



Celebrating **Black** **History** **Month** **Black Resistance**

2023 Theme



The Monthly
Small & Minority Business Enterprise
City of Bridgeport

Remembering History

African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression, in all forms, especially the racial terrorism of lynching, racial pogroms, and police killings since our arrival upon these shores.

These efforts have been to advocate for a dignified self-determined life in a just democratic society in the United States and beyond the United States political jurisdiction.

The 1950s and 1970s in the United States was defined by actions such as sit-ins, boycotts, walk outs, strikes by Black people and white allies in the fight for justice against discrimination in all sectors of society from employment to education to housing.

Black people have had to consistently push the United States to live up to its ideals of freedom, liberty, and justice for all.

Black-Owned City-Based Businesses

A+ Beauty Salon / A+ Beauty Supply
All Pro Abatement LLC.
I Luv LLC
4-Styles Chicken
A-Preferred Roofing and Contracting
Arrington Financial Services
Ashlar Construction LLC.
Auntie's Puff Palace
BBS Business Services
Beck N Call Homecare, LLC
Bentley Luxury Professional Detailing & Power Wash
Bivins Realty Group LLC
Boundless Global, LLC.
Brianna Regine Visionary Consulting, LLC
Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse
Bright Morning Star Daycare LLC
C3 Career Consulting LLC
Carolyn's Professional Services
Center for Immigrant Development, INC
Cheli Pippin LLC
Choice Wealth Advisors
Christian Girl Cleaning Company LLC
Clean House, Clear Mind LLC
Construction Management Systems of America
Cousin's Kitchen
Creative Venue & Rentals LLC

NEWS to KNOW

Black History Events

Staying Connected

Karsonya Wise Whitehead, Ph.D., will deliver the 2023 Martin Luther King, Jr. convocation lecture on February 9 at Fairfield University. The event will begin at 7 p.m. at the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts. The convocation is free and open to the public. The theme for the observance is "Social Justice Now."

The East Hartford Public Library is holding two events in February. First, on February 16, people are invited to celebrate the traditions and rhythms of African Diasporic drumming in a percussion workshop. The event begins at 7 p.m. The second event is on February 23 and is a Living History program with Kevin Johnson portraying Private William Webb. The event begins at 4 p.m.

The Greater Refuge Church of Christ will hold its 2023 Black History program on February 24, beginning at 7 p.m. They are located at 370 Garden Street in Hartford. The program will feature the University of Hartford Gospel Choir and an artist collective. The event is free..

The NAACP of Greater Waterbury and the Waterbury Black Democratic Club presents their annual 2023 Black History Kickoff Celebration on January 29. The event will run from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The event will be held at Veterans memorial hall at 235 Grad Street.

The Urban League of Greater Hartford is presenting its annual Black History Month Celebration at the Mark Twain House & Museum on February 9. The event will run from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The theme for 2023 is "A Legacy Revealed | A Glimpse of Hope," which is an in-person experience showcasing the achievements and contributions of African-American, Afro-Caribbean, and Afro-Latino cultures in the Hartford area through an interactive exhibit, entertainment, and an awards ceremony. Learn more about the event here.

The Enfield Congregational, United Church of Christ is collaborating with Opera House Players in presenting A Black History Month Concert: Celebrating Music of the African-American Tradition. The event will take place on February 15, beginning at 7 p.m. The concert will showcase the talents of entertainers performing music that rose from the African-American tradition. Learn more about the event here.

Around Town

There are a few City-Based Businesses that are up for some pretty nifty awards. If you can, please support with your vote and let's put Bridgeport on the map!!



Nominate Us! We want your vote for the Best of the Gold Coast CT.

We need you to nominate us so we can advance to the final round. It takes a minute. Head here: bestofgoldcoastct.com

Nominations end February 6, 2023

BESTOFGOLDCOASTCT.COM



My business "Rapha Massage, LLC" is up for "Best Massage Studio" in CT Magazine.

I came in 2nd last year, for the entire state! With your help, I can win this year. I just need you to vote for me.

Here is the link:

<https://www.ctinsider.com/connecticutmagazine/best/vote>

Massage is under "Health and Beauty" just after Yoga Studio Really want to put Rapha Massage/Downtown Bridgeport on the map? Please follow the link in the email below for the "Best of Gold Coast" voting and write in Rapha Massage in the "Massage" category. Even an honorable mention will bring a lot of people into Downtown.

Connecticut
magazine

BEST OF CONNECTICUT

VOTE NOW FOR BEST OF CONNECTICUT 2023

Shout out your favorite places to shop, eat, play, and more! Cast your vote for the Best of CT 2023, and you'll be entered for a chance to win a \$500 VISA gift card! See [Sweepstakes Rules](#) for details.

VOTE NOW THROUGH APRIL 9, 2023 FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN.

There is no newsroom involvement in the "Best of Connecticut" contest.



If your business is having an event of any kind, please email me ASAP so that I can help to promote it.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Woman-Owned Business Grant - 10k - www.ctwbdc.org

The **Live Your Dream Awards** offers three levels of cash awards. Eligible applicants can submit their application between August 1 - November 15. Ultimately, a Live Your Dream Awards finalist has the potential to receive up to \$16,000 to help offset tuition costs, purchase books, get transportation, or find reliable childcare so she can worry less about how to pay her bills and focus on reaching her dreams. -

<https://www.soroptimist.org/>

Tory Burch Foundation

Access to funding is a top challenge for women entrepreneurs. That's why we're committed to creating more opportunities for women-owned businesses to secure capital. -

<https://www.toryburchfoundation.org>

Black Founder Startup Grant

SoGal Foundation is the largest global platform for diverse entrepreneurs and investors. Spanning 6 continents with hyper-local programming in over 50 cities, our mission is to close the diversity gap in entrepreneurship and venture capital. - <https://www.iamsogal.com>

SBA Micro Loans-

Smaller-size loans up to \$50,000 provided through SBA funding intermediaries. - www.sba.gov/funding-programs

CONNECTICUT SMALL BUSINES BOOST FUND

Straightforward, low-interest loans TAILORED TO CONNECTICUT'S SMALL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS - ctsmallbusinessboostfund.org

Small Business Administration (SBA) Loans

Growing businesses have specialized financing needs. SBA loans are one way we can help -

<https://www.citizensbank.com/small-business/sba-loans/overview.aspx>

ctinnovations.com

The **2023 Launch Program** is open to women- and non-binary-owned consumer packaged goods businesses—selling items like food and beverages, household goods, apparel, and more—with an annual gross revenue between \$100,000 and \$499,000. Joining the Launch Program means joining a diverse and supportive community of founders.

Apply to become part of the Ladies Who Launch community! The deadline to apply for the 2023 Launch Program is Friday, March 31, 2023. - www.ladieswholaunch.org