



OUR STORIES, OUR SHELVES

MLA • DLA Conference 2026

Don't Miss!



50/50 RAFFLE

Tickets are \$1 each and can be purchased from **Conni Strittmatter** or **David Dahl!** The winner takes home half the pot.



PUB QUIZ

Thursday, May 7
8:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Choptank Ballroom



SILENT AUCTION

Visit the Silent Auction in the exhibitor hall to place your bids **before 10:45 a.m. on Friday, May 8th.**



KARAOKE

Thursday, May 7
8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Windjammer



OUR STORIES, OUR SHELVES

MLA • DLA Conference 2026

Black History Lives Here: Telling Our Stories



PRESENTERS:

Rubab Azeem & Julia Hughey
Adult Services Department

May 6-8, 2026 | Cambridge, MD

Program Overview

- How did the Black History Living Interactive Museum originate?
- What is Black History Living Interactive Museum?
- What is the program's format, objective, and intended audience?



Ms. Jonette Bost participating in the annual Barrett Elementary Black History Month Living Interactive Museum

THE STEEL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
& BARRETT ELEMENTARY PRESENT

BLACK HISTORY MONTH LIVING INTERACTIVE MUSEUM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27
DOORS OPEN AT 12:30 P.M.
221 EAST 12TH AVENUE
HOMESTEAD, PA 15120

EXHIBITS & ACTIVITIES

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF HISTORY, CULTURE, AND FAMILIES THROUGH ARTWORK, EXHIBITS, PORTRAYALS OF HISTORIC AND CULTURAL FIGURES BY STUDENTS AND ALUMNI, MUSIC, AND MORE.

www.steelvalleysd.org



HOMESTEAD

Black history comes to life at Barrett Elementary through interactive museum

By Shaylah Brown
4 Min Read • Feb. 23, 2024 | 2 years Ago



Go Ad-Free today



Courtesy Andrew Chiappazzi

Phyllis Wheatley, portrayed by Bonita Penn, speaks with elementary students at Barrett Elementary in Homestead about her life and her poetry as part of the school's annual Black History Month Living Interactive Museum on Thursday.



Program Overview Continued

Black History Living Museum is an interactive, educational experience where participants portray Black American figures (local and national), bringing historical moments to life through performances, attire, and storytelling.



Program Overview Continued

FORMAT

- Interactive “Wax Museum” where figures come to life with a 60–90 second monologue when activated by visitors.

