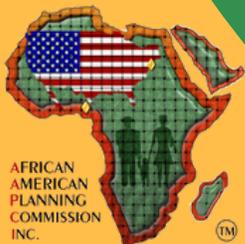


BLACK HISTORY MONTH

BHM Tour of New York City



AFRICAN
AMERICAN
PLANNING
COMMISSION
INC.



Black History Month Tour of New York City



MoCADA

Welcome to Brooklyn, home to over 800,000 African Americans! Our first stop on our tour is the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Art (MoCADA).

MoCADA honors the African diaspora through visual and performing arts. For 20 years, the creative space has showcased influential works from artists like Jamel Shabazz and Wangechi Mutu, who explore themes relevant to Black communities in NYC and across the globe.

Through exhibitions, community programming and educational initiatives centered in social justice, MoCADA incites dialogue on pressing social and political issues facing the African Diaspora and fosters a dynamic space for the creation and continuous evolution of culture. Please check MoCADA's social media before you travel @mocada_museum



80 Hanson Pl., Fort Greene, Brooklyn
Nearest subways: 2/3/4/5/G/B/D/N/Q/R/C

Photo credit: Ajay Suresh from New York, NY, USA, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Weeksville Heritage Center

Hop on the C train for our next stop: Weeksville Heritage Center. Weeksville Heritage Center is an historic site and cultural center in Central Brooklyn that uses education, arts and a social justice lens to preserve, document and inspire engagement with the history of Weeksville, one of the largest free Black communities in pre-Civil War America, and the Historic Hunterfly Road Houses.

Check their website <https://www.weeksvillesociety.org/tours> and social media @weeksvilleheritagecenter for tour information.



158 Buffalo Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11213
Nearest subways: A/C/3/4

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Marsha P. Johnson State Park

We're off to Williamsburg next, for the best view of the Manhattan skyline. Jump on the L train to Brooklyn's East River State Park, dedicated to Marsha P. Johnson, memorializing the activist and transgender figure. Johnson was a trailblazer in the community—an inspiring leader, who, together with fellow activist Sylvia Rivera, advocated for homeless Black and Brown LGBTQ+ youth who were rejected by their families, as well as those affected by HIV/AIDS. Johnson was a prominent figure in the Stonewall Uprising.



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Louis Armstrong House

We're making our way to Queens, home to nearly 500,000 African Americans and Louis Armstrong. Louis Armstrong was one of the most recognizable entertainers in the world when he chose the working-class neighborhood of Corona, Queens to be his home in 1943. The Louis Armstrong House preserves Louis and Lucille's home, now a historic site and world-class museum. It also provides access to Mr. Armstrong's extensive archives, develops programs for the public that educate and inspire and hosts performances with multi-disciplinary artists from around the world.

By the time of his death in 1971, the man known around the world as Satchmo was widely recognized as a founding father of jazz—a uniquely American art form. His influence as an artist and cultural icon is universal, unmatched, and very much alive today.

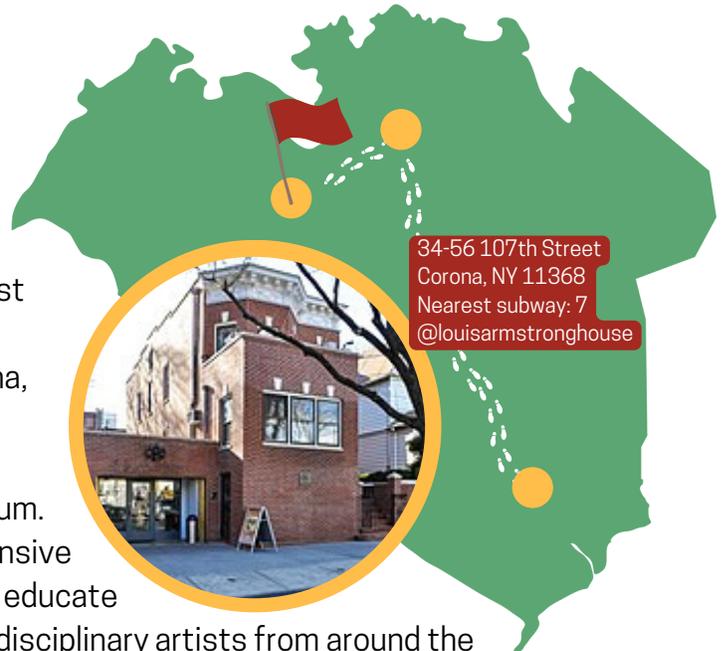


Photo credit: Joe Mabel, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Lewis Latimer House Museum

