



PRESS RELEASE

2016 PROGRAMMING FOR THE 25TH BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Montreal, January 19th, 2016 – “**Rise and shine.**” It is through this festive, proud theme that Montrealers will take part in the 25th edition of Black History Month: more than 150 cultural and social activities revolving around the achievements of Black communities. From February 1st through the 29th, the public is invited to get to know Black culture in all its forms, as infused into all these shows, exhibitions, conferences, and screenings.

“Every year, we’re happy to see people getting involved, which is the very heart of Black History Month’s mission,” said Coordinator Carla Beauvais. “Organisations do their utmost to provide quality programming. The sense of unity during the month of February creates this meaning-filled happening, which is all about discovery, reflection, and fun!”

TD Bank Group is strengthening its bonds with the Round Table on Black History Month by becoming the official presenter of this 25th edition. “Our involvement with Black communities, and in favouring diversity in general, is part of our core corporate values,” noted Sylvie Demers, Head, Branch Banking, and President, Quebec Management, TD Bank Group. “In Quebec, we’ve celebrated Black History Month through the *TD Black History Month series* since 2011. It was only natural that we would increase our commitment this year and would contribute as the official presenter.”

To highlight this quarter-century, the Round Table on Black History Month went through the archives of years past, which will now be available on our website. This trip through the past is a look back on the journey so far, as well as a window into the Month’s social, economic, cultural, and educational issues – but also, above all, into its greatest successes.

The “Hats Off” Series

Alcove

Alcove is a series of live talks, featuring bold, risk-taking entrepreneurs and creators. They’ve left their mark on the universe thanks to their talents and values. Held at a secret location, Déborah Cherenfant will share her journey’s highs and lows, and welcome the audience’s questions – **February 11th, 2016 at 9 pm (location is secret).**

Blood Drive

50% of children suffering from sickle-cell anemia don't reach the age of six. This little-known blood disorder shatters the lives of thousands of Quebec families and particularly affects Black communities. The traditional Black History Month Héma-Québec blood drive, held in collaboration with the Sickle Cell Anemia Association of Quebec, is back – **February 20th, 2016 from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm.**

Croisée des Bossales

This event is an epicurean meeting, made up of a variety of activities and focused on the importance of blending cuisines. The Croisée des Bossales ball is a dinner prepared by Gilles Tolen, Paul-Harry Toussaint, and Loïc Dablé – **February 13th, 2016 at 6 pm.**

Doudou Boicel

This poet, painter, and impresario was inspired by legendary musicians that played in his jazz club, the Rising Sun, including Dizzy Gillespie, Taj Mahal, B.B. King, Big Mama Thornton, Archie Shepp, Yusef Lateef, and Nina Simone. These artists allowed him to discover and take pride in the beauty of his Africanness. Doudou also shares juicy anecdotes about renowned artists who became his personal friends over the 18 years of the club's existence – **February 4th, 2016 at 5 pm.**

Eccentric Tribal Fashion Hair

The history of Black women's hair, up to the 21st century: a perspective. Whether braided, curly, straight or wavy, with black hues, mahogany, or blond streaks, the Black woman uses her roots, culture, music and beliefs to tell the story of her life through her tresses. She charms with her daring personality and destabilizes with her eccentricity. Cococrystal Boutique accompanied by the House of Helmer reveal the ebony woman throughout time – **February 25th, 2016 at 7 pm.**

Honour Before Glory

100 years ago, despite their desire to defend their country, young Blacks weren't allowed to enlist in the Canadian army. Documentary film *Honour Before Glory* recounts the story of the No. 2 Construction Battalion, the first and only battalion made up entirely of Black soldiers of African descent. The director, Anthony Sherwood, will be at the screening – **February 7th, 2016 at 2 pm.**

Race

Brilliant, theatrical suspense written by David Mamet: A rich white man is accused of raping a younger African American woman, in a New York hotel room. Two lawyers – one of them White, the other Black – must decide whether or not to represent this man. Their exchanges raise very delicate questions, taking a brutal look at the United States, its racial conflicts, and their implications for legal and personal relations – **February 17th to 28th, 2016 at Théâtre Duceppe.**

Standing on Their Shoulders

The Black Community Resource Centre will be screening 20 short videos highlighting the vibrant history of the Black population in Montreal's Little Burgundy – **February 21st, 2016 at 3 pm.**

Black Economic Alliance – Accelerating Black Wealth Creation

The International Black Economic Forum is inviting everyone to take part in wealth creation (as individuals, families, and as a collective). The Black Economic Alliance wishes to inspire a culture of prosperity within the Black community in order to increase our economic and social well-being.

On February 11th, Nelson Mandela International Day, come discover the Economic Alliance, in the company of figures from the worlds of business, culture, academia, and politics – **February 11th, 2016 at 6 pm.**

Activities with Something for Everyone

Discover all the programming for Black History Month at moishistoiredesnoirs.com.

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