OBJECTIVE

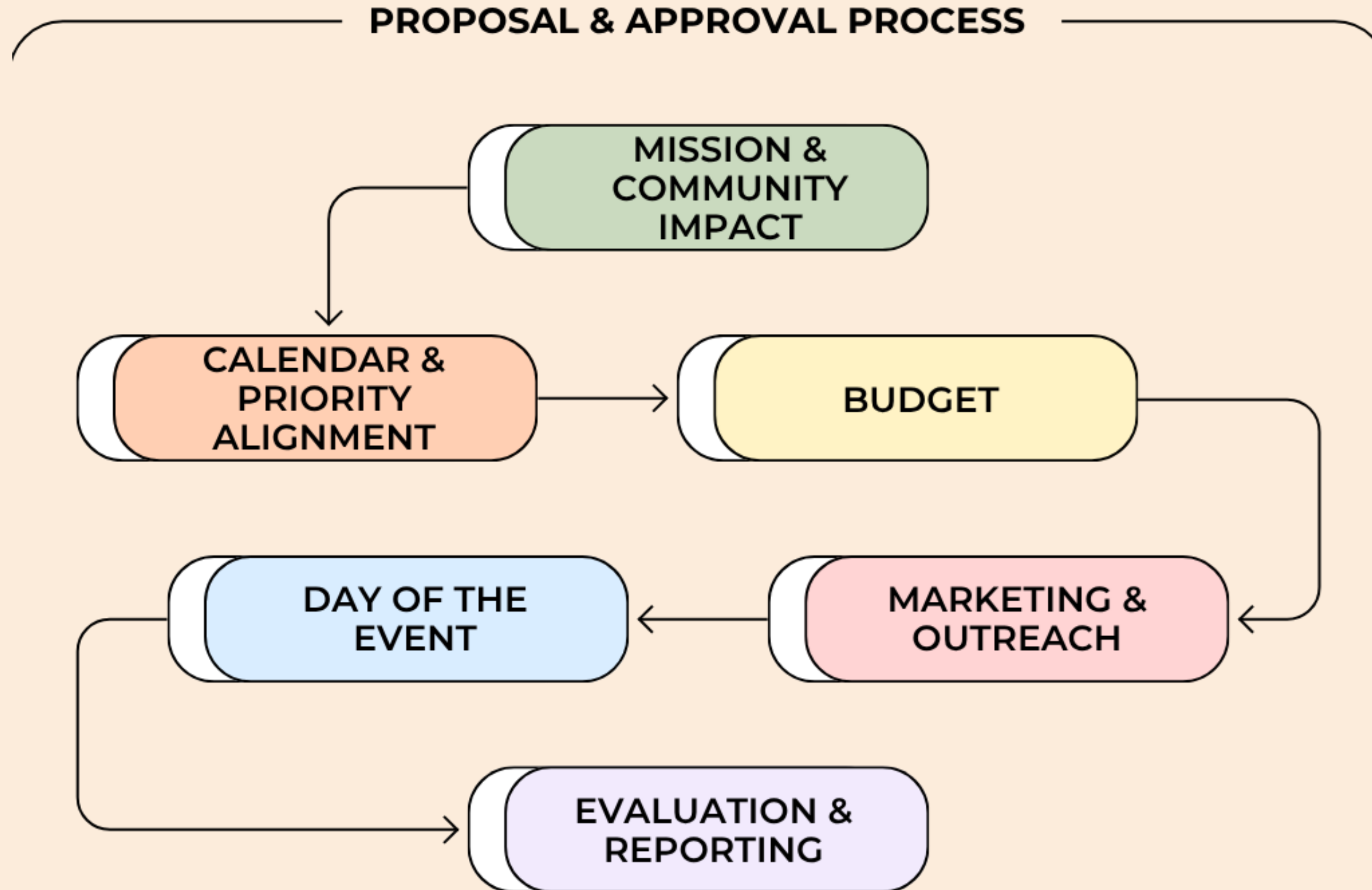
- Research-based exhibits are supported by display boards with timelines, images, and artifacts to ensure historical accuracy.

AUDIENCE

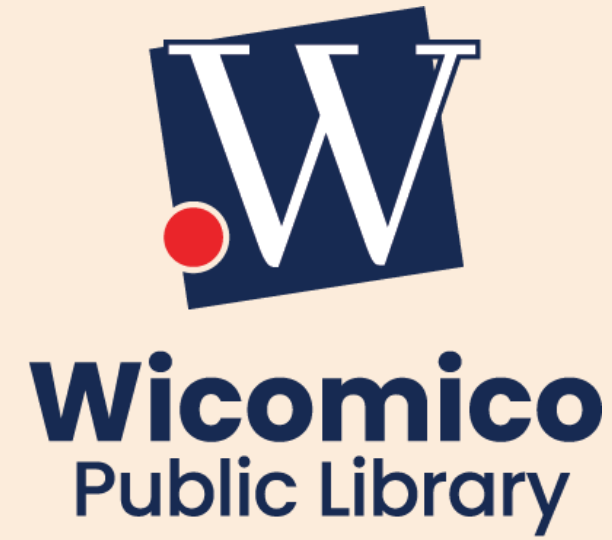
- Engages visitors through live Q&A, encouraging interaction and deeper understanding.



Moving the Idea Forward



Step 1-Mission & Community Impact



Mission

Innovate. Educate. Inspire.

Vision

Wicomico County Public Library is an inclusive, welcoming community resource that strives to meet the diverse needs of all Wicomico County citizens.

