

2023 Black History Month – MLB Club Activities

❖ Atlanta Braves

- The Atlanta Braves will commemorate Black History Month by celebrating and honoring the lives of Henry “Hank” Aaron and furthering his life-long mission of increasing diversity in baseball. The Braves are partnering with local Black-interest radio station V103 on the Voices of Influence series, spotlighting Braves legends Hank Aaron, Bill Lucas, and Ralph Garr. The Braves will also host the 3rd annual Ralph Garr-Bill Lucas HBCU Baseball Classic exhibition game between Grambling State University and Florida A&M University.

❖ Baltimore Orioles

- The Orioles will honor Black History Month by providing educational opportunities for local youth from the club’s RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities) and Jr. RBI programs, to learn about the history of Negro League Baseball in Maryland, including the Baltimore Black Sox and Elite Giants, as well as local African American history and culture.

❖ Boston Red Sox

- The Boston Red Sox will kick off Black History Month Tuesday, January 31, with a panel discussion for Boston Public Schools students in 7th and 8th grade for the 20th annual *Jackie Robinson Celebration of Life*, a yearly event that shares the story of the Hall of Famer’s life and impact on baseball on what would have been his 104th birthday. The school visit will include discussions with former Red Sox outfielder Darnell McDonald, Red Sox Hall of Famer Tommy Harper, and Jackie Robinson Scholars.
- From February 21-26, coinciding with school vacation week, the Red Sox and Red Sox Foundation have partnered with the Museum of African American History in Boston and Nantucket to provide free admission and tours for all visitors.
- On February 2, the Red Sox Foundation will host an interactive virtual career panel with members of the club’s Black Employee Resource Group (ERG) who will share information about their career with 8th through 12th grade students who are part of the Red Sox Scholars program, a scholarship and academic support program for Boston Public Schools students run by the Foundation. The Red Sox Scholars will also have the opportunity to attend a special Fenway Park screening of the biographical film *42* about Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson.
- Throughout the month of February, Fenway Park Tours will highlight the history of African American and Black Red Sox players and uniformed personnel and their impact on the club.
- Videos and activity sheets for kids highlighting Pumpsie Green, Jim Rice, and Jackie Robinson will also be available on redsox.com/bhm.

❖ Chicago Cubs

- During the month of February, the Cubs will highlight the history of African American Cubs players and uniformed personnel and their impact on history during all tours provided at Wrigley Field as well as across the club’s social media channels.
- During Cubs Spring Training in Mesa, Arizona, the Cubs will host a session with Cubs minor league players, highlighting the contributions of African American and Afro-Latino players and their impact on history.
- A screening of the documentary “After Jackie” will take place in the month of February for Cubs associates.

❖ **Chicago White Sox**

- The Chicago White Sox will celebrate Black History Month by launching the club's annual Jackie Robinson Student Contest, inviting students to display their creativity and passion for baseball history through artwork and creative content submissions.
- In partnership with TikTok historian Shermann Dilla Thomas (@6figga_dilla) and Chicago Mahogany Tours, the organization held a special tour with members of the White Sox Amateur City Elite (ACE) team to highlight major Chicago landmarks important to the Negro Leagues. Video content from the tour will be shared throughout the month on White Sox social platforms and on whitesox.com. Local African American artist Edo will lead a creative workshop with ACE players, encouraging the young athletes to explore the cultural significance of Black History Month.
- In addition, White Sox social channels will celebrate the success of ACE and highlight historic moments through a series of posts and interactive trivia. *Inside the Sox* blog content will spotlight influential White Sox figures, including Dick Allen, Bob Boyd, Sam Hairston, Minnie Miñoso, Al Smith, Ken Williams, among others.