Our next stop in Queens is the Lewis Latimer House Museum, a Landmarked home, Queen Anne-style, wood-frame suburban residence constructed between 1887 and 1889 by the Sexton family. Lewis Howard Latimer lived in the house from 1903 until his death in 1928. The house remained in the Latimer family until 1963. Threatened with demolition, the house was moved from Holly Avenue to its present location in 1988. Today, the Museum is a fully functional public, cultural institution that provides primary research materials dedicated to Latimer’s legacy and that of other innovators of color.



34-41 137th St
Flushing, NY 11354
Nearest subway: 7, and
then the Q25/Q34 bus
@lewislaterhouse

Lewis Howard Latimer (1848-1928) was an African-American inventor, electrical pioneer, and a son of two formerly enslaved Virginians who self-liberated. With no access to formal education, Latimer taught himself mechanical drawing while in the Union Navy, and eventually became a chief draftsman, patent expert, and inventor.

Photo credit: Tdorante10, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Black Spectrum Theatre Company

It’s a bit of a journey to our next location, so stop for a coffee to refuel. Carl Clay—a playwright, director, and filmmaker—founded Black Spectrum Theatre Company as a traveling theatrical troupe in 1970. He is now its executive producer. Since that time, Black Spectrum has grown into a multifaceted performing arts and media company that has produced and presented over 150 plays, 30 films, and numerous works of music, dance, and performance art. Black Spectrum Theatre is the recipient of ten AUDELCO Awards and three National Black Theatre Festival Awards for excellence in African-American theatre. Make a night of it and catch an evening performance, or on Sundays they run matinees at 4pm.



177-01 Baisley Boulevard
Jamaica, NY 11434
Nearest subway: E/J/Z, and
then the Q84/Q85 bus
@blackspectrumofficial

Photo credit: Donna F. Aceto with kind permission from Black Spectrum Theatre Company

Langston Hughes Residence

We've arrived in Manhattan, home to 230,000 African Americans, and we're heading straight to Harlem. Langston Hughes, celebrated poet and leading figure of the Harlem Renaissance Cultural Movement, lived on the top floor of this Harlem rowhouse from 1947 to 1967. While here, Hughes wrote many notable works centered around African-American life and culture, including *Montage of a Dream Deferred* and *I Wonder as I Wander*.

Unfortunately this designated city landmark is not open to the public, but there is a plaque outside that reads: Hughes said that Harlem was the source of his literary inspiration, and he spent the last twenty years of his life in this building writing poetry, nonfiction, humor and musical compositions.



20 E 127 St, New York,
New York 10035
Nearest subway: 2/3



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via Wikimedia Commons

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

We don't have far to go for the next on the list. One of the most influential forces behind the creation of The New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture is the man the research center is named after, Arturo Alfonso Schomburg. Born in Puerto Rico in 1874 to a Black mother and a father of German descent, young Arturo often wondered about the lack of African history taught in his classrooms. This interest formed the cornerstone of Schomburg's eventual lifework consisting of research and preservation—work that would lead him to become one of the world's premier collectors of Black literature, slave narratives, artwork, and diasporic materials.