Step 2-Calendar & Priority Alignment

Proposal Key Pillars: Alignment, Feasibility, Flexibility



Step 3: Budget

Costs:

- Supplies
- Marketing materials
- Volunteer appreciation lunch/swag

*Volunteer-driven, low-cost program

Limited funding, alternative options:

- Small grants
- Community sponsorships
- In-kind donations
- Existing program funds

*Not financially restrictive



Planning & Promotion

The program was organized around three key areas:

- Logistics
- Marketing
- Community Outreach

Logistics:

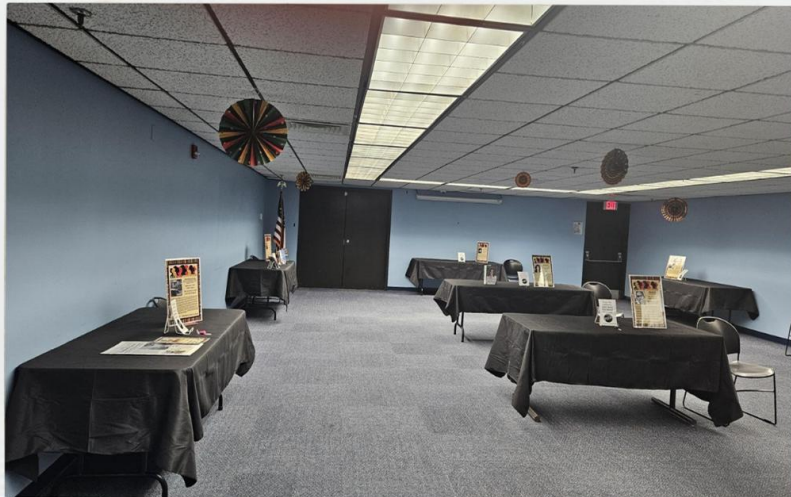
- Early planning after approval
- Reserved large meeting room
- Secured tables, podiums, and projectors
- Reduced last-minute issues and costs

Step 4: Marketing & Outreach

- Multi-channel approach
- Library events calendar
- Press release to local newspapers
- Flyers created with marketing team
- Materials designed using Canva



Planning & Promotion Continued



VENUE



Paul S. Sarbanes Branch

(410) 749-3812
Monday - Thursday: 10am - 7pm
Friday - Saturday: 10am - 5pm
Sunday: 1pm - 5pm

THURSDAY GAMING
THU: 8/27, 7/25 & 8/22;
4:00PM - 6:00PM
Come play your favorite Switch board games at the Sarbanes Branch! A selection of board games will also be available. Open to middle and high school students.

TEEN STEAM
WED: 7/3, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24 & 7/31;
2:00PM - 4:00PM
Every Wednesday in July join us in our STEAM Studio to check out our technology and learn something new. Each week we'll feature a different technology - digital illustration, 3D printing, stop motion animation, and more! All middle and high school students are invited to attend. Plus, step into meeting room 8 for pizza and to get creative with STEAM!

ADULT YOGA WITH SOUL YOGA*
WED: 6/5, 6/26, 7/3 & 7/17;
4:30PM - 6:30PM
Come join Soul Yoga's instructor Lauren Gilmore for a free adult yoga class! Participants will learn the fundamentals of yoga while exploring how it can benefit them. Grab a friend or family member to experience and learn together. *Participants are to bring their own towel or yoga mat.*

COMPUTER TUTOR

BLACK HISTORY LIVING MUSEUM*
SAT, JUN. 8, 1:00PM - 4:00PM
Our Living History Museum is an immersive experience showcasing the accomplishments of notable national and local African Americans brought to life through short biographical presentations. The Living History Museum highlights the many contributions of African Americans of all degrees of recognizability across disciplines - arts, sciences, politics, entertainment, and sports. Registration is preferred, but walk-ins are also welcome.

BLACK HISTORY LIVING MUSEUM

Registration is preferred, but walk-ins are also welcome.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14th | 1 - 4 PM | **SARBANES BRANCH**
122 SOUTH DIVISION ST
SALISBURY, MD 21801

Visitors will get a glimpse into the lives and achievements of African Americans, past and present.

For more information contact: jrhughes@wicomico.org or raasem@wicomico.org

BAY TO BAY NEWS

DAILY STATE NEWS

DAILY STATE NEWS | MILFORD-HARRINGTON | MIDDLETOWN-ARYLINA | MILLSBORO-LONG NECK
DOVER | CRISFIELD-SOMERSET | SALISBURY | GEORGETOWN

Step into the past at the Black History Living Museum event in Salisbury

Published Friday, April 24, 2024 7:30 pm

Salisbury Independent

SALISBURY — Immerse yourself in the lives and accomplishments of African American figures at the Black History Living Museum, hosted by the Wicomico Public Library on Saturday, June 8, 2024, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Paul S. Sarbanes Branch. This free event is a unique opportunity for the community to learn about the influential figures of African American history through live presentations.

