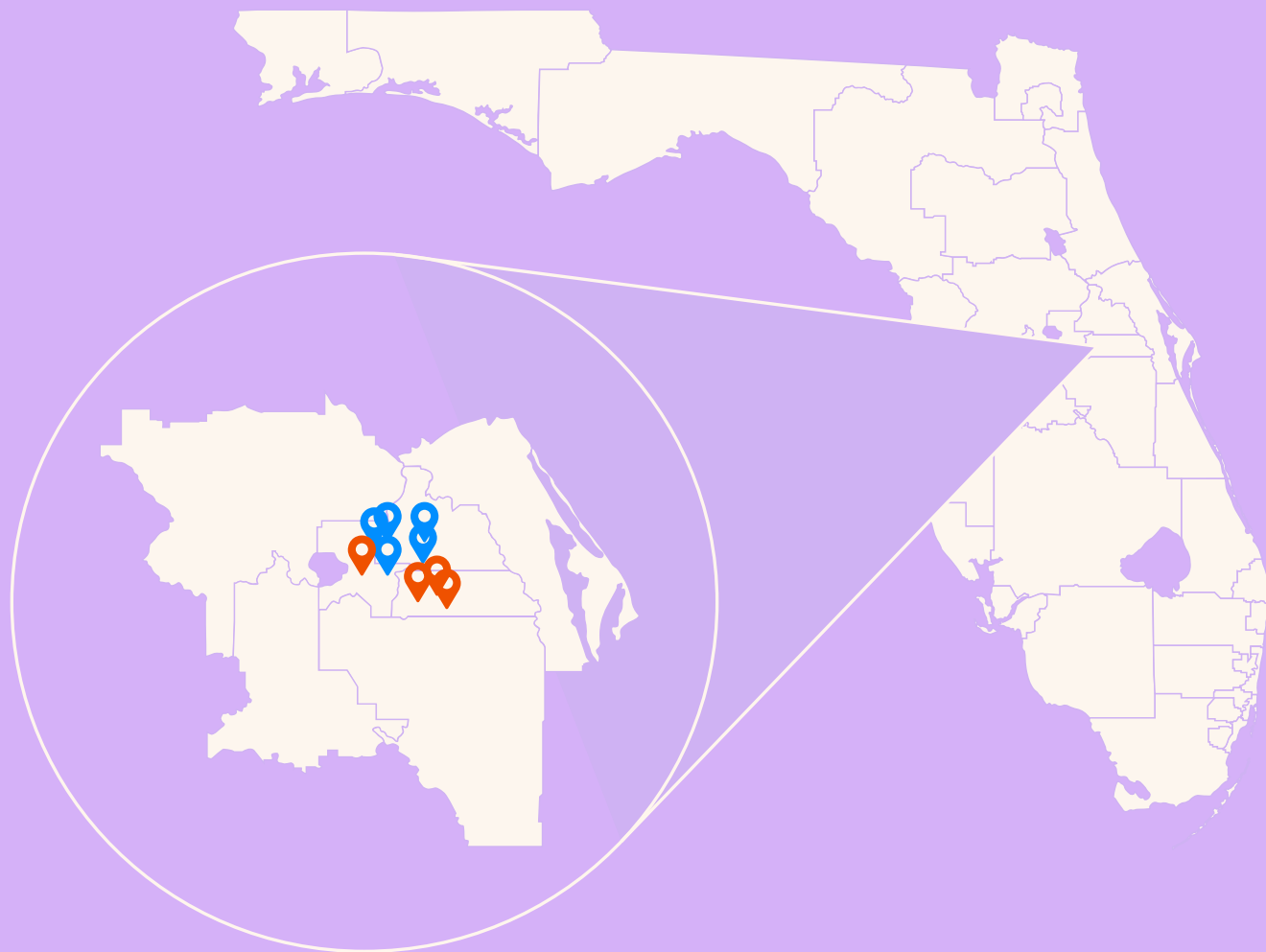
[MIAMI]

HISTORIC & CULTURAL SITES

- **The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center**
A major cultural institution offering visual arts, dance, theater, and music programming rooted in African diaspora traditions
- **Black Police Precinct & Courthouse Museum**
The first Black police precinct and courthouse in Miami (est. 1944). Preserves artifacts and stories of Black law enforcement and civic leadership during segregation
- **Historic Hampton House**
Iconic Civil Rights-era hotel where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali, and other leaders stayed when Miami Beach hotels were segregated
- **Historic Virginia Key Beach Park**
Created in 1945 as Miami's only beach open to Black residents during segregation. Now a restored cultural and environmental landmark
- **Little Haiti Cultural Complex**
Celebrates Haitian culture and its influence in Miami through exhibitions, performances, and community programming
- **Historic Lyric Theatre**
Historic 1913 theater once known as the "Black Carnegie Hall of the South," hosting performers during segregation including Ella Fitzgerald and Nat King Cole
- **Roots Bookstore**
A community-focused retail space located in Liberty City, Miami. Established in 2024, it serves as both a bookstore and a marketplace, aiming to empower Black and Brown communities through education, entrepreneurship, and cultural engagement

BLACK OWNED ESTABLISHMENTS & NONPROFITS

- **Clive's Cafe (Little Haiti)**
- **Drinking Pig**
- **Dunkunoo**
- **JRK/Mangrove**
- **Kitchen and Cocktails by Kevin Kelley**
- **Las Lap**
- **Lil' Greenhouse Grill**
- **Lorna's**
- **Naomi's Garden Restaurant & Lounge**
- **Red Rooster Overtown**
- **Shiso**
- **World Famous House of Mac**
- **Victory**



