



A Proclamation in honor of Black History Month 2024

WHEREAS, Black History Month, first proposed by scholar Carter G Wilson in 1926, seeks to rightfully center the role of Black Americans in our national narrative; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme, 'Black Americans and the Arts' celebrates the profound and evolving impact of Black artistry on our culture, national identity and social movements that have spanned the world over. Through literature, music, architecture, dance, film and every conceivable medium in between. Black artists and intellectuals have used their talents to honor their heritage, educate and inspire, and open minds and hearts.

WHEREAS, Black art has been a powerful agent of change and social uplift throughout our nation's history. Many and varied forms of creative expression have had a pivotal role in opening new dialogues, challenging us to examine hard truths, and inspiring us to work toward something better.

During Black History Month, let us draw inspiration from this legacy as we continue together on the path toward equality, liberty, and opportunity for all. Our shared history shows us that we rise and fall together, an enduring lesson reflected in the words of Dr. Maya Angelou "The truth is no one of us can be free until everybody is free."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tonya Graham, Mayor of the City of Ashland, Oregon, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2024 as Black History Month and call upon the people of Ashland to observe this month with appropriate reflection and learning and to continue our efforts to create a more just and equitable community. In Ashland we are Better Together.

Dated this 20th day of February 2024

Tonya Graham, Mayor



Alissa Kolodzinski, City Recorder