Celebrate the remarkable contributions of African Americans across various fields such as arts, sciences, politics, and more. This event is perfect for families, students, and anyone interested in the powerful stories of African American heroes.

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ONE MAN'S VISION

40 DCF

FLYER

LIBRARY'S INSPIRE MAGAZINE

BLACK HISTORY LIVING MUSEUM

Visitors will get a glimpse into the lives and achievements of African Americans, past and present.

SAT, JUNE 14, 1-4PM
SARBANES BRANCH
122 S. DIVISION ST
SALISBURY, MD 21801

3D PRINTED KEY CHAINS

BLACK HISTORY LIVING MUSEUM

Visitors will get a glimpse into the lives and achievements of African Americans, past and present.

SAT, JUNE 14, 1-4PM
SARBANES BRANCH
122 S. DIVISION ST
SALISBURY, MD 21801

BOOKMARKS

Black History Living History Museum

June 14th
1-4pm

SARBANES BRANCH
122 SOUTH DIVISION ST
SALISBURY, MD 21801

BUTTONS

PRESS RELEASE

BLACK HISTORY LIVING MUSEUM

MEET THE CAST

BERNADETTE

Charles Albert Tinley and a share a meaningful bond - we are both natives of Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore. That connection alone made my choice clear. As a Black woman, I am deeply familiar with the struggles that Black Americans have long faced in this region. In learning more about her, Tinley, I was truly inspired by all he was able to accomplish despite the immense adversity he encountered. His life is a powerful reminder of a lesson instilled in many of us from a young age: never give up, and always strive toward the highest goal.

TO REGISTER: **SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH**
1 - 4 PM
PAUL S. SARBANES LIBRARY
122 SOUTH DIVISION ST
SALISBURY, MD 21801

BLACK HISTORY LIVING MUSEUM

MEET THE CAST

KEVIN

I chose to portray Frank Robinson because, as someone who played Little League and Junior Varsity baseball, I admire his strength, perseverance, and leadership both on and off the field. He broke barriers as the first Black manager in Major League Baseball and played the game with unmatched passion and integrity. His legacy inspires me to believe that with hard work and courage, you can change the game - just like he did.

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122 SOUTH DIVISION ST
SALISBURY, MD 21801

BLACK HISTORY LIVING MUSEUM

MEET THE CAST

UNTIA

I chose Untia Morrison not just because I can relate to her through being an author and novelist but I had a moment when I read Beloved, The Bluest Eye, and The Song of Solomon these collective works written by Ms. Morrison changed the views I had about a time of life I never experienced. When a writer has the power to make you feel the pain, sorrow, and struggle of human nature that is quite simply prolific.

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BLACK HISTORY LIVING MUSEUM

MEET THE CAST

LEONA

I chose Serena Williams because I love watching tennis with my Grandma.

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SALISBURY, MD 21801

BLACK HISTORY LIVING MUSEUM

MEET THE CAST

LAURA

I'm a public librarian currently pursuing my Master's in Library and Information Science. My passion for intellectual freedom, the right to access information from all perspectives without restriction, inspired me to present on Elba Baker Baker, a behind-the-scenes leader in the Civil Rights Movement, began her career in libraries. She played a pivotal role in organizing Freedom Summer, which led to the creation of Freedom Libraries - community libraries established to serve Black communities.