NOTABLE LOCAL LUMINARIES

- **Zora Neale Hurston**, leading writer of the Harlem Renaissance and author of 'Their Eyes Were Watching God'. Ms. Hurston grew up in Eatonville and used her writing to capture the voices, traditions, and culture of Black communities in the American South
- **Ericka Dunlap**, Miss Florida 2003 and later Miss America 2004, making her one of the few Black women to win the title. She is now a public speaker and advocate for education, leadership, and community empowerment
- **Wesley Snipes**, acclaimed actor known for films like *Blade*, *New Jack City*, and *White Men Can't Jump*. Snipes spent part of his childhood in Orlando before going on to become an internationally recognized actor and martial artist
- **Maxwell Frost**, national organizing director for *March For Our Lives* and currently the youngest person elected to U.S. Congress serving as the U.S. representative for Florida's 10th congressional district



Florida

[ORLANDO & KISSIMMEE]

HISTORIC & CULTURAL SITES

- **Eatonville, FL**
Founded in 1887, Eatonville is one of the first self-governing Black municipalities in the United States. The town is also the hometown of famous writer Zora Neale Hurston. Each year, Eatonville hosts the ZORA! Festival of the Arts and Humanities, celebrating Black literature, art, and culture
- **Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of Fine Arts (The Hurston Museum)**
Located in Eatonville, this museum honors the legacy of Zora Neale Hurston and showcases artwork from artists of African descent. It plays an important role in preserving and celebrating Black artistic expression and cultural history
- **Wells' Built Museum of African American History & Culture**
Originally built as a hotel by Dr. William Monroe Wells in the 1920s, the Wells' Built provided lodging for Black performers who were not allowed to stay in other Orlando hotels during segregation. Today it serves as a museum preserving the history and cultural contributions of Black communities in Central Florida
- **Hannibal Square Heritage Center**
This museum preserves the history of Winter Park's historic Black neighborhood, Hannibal Square. Through photographs, oral histories, and exhibits, it highlights the lives and contributions of the Black families who helped shape the community.
- **The Moseley House Museum**
A historic home museum in Eatonville that tells the story of one of the town's pioneering Black families. The Moseley House preserves artifacts, photographs, and stories that highlight everyday life and the development of one of the earliest Black municipalities in the United States

BLACK OWNED ESTABLISHMENTS & NONPROFITS

- **Nikki's Place**
Orlando
A beloved soul food restaurant that has been a staple in Orlando for decades. Known for classic Southern dishes and warm hospitality, Nikki's Place has long been a gathering place within the Central FL black community
- **Sister Honey's Bakery**
Orlando
A popular Black-owned bakery known for its homemade Southern desserts. The most notable being the famous red velvet cake and banana pudding. Sister Honey's is a local favorite for its comforting sweets and welcoming atmosphere
- **Jesse's Rib Shack**
Orlando
A longtime Orlando barbecue spot known for its smoked ribs, chicken, and traditional Southern sides. Jesse's has served the community for years and is known for its flavorful BBQ and neighborhood roots
- **Caribbean Sunshine Bakery**
Orlando
A well-known and well-respected Caribbean bakery and restaurant offering authentic Jamaican and Caribbean dishes. It reflects the strong Caribbean influence that is a key part of Central Florida's cultural identity



“Miami’s Black history is rich with resilience, creativity, and leadership that have shaped the city and the broader nation. Historic Overtown, often called the “Harlem of the South,” continues to be a vibrant cultural hub and where Black-owned businesses and civic institutions flourished despite oppression. Neighborhoods such as Richmond Heights, one of the first planned Black middle-class communities in the South, reflect the determination of Black veterans and families who built thriving neighborhoods rooted in opportunity and pride. From historic churches and cultural landmarks to institutions like the Historic Hampton House, Miami continues to honor a legacy of activism, artistry, and entrepreneurship. I am proud to live in Miami because the city offers visitors a powerful opportunity to experience living Black history and the full diaspora—where culture, community, and storytelling are woven into the neighborhoods, music, food, and institutions that continue to shape the city and world today.”

