

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; celebrated nationwide since 1976, Black History Month was borne out of historian Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse E. Moorland's efforts to research and promote Black achievement in the early 1900s, as well as the subsequent nationwide call for racial equality that defined the civil rights movement of the 1960s; and

WHEREAS; Black History Month encourages Americans to celebrate the countless scientific, artistic, economic, entrepreneurial, and intellectual contributions of Black Americans and to recognize the collective struggle for full citizenship, equity, inclusion, and justice that Black Americans have endured throughout the nation's history; and

WHEREAS; as designated by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), this year's Black History Month theme is "African Americans and the Arts," recognizing the artistic, musical, literary, and cultural prominence of Black creators, from the literary stylings of Langston Hughes, James Baldwin, and Maya Angelou to the musical selections of Aretha Franklin and B.B King, and Jean-Michel Basquiat's and Joshua Johnson's revolutionary artwork, among so many others; and

WHEREAS; in reflecting on the collective past of the state and nation, it is clear that the crimes and struggles of our ancestors cannot be separated from our modern history and that many of the injustices and inequities that Black Americans have historically endured have nevertheless remained deeply entrenched in our culture and institutions; and

WHEREAS; while celebrating Black art and culture during this Black History Month, the state of Wisconsin also reaffirms its commitment to working alongside community leaders and activists to address the inequities experienced by Black Wisconsinites throughout the state and to supporting their overall success and well-being now and for generations to come; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins all Wisconsinites in celebrating Black History Month and Black excellence, in demanding justice, equity, and accountability for Black lives across the state and country, and in honoring the important work being done in Wisconsin's communities to create a more inclusive, equitable, and just state where every family, kid, and community can thrive;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim February 2024 as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin, and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 29th day of December 2023.

Tony Evers
TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

Sarah Godlewski
SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State