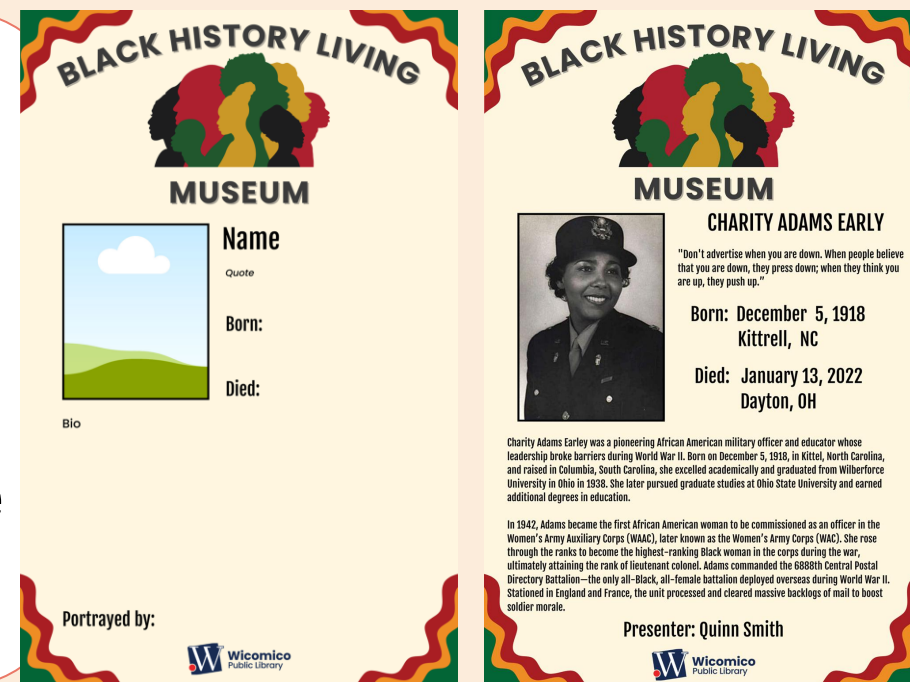
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122 SOUTH DIVISION ST
SALISBURY, MD 21801

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Participants & Partnerships

- Identified and reached out to participants
 - Primarily via email
 - Google Docs for coordination & scripts
- Built on community trust
- Tips for other libraries:
 - Start with familiar community voices
 - Keep expectations clear and simple

Volunteers researched and presented historical figures through storytelling, using props, outfits, and visual elements to enhance audience engagement.



Historical Figure Selection Resource

- Areas of Interest:
 - Literature
 - Science
 - Engineering/Inventors
 - Arts
 - Social Sciences
 - Sports
 - Business
 - Medical
 - Maryland Heroes

BHLM 2025

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Extensions Help

Menus 100% Times ... 14 B I A

A1 Literature


	A	B	C	D	E
1	Literature	Volunteer Name	Science	Volunteer Name	Engineering/Inventors
2	Octavia Butler		Alice Ball*		Mark Dean
3	Amanda Gorman		Ernest Everett Just		Lonnie Johnson
4	Robert Abbott *		Mae C. Jemison		Patricia Bath
5	Richard Wright		Katherine Johnson*		James E. West
6	James Baldwin		Guion Bluford		Marie van Brittan Brown*
7	Ta-Nehisi Coates		Otis Boykin		Garrett Morgan
8	Langston Hughes		Dorothy Vaughan		McKinley Jones
9	Ishmael Reed		Herman Branson		Alexander Miles
10	Mary Church Terrell		William Warrick Cardozo		Lewis Latimer
11	Colson Whitehead		George Carruthers		Sarah Goode
12	Paul Laurence Dunbar		Emmett Chappelle		Valerie Thomas
13	Lorraine Hansberry		Jewel Plummer Cobb		Dr. Marie Maynard Daly
14	James Weldon Johnson		Margaret Collins		Bessie Blount Griffin
15	Phillis Wheatley		Rebecca Lee Crumpler		Sarah E. Goode
16	James Cone		Christine Darden*		Alice H. Parker
17	W.E.B. Dubois*		Marie Daly		Dr. Gladys West
18	Brooker T. Washington		Charles c Richard Drew		Marian Croak
19	Sojourner Truth*		Victor J. Glover, Jr		Lisa Gelobter
20	Tomi Adeyemi		Frank S. Greene		Miriam E. Benjamin
21	Renee Watson		Alexa Canady		Frederick McKinley Jones (1893-19
22			Daniel Hale Williams		Fred Jones

+ ≡ Historical Figures Volunteers Contacts


Historical Figure Information Form

- Name & Email
- Chosen Historical Figure
- Birth & Death Details (dates/locations)
- Brief Childhood Summary (3 sentences max.)
- Key Accomplishments
- Biggest Achievement & How It Was Achieved
- Family Information (if applicable)
- What They're Best Known For
- Honors & Recognitions (monuments, awards, etc.)
- 3 Interesting Facts

BLACK HISTORY LIVING



MUSEUM



CHARITY ADAMS EARLY

"Don't advertise when you are down. When people believe that you are down, they press down; when they think you are up, they push up."