KAMALI BURKE

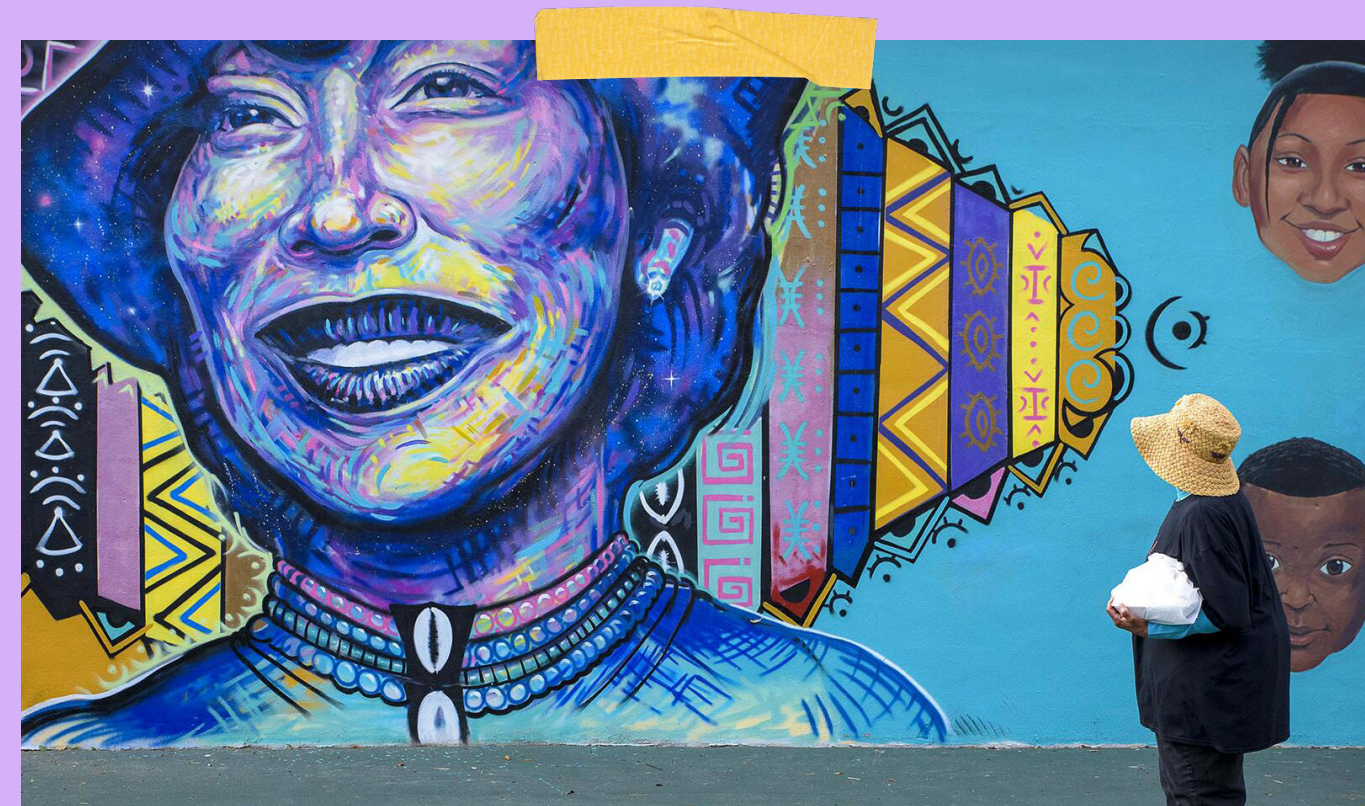


“I’m proud to represent the Orlando/Kissimmee area because of the deep Black history and vibrant Caribbean culture that shape this community. From the legacy of Eatonville, (one of the first incorporated Black towns in the U.S. and hometown of Zora Neale Hurston), to the strong Caribbean influence running throughout the area, it’s a place where different parts of the Black diaspora come together. I was born and raised here, so it’s been meaningful to grow up surrounded by that history, culture, and sense of community.”

TRENICIA COLLINS



Clive's Cafe (Little Haiti)



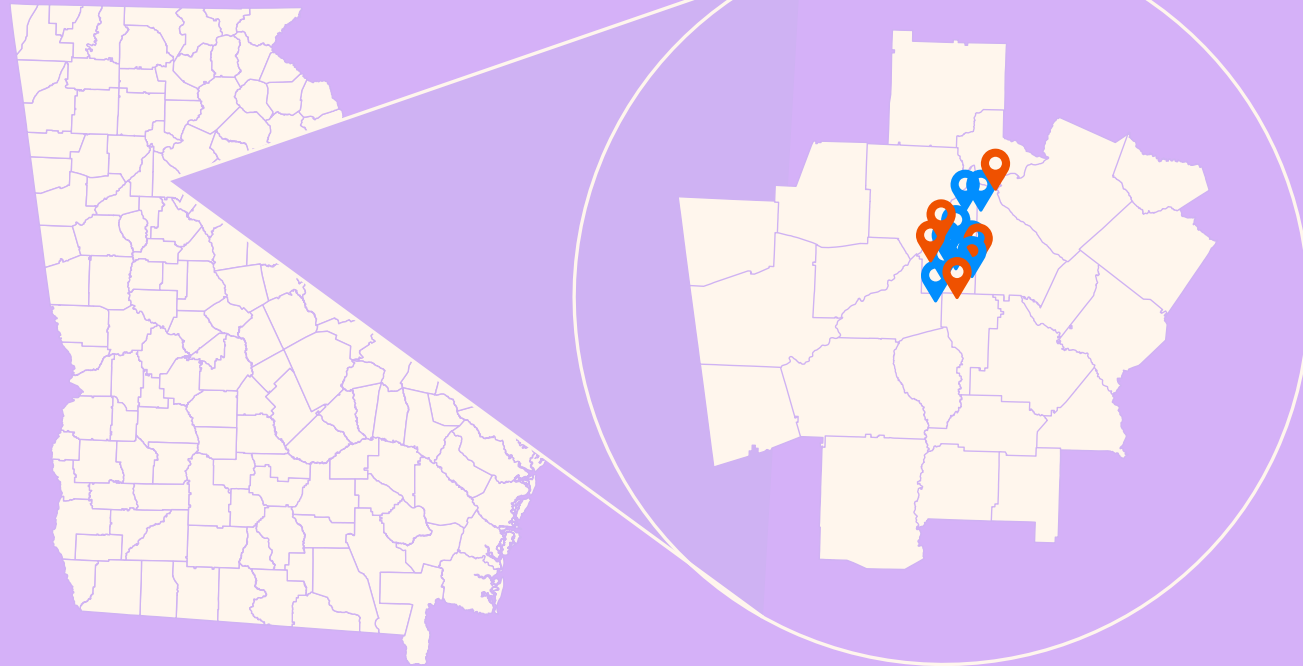
Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of Fine Arts

Georgia

[ATLANTA]

