



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. Early work done by historian Carter G. Woodson to bring attention to the need for acknowledging and accurately representing Black and African American history led to Black United Students and Black educators at Kent State University officially establishing Black History Month in 1970; and

Whereas: Beginning in 1976, every president has declared the month of February as Black History Month to honor and affirm the importance of Black history throughout the American experience; and

Whereas: Black and African Americans have made innumerable contributions to our nation worthy of recognition and celebration, enriching America and indeed the lives of every American through social, artistic, cultural, political and economic advancement; and

Whereas: The observance of Black History Month calls our attention to the continued need to battle racism and build a more just society that lives up to its democratic ideals, and serves as both a celebration and a powerful reminder that Black history is American history; and

Whereas: The disturbing instances of violence against Black community members our nation has endured over the last several years remind us that we have far to go to end racial injustice and inequity in our country and local communities; and

Whereas: The City of Bellevue is strongly committed to equity and opportunity, striving to raise awareness of the history and contributions of communities of color through the city's Black History Month events. The City is excited to partner with community organizations to host 'Elevated Voices', an art exhibit at Bellevue City Hall during the month of February featuring Pacific Northwest Black artists to honor Black History Month, with a reception on Feb. 1, 2024, at 6 p.m.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim the **month of February 2024** as:

Black History Month

and urge all citizens to join us as we reflect on our shared history, commemorate and reaffirm the contributions of Black people to our communities, our country, and the world, and continue efforts to battle racism and build a society that is more just, peaceful and prosperous for all.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue