

BLACK STORY BLACK SONG

HISTORY THROUGH THE AFRICAN AMERICAN LENS



Charles White, Five Great American Negroes, 1939, Oil on canvas, Chicago Public Library, George Cleveland Branch.

Black Story / Black Song: History Through the African American Lens.

While traditional Black History Month curriculum highlights prominent African American historical figures, there is also an unmet need: to share the stories of achievement, beauty, and joy of Black Americans, past, present, and future.

Earthseed has designed a contemporary virtual program showcasing the vital and multi-faceted experiences of Black Americans.

Black Story / Black Song is an immersive artistic presentation that goes beyond a traditional book-bound Black History Month lesson. This dynamic arts experience is meant to connect with a modern student, engaging participants visually, sonically and emotionally. This project will invite students to:

- Witness a dynamic, life performance that utilizes multiple modalities in the arts
- Engage in virtual dialogue about Black arts, Black History, and social justice movements
- Increase awareness of Black representation and perspectives
- Interact with lesser known stories of the Black American experience

VISION

With the creation of a Black-led, arts-centric, interactive presentation, Earthseed seeks to equip New Mexico schools with a program that will evolve students' understanding of the political, historical and artistic contributions of African Americans—not just by looking at the past, but also into the vibrant present and future.

Using different forms of storytelling, contemporary Black New Mexican artists will showcase many lesser known stories of the Black experience and Civil Rights Movement. The presentation will emphasize Black American pioneers in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STEAM), as well as visionaries in Hip Hop and spoken word.

This relevant, arts-centered approach will not only evolve students' historical knowledge, it will inspire, on a visceral level, a deeper understanding of the African American experience. By telling the stories of marginalized people, building bridges, and bringing arts education to schools that may have limited arts programming, Earthseed seeks to help young people develop a worldview rooted in equity, compassion and understanding.

Earthseed is in a unique position to offer a high quality, involving learning experience with Black Story / Black Song. Instead of solely relying on the traditional Black History Month curriculum of the past, Earthseed can offer a dynamic, participatory event that is perfectly suited for the virtual times we are living in.

In this passionate, electrified performance, Black arts, history, and social justice movements are lifted from the history books and brought to life in bold, unforgettable color.

The program further engages students through a variety of audience participation opportunities, including call and response exercises and, on request, a live (Zoom) question and answer session with the artists and creators of the project.

In addition, teachers and educators will be given full access to classroom activity and lesson plans, ongoing curriculum ideas, and further resources on Black American contributions and significant individuals. These classroom tool kits will be publicly available through our website and suitable for all ages of students.

OPEN CURRICULUM

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S.T.E.M.

POETRY

HIP HOP

PHILOSOPHY

ART

NM HISTORY

AFRICAN HISTORY

AFRO-FUTURISM



EARTHSEED BLACK ARTS ALLIANCE

Founded in 2020, Earthseed Black Arts Alliance, New Mexico focuses on centering and amplifying Black voices in Northern New Mexico as well as collaborating with Indigenous artists, artists of color and the city's artist community as a whole.

Earthseed believes artists are at the forefront of change and are critical to the preservation of culture. We believe Black art has enormous healing potential and is a powerful tool for necessary communication, expression, and validation.

We also believe representation matters! Black artists in New Mexico need to be represented and centered in the courageous conversations we are currently having as a society, at both the local and national level.

Questions, Comments or info please contact
Raashan at holler@earthseedblackarts.org

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