

# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a celebration of the contributions and achievements of Black Americans and descendants of slaves first established in 1976 by Carter G. Woodson, a scholar who fervently believed that Black people should be proud of their heritage and all Americans should understand the largely overlooked achievements of Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a reminder that Black history is Seattle history, Black culture is Seattle culture, and Black stories are an essential component of the story of our city; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is celebrated across the United States every February through recognition of the achievements of Black Americans and all people of African descent; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle acknowledges the long history of institutional racism towards Black people and other communities of color; has committed itself to undoing racism and promoting racial equity and social justice on an ongoing basis since 2005; and continues to identify and analyze manifestations of racism and develop shared culture and leadership; and

WHEREAS, recorded African American heritage in Seattle dates to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and everyone who lives in, works in, or visits Seattle has opportunities to learn about Black history through community resources such as the Northwest African American Museum, the Historic Central Area Arts and Cultural District, the historic Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute, the Black Heritage Society of Washington State, festivals such as Sundiata and Umoja Fest, the ROOTS Celebration (Relatives of Oldtimers in Seattle), and conversations with African American elders; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Black History Month theme is “Black Resistance,” which stems from a call for action by Henry Highland Garnet in an address to the National Negro Convention of 1843, in which he said, *“No oppressed people have ever secured their liberty without resistance. What kind of resistance you had better make, you must decide by the circumstances that surround you, and according to the suggestion of expediency;”* and

WHEREAS, across generations, Black Seattleites have demonstrated profound moral courage and resilience to help shape our city for the better. Today, Black Seattleites lead industries and movements for change, serve our communities at every level, and advance every field, including arts and sciences, business and law, health and education, and many more; and

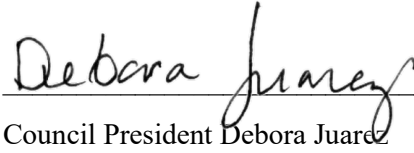
WHEREAS, as a city, we celebrate Black History Month by recommitting to fight for the equity, opportunity, dignity, and voting rights to which every Seattleite is due.

THEREFORE, THE MAYOR OF SEATTLE AND THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL  
PROCLAIM FEBRUARY 2023 TO BE

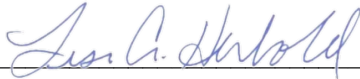
## Black History Month in Seattle



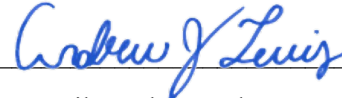
Mayor Bruce Harrell



Council President Debora Juarez



Councilmember Lisa Herbold



Councilmember Andrew J. Lewis



Councilmember Tammy J. Morales



Councilmember Sara Nelson



Councilmember Alex Pedersen



Councilmember Kshama Sawant



Councilmember Dan Strauss

