

Dr. Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair
 Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller
 Ms. Mary Blanco
 Dr. Steve Gallon III
 Ms. Luisa Santos

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**SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZES FEBRUARY 2024 AS NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY
MONTH TO BE CELEBRATED IN ALL MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS)**

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED, & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

The celebration of black history on a national level first began in February 1926, in large part thanks to the efforts to the great American historian, Dr. Carter G. Woodson. His efforts led to the national observance of Black History Week. This week became the time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions by African Americans to this nation. In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial celebration, Black History Week became Black History Month.

Every United States President since 1976 has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. The Association for the Study of American Life and History (ASALH), founded by Dr. Woodson, for many years has helped lead the annual National Black History Month celebration. Every year, Black History Month is given a national theme by the ASALH. The 2024 Black History Month theme, *African Americans and the Arts*, explores the key influence African Americans have had in the fields of "visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary, and other forms of cultural expression."

African American art, deeply rooted in the fusion of African, Caribbean, and Black American lived experiences, permeates a myriad of cultural expressions, spanning visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language film, music, architecture, culinary arts, and more. Despite historical denial and appropriation, a continuous thread of Black artistic production has persisted from ancient times, shaping global trends. Enslaved Africans in the Lowcountry pioneered sweetgrass basketry, laying the foundation for visual artistry in craft. From spirituals born out of bondage to the blues influencing genres like gospel and soul, Black contributions to music have been transformative.

Literature showcases poets like Phyllis Wheatley and writers such as David Walker, while sculptors like Edmonia Lewis and painters like Henry O. Tanner embody Black aesthetics. The

20th century saw cultural movements like the Harlem Renaissance and Black Arts Movement, propelled by luminaries such as Langston Hughes and Alvin Ailey. Hip-Hop emerging in the Bronx in 1973, became a powerful force addressing societal issues. Afrofuturism envisions a liberated future, evident in the works of Octavia Butler and the Marvel film Black Panther. As we celebrate African American arts, the ASALH's 98th Annual Black History Theme illuminates the rich past and present, anticipating the cultural contributions that will define the twenty-first century.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's Office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognize February 2024 as National Black History Month and join in celebrating National Black History Month in all Miami-Dade County Public Schools.