❖ **Cincinnati Reds**

- The Reds will join the celebration of Black History Month to honor the accomplishments of African-Americans throughout history. At the Reds Hall of Fame & Museum, visitors can take a self-guided tour to explore artifacts and exhibit elements significant to African-American history and learn about notable players and the Cincinnati Tigers Negro League team. Museum visitors will also receive a commemorative Cincinnati Tigers card. The Reds Hall of Fame will also make a visit to a local school to discuss baseball's role in the civil rights movement and the integration in the game. Both the Reds Hall of Fame and Reds Community Fund will host screenings of the documentary film "The Other Boys of Summer," which chronicles the Negro Leagues, followed by a panel discussion on the topic. The Community Fund event will take place on February 15 at the P&G MLB Cincinnati Reds Youth Academy with student-athletes from the Cincinnati RBI program attending, while the Hall of Fame's event will take place on February 16 for visitors. Reds Social Media will be showcasing Reds Hall of Famers and alumni during the month of February, including mobile phone wallpapers for fans to use. Fans are encouraged to visit reds.com/Unity for kids activities honoring Black History Month and to learn more about the Reds commitment to positive change and inclusiveness.

❖ **Detroit Tigers**

- The Tigers and Detroit Red Wings will celebrate Black History by honoring four individuals providing access, opportunity, and year-round support to young people throughout the metro Detroit community. February's "Game Changers" – presented by Comerica Bank – include Kamilia Landrum, the Executive Director of the Detroit Branch NAACP, Rochelle Riley, the Director of Arts and Culture for the City of Detroit, Horace Sheffield, the Executive Director of the Detroit Association of Black Organizations and Stanford Wilkinson, who serves as the Executive Director of DEFY Detroit, a trampoline park experience that promotes individualism and freedom from the norm. Each honoree will have their story documented on the Equality pages of Tigers.com and DetroitRedWings.com throughout Black History Month. They will also be recognized in a pregame reception at the Feb. 23 Red Wings game for Hockey is For Everyone: Black History Night.

❖ **Houston Astros**

- The Astros will host the inaugural Astros Foundation Cactus Jack HBCU Classic at Minute Maid Park the opening weekend of Division I college baseball, Feb. 17-19. The Classic will be the first of its kind held in Houston since the Astros hosted the MLB Urban Invitational in 2013. The nine-game tournament will feature six HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) in Houston-area Texas Southern University, and Prairie View A&M and four schools from neighboring Louisiana and Mississippi - Southern University, Grambling State, Jackson State and Mississippi Valley State University. Each day of the tournament will feature bobblehead giveaways and exciting play, including traditional rivalry games on Saturday, Feb. 18.
- The tournament will also feature exciting off the field events, including a college fair on Saturday, Feb. 18 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Minute Maid Park. The college fair is free to all high school students and their parents and will feature over 100 colleges, universities and military recruiters. Each participating student will receive a ticket to attend the tournament on the day of the event. Then on Sunday, Feb. 19 there will be a Gospel Breakfast at Minute Maid Park's Diamond Club, as fans can enjoy a wonderful Sunday morning of food, gospel music and entertainment, featuring gospel comedian Marcus D. Wiley.

❖ **Kansas City Royals**

- The Kansas City Royals and Royals Charities are encouraging Kansas Citizens, young and old, to celebrate Black History Month by visiting the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. For the second year, Royals Charities will cover the cost for anyone visiting the museum during the month of February.

❖ **Los Angeles Angels**

- The Los Angeles Angels will celebrate Black History Month by engaging local students through their Adopt-A-School program. Students ages 5-12 will be invited to participate in an art contest to show the history of African American players and their impact on the game of baseball. Selected artwork will be featured on Angels Foundation social and community email.

❖ **Los Angeles Dodgers**

- In partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District and the Dodgers Training Academy, the Dodgers will launch Black History Month with an event to raise awareness around health and physical fitness in the Black community, specifically targeting Black middle school students. At the Dodgers Training Academy, attendees will participate in baseball training and conditioning drills, learn about health and nutrition, and engage in a Q & A with Dodger outfielder Trayce Thompson and broadcaster Kirsten Watson.