HISTORIC & CULTURAL SITES

- **Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park**
Features the birth home, Ebenezer Baptist Church, and The King Center
- **Atlanta University Center (AUC) Historic District**
Visit the historic campuses of Spelman, Morehouse, and Clark Atlanta
- **Madame C.J. Walker Museum**
Dedicated to the famous entrepreneur, located alongside the historic WERD Studio
- **National Center for Civil and Human Rights**
Check out the "Broken Promises: The Legacy of Reconstruction Era" and "MLK: A Committed Life" exhibits
- **Hammonds House Museum**
Showcases works by artists of African descent
- **Spelman College Museum of Fine Art**
Features Reclaiming History, a group exhibition of Black artists working with artifacts from the enslavement era (through May 1)
- **Trap Music Museum**
Explores the history and culture of the Atlanta-born music genre; The city's Trap Music Museum centers around the Trap Music culture and features a collection of one-of-a-kind pieces in honor of some of hip-hop's most iconic Trap Music stars
- **Atlanta History Center**
Features collections on Southern history, including "Hats of the King Family Women" and the Ichiban Records story
- **The Wren's Nest**
The former home of author and journalist Joel Chandler Harris, creator of the Uncle Remus stories, a cultural center, house museum, and National Historic Landmark in Atlanta's West End neighborhood
- **Amy Sherald: American Sublime**
The High Museum of Art is proud to join the national tour for Amy Sherald's acclaimed mid-career retrospective, which is the largest exhibition of her work to date; Perhaps most renowned for her portrait of former First Lady Michelle Obama, Sherald's exhibit will include many of her most iconic works



NOTABLE LOCAL LUMINARIES

- **Stacey Abrams**, an American politician, lawyer, voting rights activist, author and the first African American female major-party gubernatorial nominee in the United States
- **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, America's pre-eminent advocate of nonviolence and one of the greatest nonviolent leaders in world history
- **Maynard Jackson**, the first African American mayor of Atlanta and of any major city in the South
- **Outkast**, Grammy Award-winning musical pioneers and 2025 inductees in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
- **TLC**, Grammy Award-winning musical pioneers and one of the best selling female groups of all time
- **TI**, Grammy Award-winning rapper and actor
- **Usher**, Grammy Award-winning musical pioneer and one of the best selling artists of all time
- **Senator Raphael Warnock**, the first African American to represent Georgia in the Senate and the first Black Democrat elected to the Senate from a Southern state



BLACK OWNED ESTABLISHMENTS & NONPROFITS

- **Busy Bee Cafe**

810 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW

Launched in 1947 by Lucy Jackson when restaurants were still segregated, Busy Bee Cafe regularly makes the lists for “best fried chicken.” When Jackson opened the restaurant, it was one of only two streets in the city of Atlanta open to Black entrepreneurs after the race riots pushed the community from downtown Atlanta and served as a meeting place for Civil Rights leaders, including Martin Luther King Jr. The Busy Bee is one of six 2022 recipients of the James Beard Foundation’s American Classics award and the Busy Bee received a MICHELIN Bib Gourmand in 2023, 2024 and 2025, which recognizes restaurants offering exceptionally good food at moderate prices.

- **Twisted Soul Cookhouse & Pours**

1133 Huff Road NW

Chef Deborah VanTrece serves up a menu based on soul food principles with a modern twist at Twisted Soul Cookhouse & Pours.

- **Toast on Lenox**

349 Fourteenth St. NW, Midtown; 2770 Lenox Road NE, Buckhead

This proudly Black, female-owned brunch restaurant serves food for the soul. With one location in Buckhead and the other in Midtown, you’ll find staple breakfast items like French toast and chicken and waffles, as well as salmon cakes, and fried catfish and grits.

- **Marcus Bar & Grille**

525 Edgewood Ave. SE

Marcus Bar & Grille is a vibrant, funky neighborhood restaurant dreamt up by Chef Marcus Samuelsson. Out of a gorgeous open kitchen featuring a wood-fired grill and oven, Marcus B&G serves elevated comfort classics and ambitious signature dishes. Taking cues from the history of Atlanta and the Old Fourth Ward, the space is built to celebrate community, music, and great food & drink.

- **Rock Steady**

907 Marietta St. NW

As you step inside Rock Steady, prepare yourself to be celebrated in a world where the vibrant pulse of Atlanta meets an innovative take on Afro-Caribbean expression. This is a dining experience unlike any other. You’ll find yourself immersed in a fusion of West African and Caribbean atmosphere. The intimate interior is adorned with dramatic “Urchin” sculptural hanging light fixtures against a backdrop of wonderful loosely hung street art and hand-painted murals by local artist Michael A. Coleman. West African textiles and layers of Kilim area rugs combined with a mix of mid-century furnishings set a sensuous design.



There’s a saying: “As Georgia goes, so goes the nation” — and even a quick twirl through Atlanta shows why. As the cradle of the Civil Rights Movement and an ever-evolving hub for entertainment, social activism, and Black entrepreneurship, Atlanta continues to push the culture forward.”

DONTÉ DONALD



Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park



Busy Bee Cafe



“When I think about the elements of my life that have helped shape me, being a born-and-bred Brooklynite is a dominant force. I’m proud of the diversity, grit, and culture that personify New York’s spirit. I’m compelled by the electric energy vibrating across the city. When people say there’s no place on earth like NYC, it’s not an exaggeration. From the Marcy Projects to the Statue of Liberty, NY never sleeps nor slumbers. If you can make it here, you can make it anywhere.”

SHAKIRAH HILL TAYLOR



“New York will always have a special place in my heart. My 12 years living in Brooklyn and working in the city shaped my time as a young adult fresh out of college. From the culture to the music to the food to the people, NYC is a unique place where anything feels possible. From my first full-time job to going back to school (twice!) to developing as a professional and later becoming a mom, NYC was a formative part of adulthood for me. I will always be thankful for the experiences, lessons, and memories.”