Born: December 5, 1918
Kittrell, NC

Died: January 13, 2022
Dayton, OH

Charity Adams Earley was a pioneering African American military officer and educator whose leadership broke barriers during World War II. Born on December 5, 1918, in Kittel, North Carolina, and raised in Columbia, South Carolina, she excelled academically and graduated from Wilberforce University in Ohio in 1938. She later pursued graduate studies at Ohio State University and earned additional degrees in education.

In 1942, Adams became the first African American woman to be commissioned as an officer in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), later known as the Women's Army Corps (WAC). She rose through the ranks to become the highest-ranking Black woman in the corps during the war, ultimately attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel. Adams commanded the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion—the only all-Black, all-female battalion deployed overseas during World War II. Stationed in England and France, the unit processed and cleared massive backlogs of mail to boost soldier morale.

Presenter: Quinn Smith



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Program Execution Overview

- Timeline
- Volunteers
- Attendees

MARYLAND AT ITS BEST

Rudolph C. Cane
First Black man to represent Maryland's Eastern Shore in the Maryland House of Delegates.

Reginald F. Lewis
Pioneering businessman and philanthropist, known for becoming the first African American to build a billion-dollar company, TFC Beatrice International, and for his significant contributions to advancing diversity in corporate America.

Mary Gladys Jones
A dedicated educator and community leader known for her lifelong commitment to improving access to education in her hometown.

Frank Robinson
First Black manager in Major League Baseball and the first Black manager for the Baltimore Orioles

Nathaniel (Uncle Nace) Hopkins
Union Army soldier, founder of Trappe's first Black school, and initiator of Emancipation Day in Talbot County.

Verda Freeman Welcome
Teacher, civil rights activist, and one of the first Black women to be elected to Maryland State Senate.

BLACK HISTORY LIVING MUSEUM

Visitors will get a glimpse into the lives and achievements of African Americans, past and present.

June 14, 2025

Welcome to our special presentation of the Black Living History Museum. We appreciate your attendance today and hope you find the program enjoyable, engaging, and educational.

The Library recognizes the diversity of community interests and needs and selects programs accordingly.

Thank you!
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS & STAFF

Wicomico Public Library
WICOMICOLIBRARY.ORG



NOBLE DREW ALI
Founder of the Moorish Science Temple of America.
Presenter: Tyrone Hughey

CHARITY ADAMS EARLY
The highest-ranking African American woman in the U.S. Army during World War II, leading the trailblazing 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion in Europe.
Presenter: Quinn Smith

JACKIE ROBINSON
Broke Major League Baseball's color barrier in 1947, becoming a legendary athlete and a powerful symbol of the civil rights movement.
Presenter: Alton White

ELLA BAKER
Pioneering civil rights activist and grassroots organizer.
Presenter: Laura Toner

MAMIE SMITH
Groundbreaking blues singer and the first African American artist to record a vocal blues track, paving the way for future generations in music.
Presenter: Dr. Nicole Gale

ALICE BALL
A pioneering chemist who developed the first effective treatment for leprosy using injectable chaulmoogra oil.
Presenter: Demetria Marshall-Leonard

CHARLES ALBERT TINDLEY
A pioneering African American gospel composer and minister whose powerful hymns laid the foundation for modern gospel music.
Presenter: Bernadette Cannady

MARIE VAN BRITTAN BROWN
Co-created the first home security system in 1966, laying the groundwork for modern surveillance and alarm technology.
Presenter: Cheryl Price

HATTIE MCDANIEL
Trailblazing actress who made history as the first African American to win an Academy Award, earning the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her role in Gone with the Wind.
Presenter: Cheryl Nardiello

