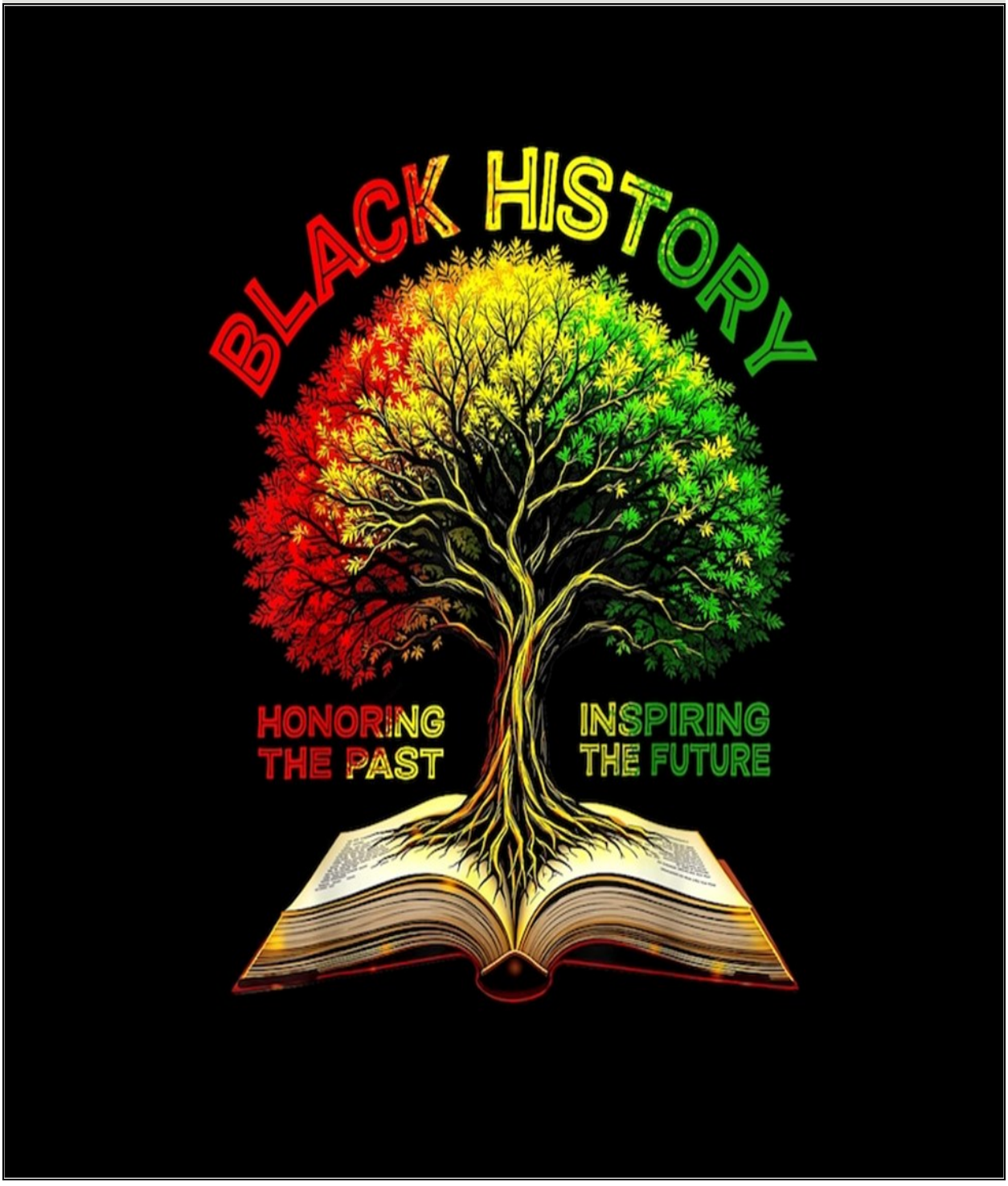
ABCA NEWSPOINTS

ABCA SPOTLIGHTS BLACK HISTORY MONTH



A TRIBUTE TO

Past and Present Austin Back Contractors
in the
Construction Industry

Austin Area Black Contractors and Suppliers have struggled tirelessly over the decades to overcome systemic barriers that have blocked their full participation and ability to achieve economic parity in the construction marketplace. In spite of this, Black Contractors have been inventive, creative and resourceful with knocking down these barriers thru advocacy and demands for equal access to opportunities. Additionally, Black Contractors have provided many meaningful employment opportunities, training and mentorships to hundreds of individuals from all ethnic backgrounds in the Austin Metropolitan Area.

To date, Black Contractors have participated in several City of Austin landmark projects with little or no recognition. These projects includes —- New Austin City Hall • New Central Library and Related Improvements • Austin Bergstrom International Airport Terminal Facility • Austin Bergstrom Terminal East Infill • Austin Bergstrom Terminal / Apron Expansion and Improvements • Austin Convention Center., Austin Bergstrom International Administration Building and Parking Garage • Austin Energy Control Center • Water Treatment Plant 4 • Waller Creek Tunnel • Decommissioning of Holly Street Power Plant • Waller Creek Water Treatment Plant • Austin Convention Center • Austin Energy's small construction repair projects.