DARIA HALL

New York

[NEW YORK CITY]



“New York is one of the cultural centers of the world, and that is in no small part due to the rich Black history here, and the continued presence of our communities, institutions, and contributions. Whether you’re looking for soul food in Harlem, interested in learning more about the origins of hip hop, or just want to stroll through our many historically Black neighborhoods, there’s something to explore here.”

TYLER DRAYTON

HISTORIC & CULTURAL SITES

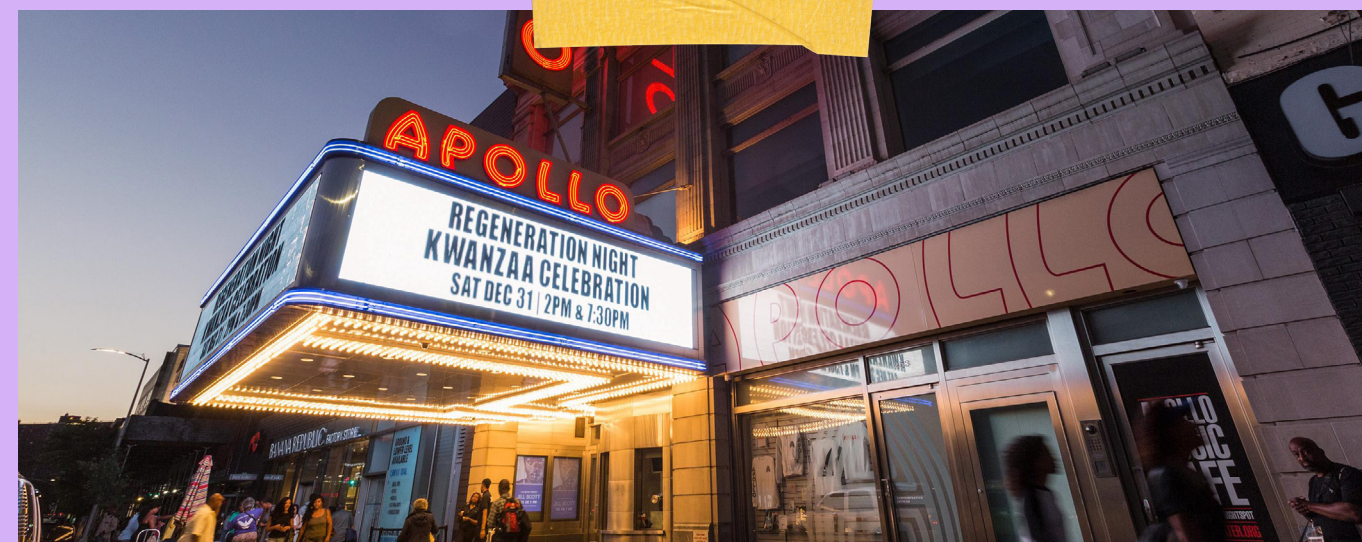
- [Little Caribbean](#)
- [Sag Harbor](#)
- [Studio Museum of Harlem](#)
- [The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture](#)
- [Weeksville Heritage Center](#)
- [Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Art](#)
- [Merchant’s House Museum – New discovery of Underground Railroad passage](#)
- [Birthplace of Hip Hop – 1520 Sedgwick Ave](#)
- [Apollo Theater](#)
- [The Langston Hughes House](#)
- [Striver’s Row](#)
- [Shirley Chisholm House](#)
- [Audre Lorde Residence](#)
- [James Baldwin Residence](#)
- [Seneca Village Site](#)
- [African Burial Ground National Monument](#)

BLACK OWNED ESTABLISHMENTS & NONPROFITS

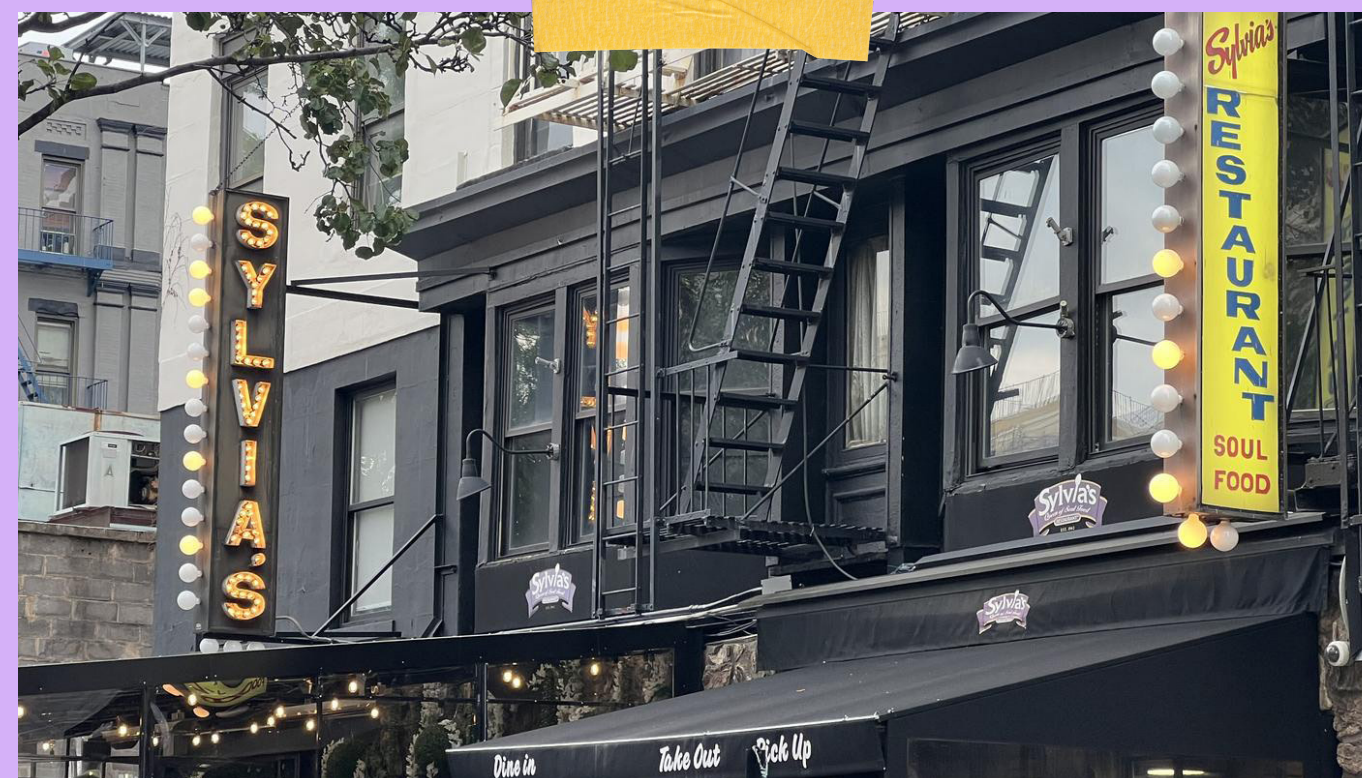
- [Sylvia’s](#)
- [Cuts & Slices](#)
- [Melba’s Restaurant](#)
- [Famous Fish Market](#)
- [Antilles Cafe](#)
- [The Audre Lourde Project](#)

