February marks the start of Black History Month, a time of celebration and reflection on the historical contributions of Black Americans. More importantly, it also serves as a time to consider the systemic injustices still harming Black and Brown peoples across this city, state, and nation, and recommit ourselves to pursuing true equality under the law.

This year’s theme is “African American and the Arts,” a nod toward both the artistic accomplishments of Black Americans and their profound impacts on the culture of the United States and globe. This rich history of artistic and cultural movements includes the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920’s, the Black Arts Movement that emerged in the 1960’s, the birth of Hip-hop in 1973, and Afro-futurism, a term produced in the 90’s to describe artistic and cultural pieces that depict a future of freedom for Black people.

Columbus is home to a rich history of Black Artists, including Aminah Robinson, a MacArthur Genius Grant recipient whose work centered on the African American experience of racism and discrimination, and Elijah Pierce, one the preeminent artists of his time whose works depicted issues such as the Civil Rights movement and systemic racism. Art and culture are one way to reclaim and retell the narrative of Black Americans; to display our tenacity, conviction, and faith, among so much else. By celebrating African Americans in the arts, we celebrate our rich history and commit ourselves toward a future where racial oppression no longer holds us back.

In the rest of this newsletter, you will read more about happenings in the City Council and in my Office. As always, I represent you and would love to hear your thoughts! Please feel free to reach out to my office via email at snjindal@columbus.gov or knasiedu@columbus.gov.

Did you Know...

You can find a list of Black-owned businesses operating in Columbus by checking out a list Experience Columbus has put together: Black-Owned Local Businesses in Columbus (experiencecolumbus.com)
Celebrating Black Artists

To celebrate Black History Month, I will be highlighting Black artists throughout Columbus on my Social Media accounts. One way we can support Black artists in the community is by uplifting their work and raising awareness of the issues they are presenting in their pieces. I hope you all stay posted and check out some of the amazing Black artists in Columbus!

You can follow along by following any of my social media accounts:

Facebook: Shayla D. Favor
X (Previously Twitter): sdfavor
Instagram: Shaylafavor

How to Get Involved!

There are a host of events throughout the month of February to gain more insight into the spirit of Black History Month, and to gain a deeper historical perspective of Black-Americans’ achievements and cultural contributions to the United States. Here are a few resources you might find helpful:

1. Ohio History Connection: Celebrate Black History Month 2024 - Ohio History Connection

The Ohio History Connection is offering an array of in-person and virtual events throughout February to honor Black History Month. These events touches on topics including early abolitionists and Black Women in poetry. Check out their website for more information!

2. Black History Festivals: Black History Festival – Black History Festival (blackhistoryfestivals.com)

The City of Columbus is proud to be a key partner for the Black History Festival, an event that celebrates African heritage and fosters a space for cultural exchange. This event will take place February 22nd to 24th. For more information and registration details, check out their website!

3. Black History Month Program: February 16th from 10a-12p at the Lincoln Theatre

The City of Columbus is excited hold its annual Black History Month program, where the 2024 Poindexter Award recipient(s) will be announced. Please join us for this event to celebrate!

4. Give that Girl the Mic: Eryn Pink | Give That Girl the Mic

This event was created to promote sisterhood and supports girls to take the stage to boost their self-confidence and showcase their talents to the community. The talent showcase will take place on February 10th, 2024 and tickets are now on sale!
5. **Support Black Businesses**

According to Pew research, only about 3% of businesses are Black-owned, yet we comprise 12% of the nation’s population. We know this discrepancy is due to economic disparities that prevent Black-Americans from being able to open their own businesses, and we must work towards eliminating that barrier. Supporting Black-owned businesses are just one way of doing so.

*These are just a few examples of ways to celebrate Black History Month, and I highly encourage everyone to participate in ways that are meaningful to themselves!*

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**What we’re reading:**

The Ohio Capital Journal:
Ohio transgender adults speak against proposed administrative rules that would change health care - Ohio Capital Journal

Columbus Underground:
Ohio CEOs made less in 2022. They still got hundreds of times more than the median worker

NBC4i:
Ohio state school board running out of money, may not make payroll by June (nbc4i.com)

NBC4i:
'Serial killings' among Columbus Ohio homicides in 2023 (nbc4i.com)

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**In the Community**

Locked Out Film Screening & Discussion, January 11th

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Shayla D. Favor  sfavor  shaylafavor
Tour of National Veterans Memorial, January 31st

Tour of Integrated Services for Behavioral Health, January 29th