



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Black History Now 2019 Events** *Celebrating Today's Change Makers*

(PORTSMOUTH, VA – January 3, 2019) – The Portsmouth Museums and Portsmouth Public Library have announced the lineup of events for the fourth annual *Black History Now - Celebrating Today's Change Makers*. The museums and library branches will host events and activities from January 19 to February 28. In commemoration of African-American heritage, Portsmouth's Black History Month celebration includes cultural dance, music, military tributes, exhibits and more from West Africa to today's change makers.

Here is the list of events:

**S.T.E.M.-ulating Minds: Women at Work**

**Sat., Jan. 19 | 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Children's Museum of Virginia**

Norfolk State University's Brehanna Daniels, the first African-American woman on a NASCAR pit crew team, along with Coach Phil Horton of the NASCAR Drive Diversity program provide an up close and personal look at the professional racing team.

**A Weekend In Wakanda**

**Sat., Jan. 26 | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Children's Museum of Virginia**

Meet 93-year-old actress Dorothy Steel from the Marvel superhero movie *Black Panther* (Merchant Tribe) as she hosts kids' Q&A sessions, signs autographs and poses for pictures with fans.

**Fancy Footwork: A West African Bantaba**

**Sat., Jan. 26 | 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Churchland Branch Library**

Kuumba African Dance brings the thunder of its percussion orchestra and the graceful, high-energy celebration dances of Guinea West Africa to Portsmouth.

**Trials & Triumph: The Tuskegee Airmen**

**Sat., Feb. 2 | 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. | Portsmouth Art & Cultural Center**

Vietnam veteran pilot Howard Baugh takes you on a journey through WWII with a lecture and slide show presentation of his father Lt. Colonel Howard L. Baugh – one of 393 Tuskegee Airmen combat pilots who received recognition for their combat roles during WWII.

**Uncle George & Me Author Discussion & Book Signing**

**Sat., Feb. 9 | 1 p.m. | Portsmouth Colored Community Library**

Author and journalist Bill Sizemore tells the story of his slave-owning ancestors, their slaves and their descendants.

**Marketing and Communications**

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### **Black History Expo**

**Wed., Feb. 13 | 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. | Churchland Branch Library**

Historical speakers, local musical talent and a breathtaking display of local artisans' handiwork at this celebratory event.

### **Neighborhood Black History Tour & Costume Parade**

**Sat., Feb. 16 | 10:30 a.m. | High and Green streets**

Wear your favorite costume representing an African-American hero . . . from the past, present, city, state, national or international scene. Walk or ride the shuttle bus to see significant African-American historical sites in Portsmouth.

### **Caribbean Dreaming by Artist Gary Garlic**

**Sat., Feb. 23 | 1 p.m. | Main Branch Public Library**

Explore the world of Caribbean Steel Drums through a historical and musical demonstration. Learn how drums were outlawed on many Caribbean islands and how they came to be made from steel.

### **Portraits of Service: Portsmouth African-Americans in the Military, 1946-1967**

**Jan. 18 – Feb. 28 | Portsmouth City Hall Lobby**

After World War II, the "Colored Notes" column of the Portsmouth Star newspaper described happenings in the African-American community. The column included frequent photographs of local residents in the military service. View this collection of military portraits in this temporary exhibit.

### **Vintage Norcom: Historical Images from I.C. Norcom High School**

**Jan. 18 – Feb. 28 | Portsmouth Public Library Main Branch**

Celebrate Black History Month 2019 by viewing a collection of vintage images of students, teachers, and activities at Portsmouth's I.C. Norcom High School. Photographs from the African-American Historical Society and the Portsmouth Public Library.

### **A Steady Cycle of Lively Events: The African-American Social Scene in Postwar Portsmouth**

**Jan. 18 – Oct. 31, 2020 | Changing Exhibit of the Portsmouth Colored Community Library Museum**

Learn about some of the African American community's social and recreational activities in post-World War II Portsmouth. See vintage images of parades, talent shows, club meetings and more, from this era when segregation led to Portsmouth's black residents establishing their own social scene with *A Steady Cycle of Lively Events*.

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