NOTABLE LOCAL LUMINARIES

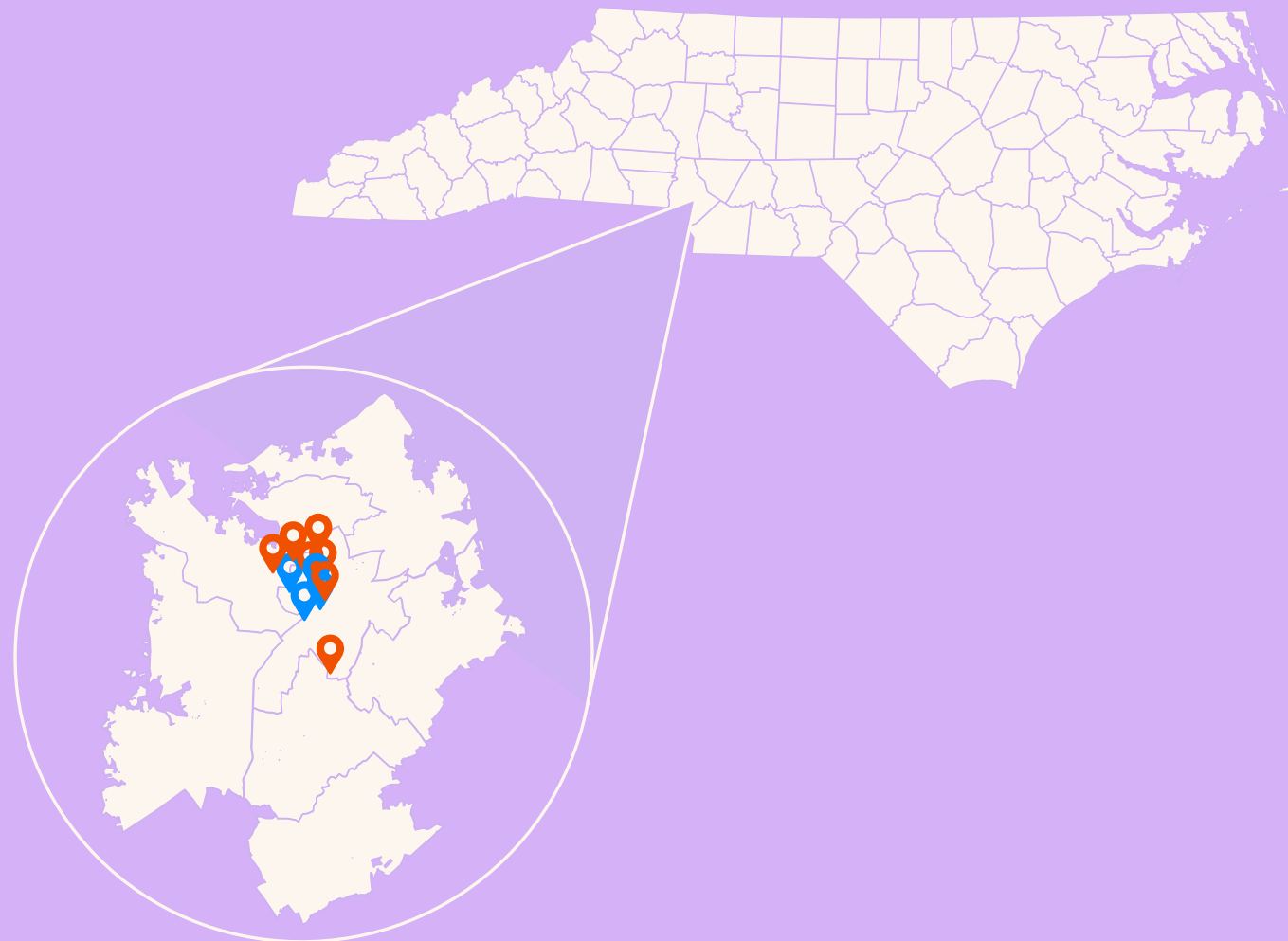
- Adrienne Adams, Speaker of the New York City Council and the first Black person to hold this role
- James Baldwin, Famed writer and civil rights activist
- Angela Bassett, Emmy Award-winning and Academy Award-nominated actress
- Harry Belafonte, Jamaican-American singer, actor, and activist who popularized calypso music in the 1950s and 60s, known as the “King of Calypso”
- Mary J. Blige, Grammy Award-winning and Academy Award nominated singer and actress, known as the “Queen of Hip-Hop Soul”
- Mariah Carey, Grammy Award-winning pioneer of pop/R&B and one of the best selling artists of all time
- Shirley Chisholm, First Black woman elected to Congress and the first woman and African American to seek the nomination for president of the United States from one of the two major political parties
- David Dinkins, First Black mayor of New York City
- Sarah J.S. Tompkins Garnet, First Black woman principal of a New York City public school, Manhattan Grammar School No. 4, an integrated school that taught both Black and white students, and founder of the Equal Suffrage League of Brooklyn
- Elizabeth Jennings Graham, Civil rights activist who desegregated NYC’s transit system in 1854
- Lorraine Hansberry, Playwright, activist, and the first Black American female author to have a play performed on Broadway
- Letitia James, Attorney General of New York and the first woman of color to hold statewide office.
- Alain Locke, Key figure of the Harlem Renaissance and first Black Rhodes Scholar.
- Lena Horne, Groundbreaking singer, actress, dancer, and civil rights activist
- JAY-Z, Pioneering rapper, songwriter, record executive, entrepreneur, and philanthropist
- Bayard Rustin, Revolutionary political activist and prominent leader in social movements for civil rights, socialism, nonviolence, gay rights, and organizer of the March on Washington
- Al Sharpton, Civil rights and social justice activist, commentator, and founder of the National Action Network civil rights organization
- Neil deGrasse Tyson, American astrophysicist, author, and science communicator who’s known for making science accessible to the public
- Luther Vandross, Groundbreaking Grammy Award-winning R&B and soul singer, songwriter, and record producer
- Denzel Washington, Two-time Academy Award-winning actor and one of the most lauded actors of all time
- Kerry Washington, Emmy-winning actress, producer, director, and activist