The ABCA therefore, recognize the below contractors and their achievements for a "job well done"

IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

- JHarper Construction Company
- Oliver Street Construction Company
- Doyle Freeman Builders
- Thomas E. Ates, General Contractor
- Ray Ates, General Contractor
- James City Home Builder
- Alvin Washington Trucking Company
- Professional Wall Coverings
- Hunt & Yett Construction Company
- (*real estate and general construction*)
- Schuler's Roofing Company
- C.G. Hill Electric Company
- James C. Smith Concrete
- Collins Concrete Company
- Dotson & Johnson Air Conditioning
- Humphrey's Landscaping
- Fowler Electric
- Lee Clemmon's Plumbing Co,
- Chambers Heating & Air Conditioning
- Fred Jones Landscaping Co.
- Ernest Mooney Plumbing Company
- Wright Trucking Company
- Tom Wright Landscaping Co.
- JAMITCH Construction, Inc.
- Marshall Trucking Company
- Moseley's Woodcraft, Inc.
- Sneed's Welding
- Unism Development Company
- Lott Lumber Co.
- Hills Electric
- Wash Heating & Air Conditioning
- Austex Tree Services
- Johnson's Hauling Company
- Trini Construction Builders, LLC
- Haynes●Eaglin●Waters, General Contractors & Construction Mgmt, LLC
- Alayne Johnson, AllPoints Inspection Services, Inc.
- Earthco Landscape Construction, Inc
- Smitco Concrete Construction
- Avery's Landscaping & Lawncare. Inc
- Unity Contractors Services, Inc.
- GCS Contracting
- Kellough Trucking Company
- Calvin Williams, Relief Enterprise of Texas, Inc.
- Clarence Williams, ZLynx Enterprise, Inc.
- Trini Construction Builders, LLC
- Unity Contractors Services, Inc.
- Hudspeth Janitorial Services

The 2026 Black History Month is

celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first Black History Week founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1926. Set by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, ASHLA. This years honors a century of studying, honoring, and preserving African American history and contributions.

2026 marks a century of national commemorations of Black history. Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, George Cleveland Hall, William B. Hartgrove, Jesse E. Moorland, Alexander L. Jackson, and James E. Stamps institutionalized the teaching, study, dissemination, and commemoration of Black history when they founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) on September 9, 1915.

In 1925, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson planned the inaugural week-long observance of Black history, he could hardly have anticipated the imprint he would leave on the world. From Negro History Week to Black History Month, ASALH has carried forth the tradition, and the observances have become part of the warp and weft of American culture and increasingly the global community. For our 100th theme, the founders of Black History Month urge us to explore the impact and meaning of Black history and life commemorations in transforming the status of Black peoples in the modern world.

As part of the global African diaspora, people of African descent in the United States have viewed their role in history as critical to their own development and that of the world. Along with writing Black histories, antebellum Black scholars north of slavery started observing the milestones in the struggle of people of African descent to gain their freedom and equality. Revealing their connection to the diaspora, they commemorated the Haitian Revolution, the end of the slave trade, and the end of slavery in Jamaica. They observed American emancipation with Watch Night, Jubilee Day, and Juneteenth celebrations. Eventually they feted the lives of individuals who fought against slavery, most notably Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The scholar Arthur A. Schomburg captured the motivation of Black people to dig up their own history and present it to the world: "The American Negro must remake his past in order to make his future."When Carter G. Woodson, as director of the Association, established Negro History Week, he did so as part of that tradition. Yet, by concentrating the attention of the American public on the scientific findings of historians, he sought to turn the commemorations more forthrightly into a far-reaching, organized, and sustained effort to transform how Black folks viewed themselves and how the world viewed them. Year after year, he built Negro History Week

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Year after year, he built Negro History Week into an African American and American cultural institution. He set the themes and provided materials to illustrate the contributions people of African descent had made to the movement of history and modern culture. As his contemporary W. E. B. Du Bois put it, "He literally made this country … recognize and celebrate each year a week in which it studied the effect which the American Negro has had upon the life, thought and action in the United States. I know of no other man who in a lifetime has unaided built up such a national celebration."

Since the passing of the founder, ASALH has continued his work, making Negro History Week and Black History Month an even more deeply rooted American institution. On February 10, 1976, during the United States Bicentennial, President Gerald R. Ford became the first president to issue a message recognizing Black History Month. Then in 1986, Congress passed Public Law 99-244 designating February as Black History Month. These efforts have made February the month when Black history finds its way not simply into the schools of the American nation, but also into cultural heritage sites (museums, archives, libraries, parks, etc.), public squares, workplaces, houses of worship, and homes across the land and across the oceans. These institutions offer sites to discover and learn more about African American history through programming, camps, book displays, and exhibitions.

To understand the modern world, especially nations where Black peoples form a significant population, one must grapple with the impact that the public observances have had on the past and the present. This year, when we are also commemorating the 250th anniversary of United States independence, it is important to tell not only an inclusive history, but an accurate one. We have never had more need to examine the role of Black History Month than we do when forces weary of democracy seek to use legislative means and book bans to excise Black history from America's schools and public culture. Black history's value is not its contribution to mainstream historical narratives, but its resonance in the lives of Black people.

Source: Google