❖ **Miami Marlins**

- The Miami Marlins along with the Miami Marlins Foundation are celebrating the start of Black History Month with a school visit on Monday, February 6, to Poinciana Park Elementary - a Miami Marlins Foundation Slugger Schoolhouse presented by PNC Bank. Marlins Alumnus and 2003 World Series Champion Juan Pierre along with Marlins Vice President of Ticket Sales and Service Andre Luck will lead lessons for 2nd and 3rd graders about prominent Black historic figures and a conversation with the students about race and equality.
- The celebration of Black History Month will continue in Palm Beach County with a school visit to Jupiter Elementary and then the Marlins will host local teens at the club's

Player Development and Scouting Complex in Jupiter on Wednesday, February 28. The educational events will also be focused on sharing insight on prominent figures from Black history.

❖ **Milwaukee Brewers**

- The Brewers Black Employee Resource Group will sponsor a community event in Milwaukee called “Engage and Activate”, a forum and inclusive social space that develops a sense of belonging and promotes social and emotional wellness. It’s where Milwaukee’s diverse community of young professionals and corporate and community leaders who make the city their home come to connect for an evening of conversation and networking.
- The Club will highlight past Brewers players on social, from different eras in honor of Black History Month.
- Brewers Community Foundation (BCF) will serve as an annual sponsor for the 38th Annual Milwaukee Times Black Excellence Awards ceremony which recognizes key community leaders who positively impact the community. BCF will also serve as a table sponsor for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority 2023 Founders Day Luncheon.

❖ **Minnesota Twins**

- The Minnesota Twins have partnered with the Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute, a Twin Cities-based nonprofit seeking to plant seeds of social change through education, training and community outreach, for a writing competition that encourages students to learn about Martin Luther King, Jr., then share about how Dr. King has inspired them in their own lives.
- On February 1, the Twins’ social platforms will recognize both the first day of Black History Month and National Girls & Women in Sports Day by celebrating the club’s Black female front office members. Later in February, club social handles will highlight the front office group Twins On B.A.S.E. (Black employees and Allies Standing for Equality).

❖ **New York Mets**

- Visit to the Jackie Robinson Museum with the Mets Black Professionals Employee Resource Group with local children.
- **“Saturday Night Lights” Career Panel** – MLB Black and Mets Black Professional ERGs are teaming up with the New York City Department of Youth & Community Development for two career panels on February 4th and February 11th. Each night, the groups will speak to 50-70 youth from programs focused on youth development and violence prevention.

❖ **New York Yankees**

- The Yankees will continue their outreach and collaborative efforts with communities of color through the New York Yankees Diversity and Inclusion Committee, which is dedicated to identifying, engaging and addressing issues related to equality, racial justice, and inclusivity. The creation of this group, which was formalized in September of 2020 and announced in February of 2021, was precipitated by the profound impact of senseless tragedies in communities throughout our nation. This Committee’s mission focuses on identifying and combating disparities and systemic inequities that obstruct socioeconomic fairness and progress for marginalized groups. Comprised of a dedicated and diverse network of Yankees staff members, on-field personnel, alumni, and outside community leaders and business partners, the shared goal has been to identify ways to combine resources and utilize the panel’s various prominent public

platforms to address and eradicate barriers that impede access, diversity, inclusion, and opportunity for our neighbors around Yankee Stadium and in the larger metropolitan community.

- Additionally, the Yankees Foundation will continue its collaboration and support of numerous of organizations that serve communities of color, including the New York Urban League, the United Negro College Fund, One Hundred Black Men Inc., the NYPD Blue Chips Program and Church Alive, which will be able to operate its food pantry with greater frequency with the Yankees' help this month. The Yankees will also be providing support for arts and design programming for children from underserved communities via PopsEd (the New York Pops' flagship program), the Publicolor Community Paint Project and the Department for Youth & Community Development's First Pitch Social Impact Competition. Other support for communities of color will be directed through funding for New Settlement Gun Violence Prevention and the G & B Foundation, which provides college scholarship assistance.
- Fan engagement throughout February will take place on Yankees social media channels by recognizing impactful Black players who have played for the franchise.