W.E.B. DU BOIS
Renowned scholar, civil rights activist, and co-founder of the NAACP.
Presenter: Harold Boynes

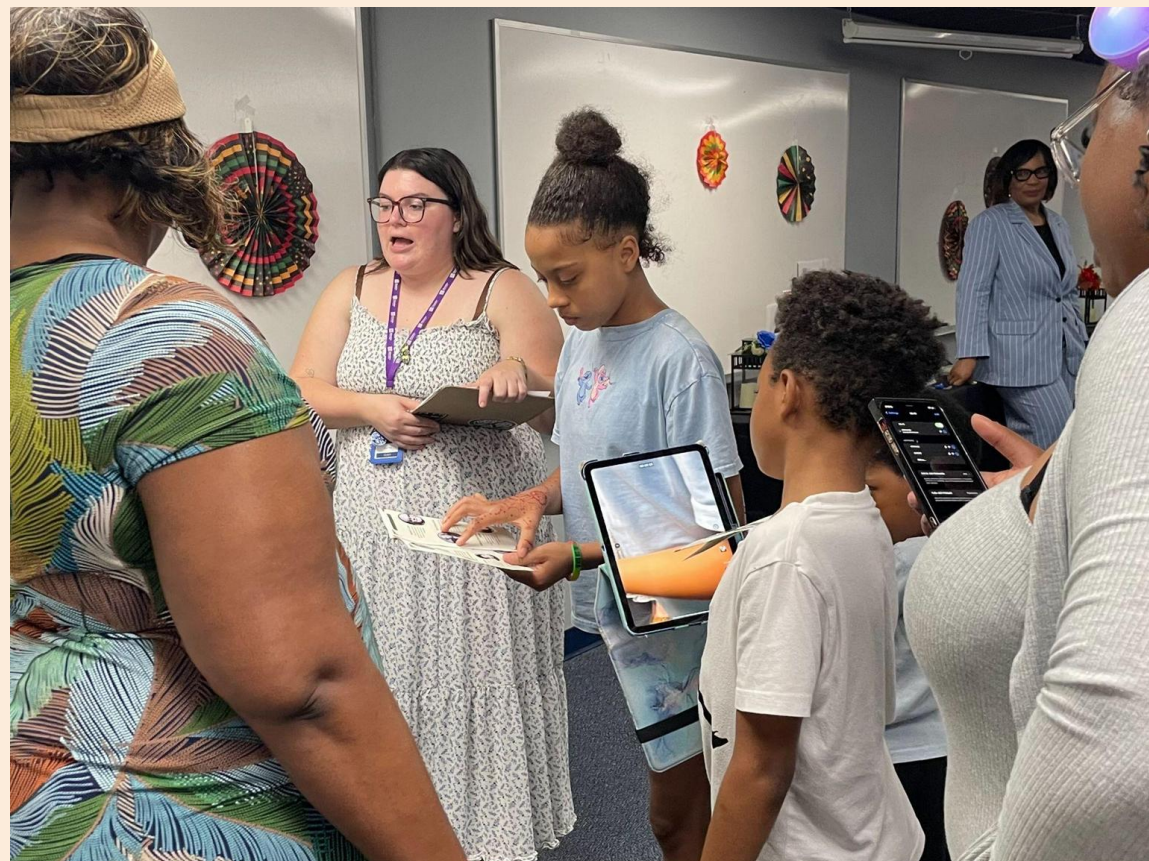
AGATHA JONES POLK
A dedicated educator and community leader who made significant contributions to public health and the advancement of nursing in her community.
Presenter: James Polk, Jr.