515 Malcolm X
Boulevard (135th St
and Malcolm X Blvd)
New York, NY 10037
Nearest subway: 2/3
@schomburgcenter



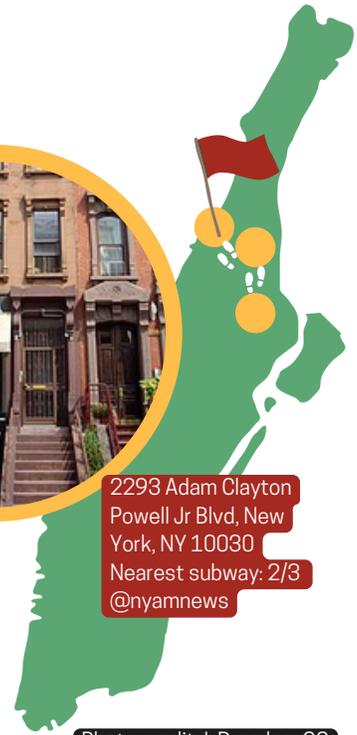
The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, one of The New York Public Library's renowned research libraries, is a world-leading cultural institution devoted to the research, preservation, and exhibition of materials focused on African American, African Diaspora, and African experiences. Check the website for upcoming exhibitions:
<https://www.nypl.org/locations/schomburg>

Photo credit: Dmadeo, CC
BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia
Commons

The New York Amsterdam News Building

Literally around the corner, you can walk to the next stop on our tour. The New York Amsterdam News Building is a historic rowhouse at 2293 Seventh Avenue in the Harlem neighborhood of Manhattan, New York City. It is historically significant as the publishing home of the New York Amsterdam News between 1916 and 1938. During this period, the newspaper became one of the nation's most influential publications covering African-American issues.

It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976. The Amsterdam News now publishes out of a building at 2340 Frederick Douglass Boulevard.



2293 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd, New York, NY 10030
Nearest subway: 2/3
@nyamnews

Photo credit: I, Dmadeo, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Hunts Point Slave Burial Ground

Hello Bronx, home to just under 500,000 African Americans. In 2014, after discovering a black-and-white photograph captured at the turn of the 20th century, a group of teachers, students and historians uncovered a lost slave burial ground at Drake Park in the Bronx. On the front of the photo, deteriorating gravestones sit in a patch of grass; on the back, "Slave burying ground Hunts Point Road" is written in cursive. There are said to be 10 to 40 enslaved African descendants buried at this ancestral site.

Hpsbg.weebly.com

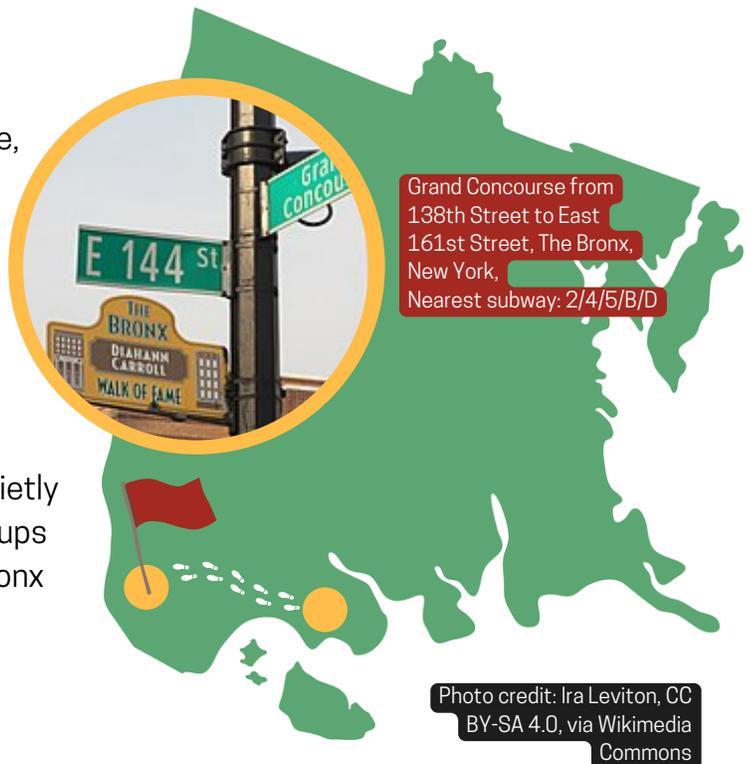


Oak Point Ave. (bet. Hunts Point Ave. and Longfellow Ave.), the Bronx,
Nearest subway: 2/6

Photo credit: Jayu from Harrisburg, PA, U.S.A., CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Bronx Walk of Fame

We now recommend the Bronx Walk of Fame, a 23-block corridor along the Grand Concourse, one of the main boulevards in the Bronx, with street signs honoring people who have lived in the borough and had worthy accomplishments. Individuals selected for honor frequently have been celebrities in artistic fields, but there also have been relative "unknowns" who have quietly made their mark on society, and several groups have also been honored. Elections to the Bronx Walk of Fame are held annually.