❖ **Oakland Athletics**

- The A's are teaming up with Black Joy Parade to kick off Black History Month by sponsoring the Black Joy on Wheels event in Oakland on Sunday, Feb. 5. Community members are encouraged to grab a bike, scooter, or pair of skates for a free community ride beginning in West Oakland. The Club will also host a Lunch & Learn discussion for its front office staff featuring Google's Director of Hiring Equity Strategy and Programs Je A'nna McCardie. The A's will celebrate and recognize the Oakland community, players and alumni, and staff members on the team's official social media channels throughout Black History Month.

❖ **San Diego Padres**

- Expansion of Johnny Ritchey Scholarship: On January 5, what would have been Johnny Ritchey's 100th birthday, the Padres announced the expansion of the Johnny Ritchey Scholarship Program. Ritchey broke the Pacific Coast League's color barrier in 1948 while a member of the PCL San Diego Padres and became known as "the Jackie Robinson of the West Coast." In partnership with the Masons of California, the program was expanded to up to (10) \$10,000 scholarships (\$2,500 annually over four years) and is meant for students that have encountered and overcome significant personal adversities in his/her life.
- Breaking Barriers Forum: Held in conjunction with Jackie Robinson Day in MLB, the second Breaking Barriers Forum will be held on 4/14 at San Diego High School, alma mater for Johnny Ritchey and an underserved area of San Diego. Appx. 200 students in person and the program will be streamed and taped by the San Diego Unified School District. Ritchey broke the color barrier in the Pacific Coast League for the minor league Padres in 1948. The program once again will feature speakers who have overcome "barriers" or biases, such as color, gender, etc. The panelists will share their notable and barrier-breaking experiences about how they have overcome racial, gender or other biases while also providing leadership and practical, positive tools for dealing with bias. The panel will include Padres centerfielder Trent Grisham, Captain Amy Bauernschmidt, CO of USS Abraham Lincoln and first female CO of a carrier, and MLB's Billy Bean. The program moderator will be former NFL safety and the lead pastor of The Rock Church in San Diego, Miles McPherson. A short segment will be produced and aired prior to or during the Padres game on April 15, which also is Jackie Robinson Day in MLB.

❖ **San Francisco Giants**

- The Giants will mark their celebrations of Black History Month with a screening of “The Other Boys of Summer” at their upcoming Giants & KNBR FanFest presented by Scottsdale, Arizona at Oracle Park. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with filmmaker, Lauren Meyer, Giants Public Address Announcer Dr. Renel Brooks-Moon and Giants Chief Diversity Officer Roscoe Mapps. Through the stories of the Negro League players and the lens of America’s pastime, the film connects the legacy of the past to today’s issues and inspires the future.
- We will also celebrate the contributions and achievements of our Black colleagues and community and participate in city organized events for Black History Month.

❖ **Seattle Mariners**

- On February 15, the club will host a Black History Month Cultural Celebration for Front Office Staff where community leader and founder of Arte Noir, Vivian Phillips, will lead a discussion on arts and culture and civil rights. Seattle’s Spectrum Dance Theater, whose focus is on educating the community about dance as art form and a social/civic instrument, will perform as well. Food during the event will be provided Marjorie, a local Black woman-owned business.
- On February 16th, the Northwest African American Museum (NAAM) located in Seattle’s Central District neighborhood, will welcome Dr. Damion Thomas, the Smithsonian Institution’s Sports Curator, as their 2023 Black History Month keynote speaker. The Mariners are proud to sponsor Dr. Thomas’ keynote speech and support NAAM’s Knowledge is Power Books & Balls giveaway by providing culturally specific baseball-themed books including Kadir Nelson’s *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*, as well as provide Quickball training baseballs to local kids of all ages.

