

## Black History Month at Glen Echo Park

*Acknowledging our past, celebrating our present, and looking to the future.*

**GLEN ECHO, MD (February 1, 2024)** – From its [civil rights history](#) to the focus on diversity in [modern-day programming](#), the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture acknowledges and honors the importance of Black culture. The Partnership is eager to celebrate Black History Month, and share the work of Black artists with the local community.

Currently on exhibit in Glen Echo Park’s Park View Gallery, [Stitch by Stitch](#) features a collection of **colorful collages of acrylic-painted canvas scraps and ceramic work created by Black and Brown boys from Washington DC’s Wards 7 and 8** – specifically, program participants of the DC-based youth arts program Life Pieces To Masterpieces (LPTM). The stories told in each piece celebrate the power, joy, and resilience of the boys and men served by LPTM as they persevere through their life challenges and celebrate their life triumphs. The exhibition also features ceramic work made at [Glen Echo Pottery](#), one of thirteen resident arts programs at Glen Echo Park. The show will be on display through February 17; Park View Gallery is open to the public Monday through Saturday, 10am - 6pm.

Opening February 9, Photoworks – one of the Park’s thirteen resident arts programs – presents [Building a Mixed Race Community](#), featuring photographs by Marvin Tupper Jones, an acclaimed photojournalist. Jones has spent his life documenting his home of Hertford County, North Carolina, and **the history covered in this exhibition spans from 1851 to 1973 and takes the viewer from the antebellum era through the Civil War, Reconstruction, Jim Crow and the modern Civil Rights era.** It tells the stories of more than 30 people along with photographs and text. Four women are featured, as well as business people, farmers, carpenters, educators, church leaders, soldiers (Civil War and WWII), and Civil Rights activists and organizations. An opening reception will be held on February 11 at 2pm, and the show runs through March 31. Photoworks Gallery is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays from 1pm - 4pm.

Also this month, Washington Conservatory of Music’s *Casual Concerts* series will feature accomplished Black violinist and Conservatory faculty member [Cleveland Chandler](#) (M.M., Cleveland Institute of Music, B.M., Peabody Conservatory of Music), who will **perform works by often-overlooked Black composer William Grant Still.** The concert will take place on February 24 at 5pm.

**“As Black History Month honors the contributions and accomplishments of Black Americans in all walks of life, we particularly celebrate Black artists,”** said Ama Mills-Robertson, Glen Echo Park Partnership’s Chief Program Officer. **“Their unique experiences and perspectives bring an incredible richness and depth to artistic and cultural endeavors – and often a searing truth-telling. We are proud to present through our galleries, concerts, and special events Black artists who remind us of the power of art to educate, inspire, foster community well-being, and challenge established ways of thinking.”**

The Partnership is proud to emphasize diversity in its lineup of exhibitions in the Partnership Galleries throughout each year, and has recently featured several **talented Black artists.** Solo exhibitions in recent years have included [James S. Terrell’s](#) *Discombobulation: A Collide of Scope* and [Kayla J. Fryer’s](#) *In Full*

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*View: A Portrait Experience.* After the current Life Pieces to Masterpieces exhibition in the Park View Gallery concludes, a group exhibition featuring the work of [Dr. Diana Baird N'Diaye](#) and two other artists will be on view in the Popcorn Gallery from February 24 - March 24.

Looking back, Glen Echo Park played a pivotal role in the [Washington, DC area civil rights](#) story. From its beginnings as a Chautauqua in 1891 and later as a place of amusement in the 1890s, Glen Echo Park only advertised in newspapers with primarily White readership. At the time, the park was not strictly segregated, but visitation by Black individuals and families was not encouraged, and likely discouraged. Restrictions hardened in 1931 with the opening of the Crystal Pool. From that point through the 1950s, the privately-owned amusement park did not admit Black patrons. Thanks to a group of brave protestors – both Black and White – during the summer of 1960, the park was integrated the following year.

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*For high resolution images of the civil rights protests at Glen Echo Amusement Park in 1960, contact [jcloud@glenechopark.org](mailto:jcloud@glenechopark.org).*

### **About Glen Echo Park and the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture**

Glen Echo Park is a vibrant arts and cultural center presenting festivals, exhibitions, and dances, as well as children's theater, music programs, nature programs, and art classes to more than 300,000 visitors each year. The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, a nonprofit organization, oversees these and other activities, including preserving the historic structures in the Park. Glen Echo Park, part of the National Park Service, is located in Glen Echo, Maryland, six miles northwest of Georgetown along the scenic Potomac River palisades. For more information on Glen Echo Park, visit [glenechopark.org](http://glenechopark.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council ([msac.org](http://msac.org)) and also by funding from the Montgomery County government and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County ([creativemoco.com](http://creativemoco.com)). All programs are produced in cooperation with the National Park Service and Montgomery County, Maryland.