Sandy Ground Ferry

Staten Island, home to over 46,000 African Americans and “the greenest borough” in New York with over 170 parks! You might not know it, but Staten Island has a very interesting African American history. Start with a trip on the Staten Island Ferry from Manhattan. If you can get a ride on the “Sandy Ground” ferry, even better!

The Sandy Ground is the first Staten Island Ferry boat named to honor the rich history of Black New Yorkers living on Staten Island.



Sandy Ground Ferry (cont.)

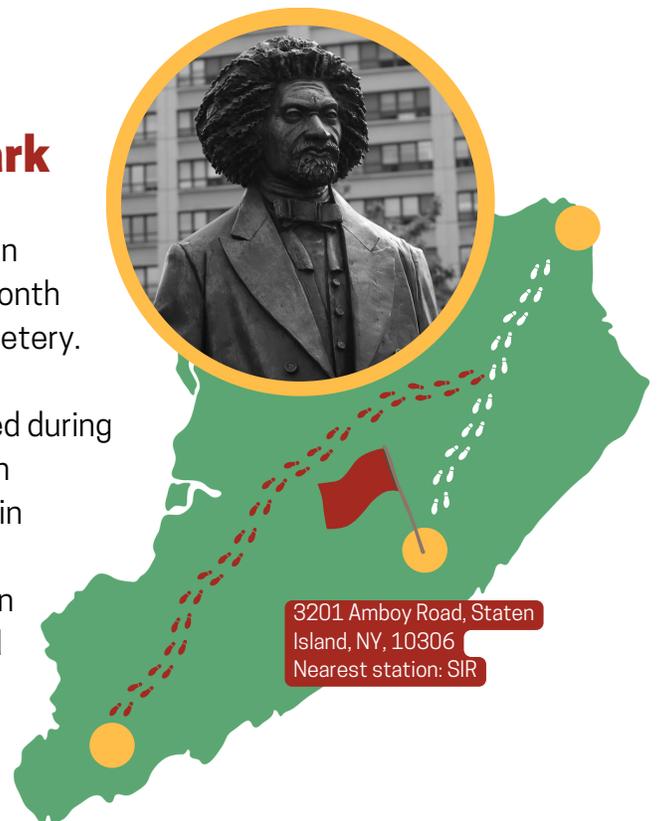
Sandy Ground was settled in 1833 by African-American oystermen fleeing the restrictive industry laws of Maryland. Located at Bloomingdale Road, between Rossville and Charleston, it became the first free black community in New York. Originally known as Harrisville and later renamed Little Africa, Sandy Ground received its current designation for the poor quality of soil in the area.

Unfortunately the Sandy Ground Historical Society is temporarily closed, but when it reopens it is well worth a visit; the society has run a museum on the site for more than ten years that retains the largest documentary collection of African-American culture and history on Staten Island. The museum preserves material related to the historic town, as well as letters, photographs, film, art, rare books, quilts and other archaeological artifacts.

Frederick Douglass Memorial Park

Head over to the Frederick Douglass Memorial Park in Oakwood Heights where we end our Black History Month tour. It is New York City's only African American cemetery.

The Frederick Douglass Memorial Park was conceived during the depression years of the early 30s and founded in response to the custom of segregation of the dead in cemeteries on a basis of race, by Rodney Dade. Dade was a leader in his community and a well-known and respected Harlem funeral director who dreamed of a burial park where "my People will enjoy the dignity they deserve". It has burial sites for numerous prominent African Americans; pioneering journalists, athletes, musicians, performers, political leaders, and business people.



The African American Planning Commission Inc. (AAPCI), is a New York City-based 501(c) (3), nonprofit organization committed to reducing homelessness and addressing the related issues of domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, mental health disorders, substance abuse, shortage of senior housing, and unemployment in the communities in which we live and serve.