

## Black History Month at Glen Echo Park

*Acknowledging the past and celebrating Black Artists*

**GLEN ECHO, MD (January 12, 2026)** – From its [civil rights history](#) to the focus on diversity in [current programming](#), the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture acknowledges and honors the importance of Black culture. The Partnership is excited to celebrate Black History Month and share the incredible work of Black visual and performing artists with the local community. The Park also has programming in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January 19).

In the summer of 1960, brave protestors brought about the end of segregation at the privately-owned Glen Echo Amusement Park. In honor of Black History Month, the Partnership presents two **free screenings** of *Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round*, the award-winning documentary that tells this compelling story. The screenings will be held on Saturday, February 7, at 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the Park's Ballroom Back Room. [RSVP](#) is required. (Film duration is approximately 90 minutes.)

A Glen Echo Park **History & Civil Rights Tour** with a National Park Service Ranger will be held at 10:00 a.m., prior to the first screening. Learn about who led the Civil Rights protests to desegregate Glen Echo Amusement Park in 1960, which amusement park ride was a focal point of the protests, and how Glen Echo Park became part of the National Park System. Explore the site's history on this 45-minute free ranger-led tour on Saturday, February 7. Free admission, no registration required. More Information: [kevin\\_patti@nps.gov](mailto:kevin_patti@nps.gov)

Park View Gallery at Glen Echo Park presents *New Everything, New*, a **solo exhibition** of work by African-American artist Winston Harris, a DC-area printmaker. The show will include work produced during his time as a Key-Holder Artist in Residence at Pyramid Atlantic Art Center (2022-2023) as well as artwork created during a 2024-2025 Artist's Workshop at Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in Washington, D.C. The exhibition runs February 21–March 21. Park View Gallery is open to the public Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Washington Conservatory of Music (WCM)—one of the Park's resident arts organizations and a nationally accredited music school—presents a **concert in honor of Black History Month** on Sunday, February 15, at 3:00 p.m. at St. Columba Episcopal Church in Washington, DC. (Note this is offsite, not at Glen Echo Park.)

“As we observe Black History Month, we are honored to showcase Black artists whose work informs, uplifts, and challenges us to think differently,” said Ama Mills-Robertson, Chief Program Officer of the Glen Echo Park Partnership. “Through exhibitions, performances, and programs, their perspectives enrich our cultural life with authenticity and powerful truth-telling.” ([glenechopark.org/blackhistorymonth](https://glenechopark.org/blackhistorymonth))

This Saturday, January 17, the Partnership presents a Swing Dance to live music by the Daryl Davis Band from 8:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. in the historic Spanish Ballroom. Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day with the incomparable Dr. Daryl Davis, an international recording artist who has performed and toured all 50 States and around the world. He has performed extensively with Chuck Berry, The Legendary Blues Band

(formerly The Muddy Waters Blues Band), Elvis Presley’s Jordanaires, and many others. He’s also an author of renown and a widely-recognized expert and lecturer on race relations. A beginner lesson (free with the price of admission) will be taught by Ellen Engle & Marc Shepanek of Flying Feet Enterprises. **Ticket sales support the Social Dance program at Glen Echo Park.** \$20 discounted advance tickets are available online until 11:59 p.m. on Friday, January 16; \$30 same-day sales are available online and at the door. A special Dual Dance Ticket allows dancers to attend both the Swing Dance with the Daryl Davis Band and a Swing Dance with The Grandsons on Saturday, February 7 at a discounted rate (\$35).

This Sunday, January 18, at 10:30 a.m. **Washington Revels Jubilee Voices** brings their unique blend of history, music, and spoken word to lead a special worship service honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Augustana Lutheran Church in Washington, D.C. (Note this is offsite, not at Glen Echo Park.) The group, now in its 16th year, will present traditional African American spirituals, deliver a “sermon in song,” and lead the congregational singing, joined by the Augustana choir. Come hear—and sing—songs of faith, freedom and justice. The worship service will be followed with a reception, where attendees can meet the artists. (<https://revelsdc.org/2026/jan18-jubilee-voices-augustana-mlk/>)

FREE parking in our main parking lot at 5801 Oxford Road. Search "Glen Echo Park Parking" in Google Maps.

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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’s Civil Rights History**

**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 protesters—both Black and White—during the summer of 1960, the park was integrated the following year.

### **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.