Apollo Theater



Sylvia's



NOTABLE LOCAL LUMINARIES

- **Ella Baker**, a crucial figure in the NAACP, SCLC, and founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
- **Henry Frye**, the first African American Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court
- **Loretta Lynch**, the first African American woman to serve as U.S. Attorney General
- **Pauli Murray**, gender-nonconforming lawyer, author, and activist whose work influenced *Brown v. Board of Education* and expanded legal protection for gender equality
- **Harvey Gantt**, The first Black student admitted to Clemson University and the first Black mayor of Charlotte
- **David Walker**, Abolitionist and author of *Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World*
- **Anthony Hamilton**, Grammy-winning R&B singer and songwriter grew up in Charlotte



North Carolina

[CHARLOTTE]

HISTORIC & CULTURAL SITES

- **Brooklyn Village**
Uptown's Second Ward was once home to Brooklyn, a thriving, predominantly Black neighborhood founded in the late 1800s by formerly enslaved people who built thriving businesses, earning it the title of Charlotte's Black Wall Street before it was demolished during urban renewal in the 1960s and 1970s. Today, plans for Brooklyn Village aim to honor that legacy through a 17-acre mixed-use development featuring residential, office, retail, cultural, and public spaces.
- **Dunhill Hotel**
Built in 1929 as Mayfield Manor, it is now Charlotte's only historic boutique hotel, standing on a site that once served as a jail for captured enslaved people seeking freedom.
- **First United Presbyterian Church**
Founded in 1869 by formerly enslaved people, First United Presbyterian Church is one of Charlotte's oldest Gothic Revival churches, also serving as a refuge during the Civil Rights Movement. It is now designated a historic landmark.
- **Harvey B. Gantt Center**
The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts + Culture in Uptown Charlotte, NC, is a premier cultural hub dedicated to preserving and celebrating the art, history, and culture of people of African descent.

BLACK OWNED ESTABLISHMENTS & NONPROFITS

- **Archive CLT**
A Black-owned coffee shop filled with Black cultural items such as HBCU yearbooks, first-edition books, and vintage JET magazines.
- **Bird Pizzeria**
One of the best pizza places in Charlotte! This Black-owned pizzeria is located in Optimist Park.
- **JINYA Ramen Bar**
There are two locations for this Black-owned ramen shop - Uptown and South Park. They serve contemporary Japanese cuisine.
- **Lorem Ipsum**
A very vibey listening bar. Sip handcrafted cocktails while listening to music.
- **Mr. Charles Chicken & Fish**
Delicious fried fish like flounder, catfish and whiting + all the southern sides you could think of.
- **Heal Charlotte**
Focuses on housing stability, after-school programs, and violence prevention.
- **Block Love Charlotte**
Dedicated to supporting underserved community members through direct care initiatives.