❖ **St. Louis Cardinals**

- The Cardinals have partnered with the National Blues Museum to encourage fans to attend the Museum throughout the month of February. The Museum’s mission is to preserve the Blues’ historical significance as an African American art form and the foundation of American music while celebrating its impact and the musicians who continue to advance the art form through live performance. All fans visiting the Museum who mention the Cardinals will receive a ticket voucher good for two tickets to a 2023 regular season Cardinals home game.
- The Cardinals will also host a group of diverse high school students from the St. Louis community as part of the EXPLORE Baseball Youth Career Immersion program in partnership with St. Louis’ Diversity Awareness Partnership. As part of the multi-session program, students will explore possible career opportunities on the business side of baseball with members of the Cardinals Front Office. During a prior session, students explored a career in baseball with President of Baseball Operations, John Mozeliak. The Cardinals are proud to be a founding partner of Diversity Awareness Partnership which is a catalyst for increasing awareness, facilitating engagement and providing education about diversity and inclusion in our community.
- Cardinals social channels (TW, FB, IG) will feature a weekly highlight of four former Cardinals players who made a significant impact both on and off the field. Brief bio and info will be shared each Friday in February on former Cardinals Bill Greason (Cardinals 1954), Curt Flood (1958-1969), Ted Savage (1965-67) and Bernard Gilkey (1990-95).

❖ Tampa Bay Rays

- Local historian and former Gas Plant neighborhood resident Gwen Reese will hold a Zoom conversation with Rays staff about the history and significance of the Tropicana Field site, a critical awareness component of the Rays plans to redevelop the Tropicana Field site.
- To coincide with the start of Black History Month, the Rays opened applications for the annual Racial Equity Grant program. Launched in 2020, the Racial Equity Grant provides \$100,000 annually to local organizations committed to the advancement of a more equitable and inclusive society.
- The Rays will host a screening of the documentary film *After Jackie* for employees, as well as a free screening of the film for community members. Prior to the screening, Jackson New-Smith, an employee of The SpringHill Company, the parent company of the athlete empowerment brand UNINTERRUPTED which produced the documentary, will provide additional context about the film with attendees.

❖ Texas Rangers

- On February 4, the Texas Rangers Youth Academy will host the Black History Month Jamboree, presented by Nike. The event will include a Black History Month Camp followed by a doubleheader featuring four Dallas ISD high schools with the highest enrollment of Black students— South Oak Cliff High School, W. H. Adamson High School, Wilmer Hutchins High School and David W. Carter High School. The Jamboree marks the beginning of the DISD baseball season and aims to highlight the next wave of history makers, agents of change and leaders on and off the field. Former Texas Rangers Mark McLemore and Curtis Wilkerson will toss a ceremonial first pitch before the 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. games, respectively. Before the scheduled doubleheader, the Black History Month Baseball Camp will be open to Youth Academy athletes ages 7-12. The camp will focus on developing on-field skills while also providing lessons on the significance of Black History Month. Additionally, the Rangers will have content on social media platforms throughout the month including player testimonials.

❖ Washington Nationals

- The Washington Nationals will recognize several of the Black players, managers and pioneers who made contributions to the District's rich baseball history with a series of tributes on Nationals social and digital platforms as well as the signage around Nationals Park. The organization also honors the Negro Leagues' Homestead Grays, who began playing home games at Washington D.C.'s Griffith Stadium in 1937, with an original video and added historical detail at nats.com/History.
- Washington Nationals Philanthropies will incorporate Black History Month educational materials into its after-school programming at the Nationals Youth Baseball Academy, and Academy staff members will share impactful Black History Month reading recommendations geared toward children at Nats4Good.org and on social at @Nats4Good.