



CENTRE REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Proclamation

PROCLAMATION 2024-1

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN THE CENTRE REGION

WHEREAS, each February, we observe Black History Month in communities across the United States. Black History Month is an opportunity to learn about and celebrate the defining achievements and contributions of African Americans to our nation's economic, cultural, spiritual, scientific, legal, and political development. We honor the central role African Americans have played in our history; and

WHEREAS, we pay tribute to the many generations whose birthright of freedom and dignity and the earned wealth produced by their hard toil, creativity, and intellect, was brutally and wrongly stolen from them. We honor those countless people who nevertheless persisted – through unimaginable cruelty and adversity justified by racial falsehoods – to enable a more just and equitable future. The struggle to bring the reality of our nation into alignment with the inspiring ideals and ideas on which it was founded continues today; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month grew out of the work of Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History in 1926; and

WHEREAS, each year, Black History Month is given a theme. The theme for 2024 is “African Americans and the Arts” and explores how African American art is infused with African, Caribbean, and the Black American lived experiences. In the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary, and other forms of cultural expression, the African American influence has been paramount. African American artists have used art to preserve history and community memory as well as for empowerment. Artistic and cultural movements such as the New Negro, Black Arts, Black Renaissance, hip-hop, and Afrofuturism, have been led by people of African descent and set the standard for popular trends around the world.

WHEREAS, we recognize and commend the invaluable contributions of African Americans that have shaped our Centre Region communities. We honor local individuals – our neighbors, friends, and colleagues – and groups who have enriched all of our lives in so many important and wonderful ways and continue to move us towards the ideals of fairness, justice, and equity; and

WHEREAS, in the communities across the Centre Region, together, we continue our work to create a welcoming, inclusive, and engaged community where diversity is cherished and celebrated,

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of African Americans – past and present – in this our Centre Region, the Centre Region Council of Governments General Forum, hereby proclaims February 2024 to be Black History Month and encourages all residents to celebrate our diverse heritage and culture and to continue efforts to create a world that is more just, peaceful, and prosperous for all.

Attest:

Eric Norenberg
Executive Director, Centre Region COG

By

Ronald Servello
Chair, Centre Region COG