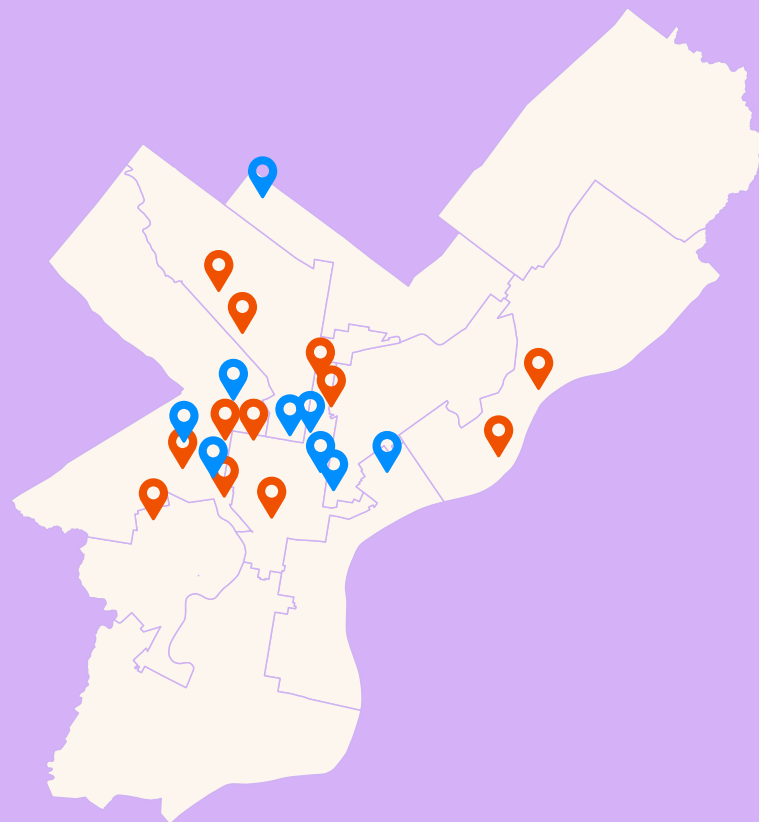
Dunhill Hotel



Lorem Ipsum



Block Love Charlotte



NOTABLE LOCAL LUMINARIES

- **Sadie T.M. Alexander**, The first Black woman to earn a Ph.D. in economics and a key figure in civil rights law in the city
- **Marian Anderson**, An internationally acclaimed contralto opera singer who broke racial barriers in music and performed at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom
- **Ed Bradley**, Emmy and Peabody Award-winning broadcast journalist and 60 Minutes correspondent
- **Quinta Brunson**, Emmy-winning writer, producer, and actress (creator of Abbott Elementary)
- **Wilt Chamberlain**, Basketball legend widely considered to be one of the greatest basketball players of all time
- **Mayor Wilson Goode**, The first African American mayor of Philadelphia (1984–1992)
- **Frances Ellen Watkins Harper**, An author, abolitionist, and suffragist who advocated for the rights of Black women and was the first African American woman to publish a short story
- **Cecil B. Moore**, Lawyer, politician and civil rights activist who served as president of the Philadelphia NAACP chapter and as a member of Philadelphia's city council



Pennsylvania

[PHILADELPHIA]

HISTORIC & CULTURAL SITES

- [African American Museum](#)
- [Independence National Historical Park](#) (Particularly "President's House: Freedom and Slavery in the Making of a New Nation" exhibit on the enslaved folk in George Washington's home)
- [Johnson House Historical Site \(An Underground Railroad Station\)](#)
- [Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church](#) (the oldest land owned by African Americans in the US & site of Harriet Tubman's speeches)
- [Negro Leagues Memorial](#)
- [The Art Museum Steps](#), featured in the movie "Rocky" and now hosting the very ugly Rocky Balboa statue, these steps are the backside of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, one of the most prominent art museums in the world. A statue of real-life Rocky, the Black boxer Smokin' Joe Frazier is set to also be placed at the base of the Art Museum steps soon in 2026.
- [Fairmount Park](#), the largest landscaped urban park in the world (totalling about 9,200 acres). Over 10 times larger than Central Park and so much to do – from zip-lining, to fishing, to walking along the Schuylkill River, to festive weekend cookouts.
- [Roberto Clemente Playground](#) Famously featured in the Fresh Prince of Bel-Air Theme Song (but fun fact, not actually in West Philly; it is in the Fairmount neighborhood).
- [Clark Park](#) A central community space in West Philly, always hosting events and drum circles and surrounded by local shops and businesses.

BLACK OWNED ESTABLISHMENTS & NONPROFITS

- [Uncle Bobbie's Coffee and Books](#)
5445 Germantown Ave
Founded by author & host Marc Lamont Hill
- [Harriet's Bookstore](#)
258 E Girard Ave
- [Arterial Coffee](#)
3100-02 Spring Garden St
- [Coffee Cream & Dreams](#)
1436 Fairmount Ave
- [Doro Bet](#)
4533 Baltimore Ave
Ethiopian fried chicken, gluten free
- [Amina](#)
1102 Germantown Ave
Southern American and West African fusion
- [Dahlak](#)
4708 Baltimore Avenue
Traditional Ethiopian & Eritrean cuisine
- [Down North Pizza](#)
2804 W. Lehigh Ave
- [Friday Saturday Sunday](#)
261 S 21st St
A Michelin star, James Beard award-winning restaurant owned by a Black chef & his wife.
- [SOUTH Restaurant & Jazz Club](#)
600 N Broad St
- [New Barber's Hall](#)
1402 W Oxford St
Historical Philly Jazz and soul-food staple has been Black-owned since 1949
- [Mural Arts Philly](#)
- [Scribe Video Center](#)
- [World Cafe Live](#)
- [Sankofa Community Farm](#)



I love Philly because it is a very accessible foodie city that is easy to get around by foot or public transportation. It is also a predominantly Black sanctuary city with a large community of Black immigrants. As a North Jersey girl, it's a very familiar culture with a bit of a Southern influence. The city government is also very invested in arts programming so that there are always events to go to, constantly updated on the VisitPhilly.com site, which features Black History Month programming each year."

CAMILLE GOMERA-TAVAREZ



Johnson House Historical Site



Uncle Bobbie's Coffee and Books

Fenton*



x

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