SISTER ROSETTA THRAPPE
A trailblazing gospel singer and guitarist whose electrifying style helped shape the sound of rock and roll.
Presenter: Debra Gaskins

SOJOURNER TRUTH
A fearless abolitionist and women's rights activist who delivered powerful speeches advocating for equality and justice.
Presenter: Tamira Boynes

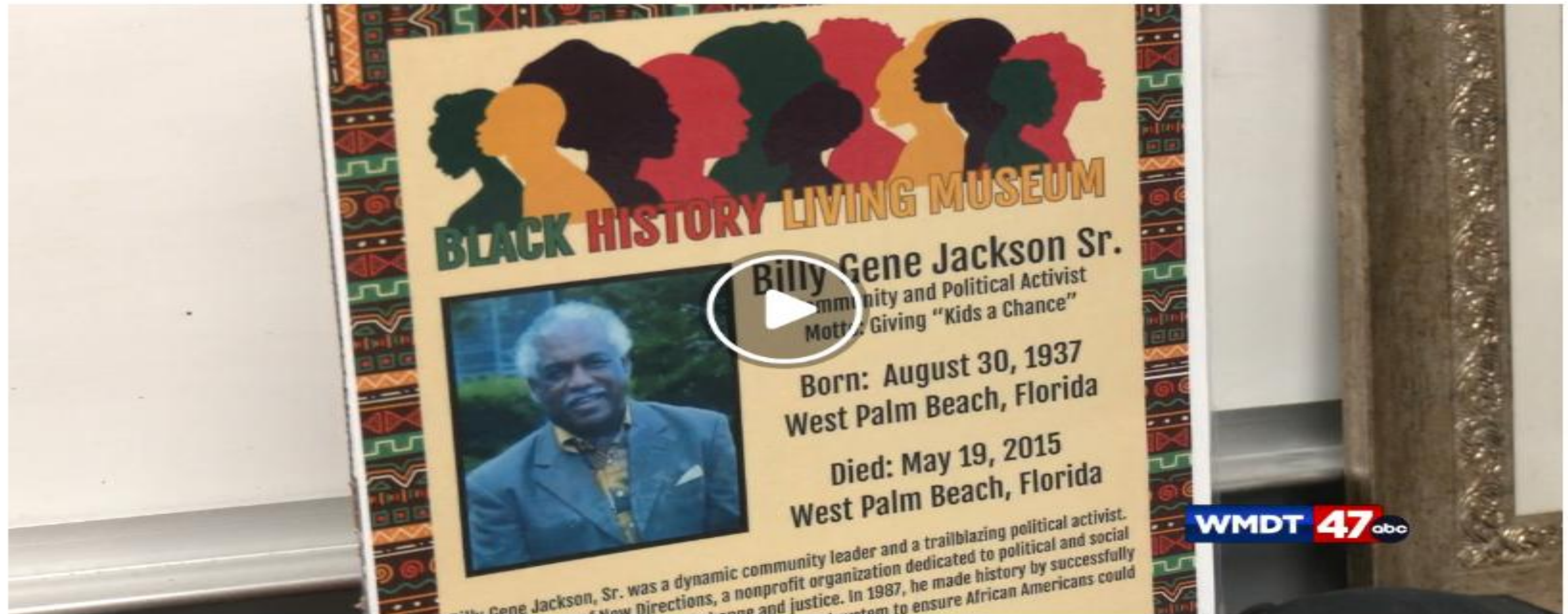


PROGRAM DAY



Wicomico Co. Public Library spotlights Black history through living museum

June 8, 2024 by Leila Weah



SALISBURY, Md. – From inventions, to activism, Black individuals played a substantial role in making Salisbury history what it is today.

BLACK HISTORY



LIVING MUSEUM

**SATURDAY,
JUNE 8th**

1 - 4 PM

**SARBANES BRANCH
122 SOUTH DIVISION ST**

Conclusion

We encourage programming staff to consider the following when developing their own version of this program:

- Start small with manageable, realistic initiatives
- Adapt the program to reflect the needs and interests of your local community
- Place a strong focus on engaging audiences

To reiterate the key strengths of this program, it is:

- Flexible and easily adaptable
- Scalable to fit different sizes, capacities, and budgets
- Community-driven, shaped by the people you serve

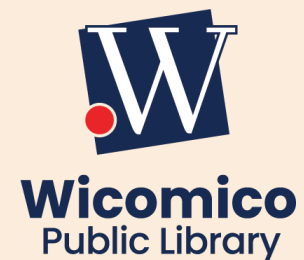


Thank you!

CONTACT INFO

Rubab Azeem
razeem@wicomico.org

Julia Hughey
jhughey@wicomico.org



**Please take a moment to
complete the program survey.**



SCAN ME!



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