

# Black History Month: St. Louis 2016

*In honor of Black History Month, learn more about African American culture and celebrate the achievements of African Americans in St. Louis with the following attractions and events:*



The Old Courthouse was the site of the notable Dred Scott v. Sanford court case which ultimately led to the Civil War and would forever change America's destiny. Experience the **Dred Scott Mock Trials** in the Old Courthouse rotunda every Saturday and Sunday at 2 pm during February.

The Griot Museum of Black History provides another opportunity to learn about local African American history. The museum features wax figures, artifacts, and memorabilia with an emphasis on regional stories in relation to American history. "Griot" (pronounced "GREE-OH") is a community historian who maintains cultural traditions through poetry, storytelling, and music in some countries in West Africa.

Plan to visit the Scott Joplin House State Historic Site, a National Historic Landmark. Step into the King of Ragtime's home where he composed his legendary music.

Various St. Louis County Library and St. Louis Public Library locations will host a variety of topics **all month long** such as: **Discovery Club: African American Scientists and Inventors** (Indian Trails), **Central Cinema Presents: Black History Month** (Central Library), the **African American Inventions** exhibit (Thornhill Branch), and **Pilot Pruitt** and **Soaring with other Sumner Alums** (Carpenter Branch). All events are free and open to the public.

"Continuing the Legacy" by COCA on **February 5 and 6** will use dance, music, and photography to take audience members on a powerful journey representing black history from slavery to the jazz era, through the civil rights movement, to modern times.

The "**Lift Every Voice: Black History Month Celebration**" on **February 12** at Powell Symphony Hall celebrates African-American culture and traditions that have shaped St. Louis, the U.S., and the world. Conductor Kevin McBeth, special guest artist Larnelle Harris, and the STL Symphony IN UNISON Chorus will commemorate the legacy of African-American art, music, culture, and community.

Close out the month with the "**PNC Arts Alive New Dance Horizons IV: A Celebration Inspired by St. Louis' Legendary Black Artists**" on **February 26 and 27** at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center at University of Missouri- St. Louis.

Black history is alive all year long in St. Louis. In the spring, experience the Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing Celebration on the riverfront of north St. Louis. On Memorial Day weekend, the African Arts Festival occurs in Forest Park.

Be sure to look out for performances at The Black Rep and other musical groups. St. Louis has ties to Chuck Berry, Tina Turner, Miles Davis, Arthur Ashe, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, and many more legendary names.

St. Louis' newest attraction for celebrating musicians will be the National Blues Museum opening **April 2**. The interactive museum will educate visitors about the importance of the blues genre and its powerful influence on American music.

**Source: [explorestlouis.com](http://explorestlouis.com)**

**Information provided by ASAP**

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