



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
7.		Favor	Anicka A Phillips	
			Ann Dorsey	
			Cynthia Machen	
			DeLlora Ellis-Gant	On behalf of the Los Angeles County Employees Association Executive Board and Members, we strongly support this proclamation and will promote the County's efforts on our social media platforms. Black history is essential because it provides context for the challenges we face today and the progress that is still needed. In moments like these, it reminds us what justice and progress actually require. Our rich history is filled with examples of individuals and groups that have demonstrate resilience, brilliance, and hope. Our contributions must be told and can not be erased.
			Florence-Firestone Community Organization	
			Isabel Balboa	
			Lisa U Frazier	I am in favor of the Motion to proclaim February 2026, and each year thereafter, as "Black History Month". Black History is an integral part of American History and should be recognized and celebrated all throughout the year.
			Lura Daniels-Ball	
			Ron McGill	
			Tanzania Crawford	
			tara parham	It's 100th celebration and Im honored to celebrate our history! Thank you Supervisor Michelle
			Tiffany Freeman	I'm in support of the County's efforts to recognize the contributions that African Americans made to this country. For this nation's foundation was built by the forced labor of this group and whose people continue to contribute to this society. These contributions should be uplifted every day and particularly during this period.
			Tina Robinson-Wade	I am in favor of the motion to proclaim February Black History Month although I think it should be all year, but since the month has been set aside, I would agree that it should be celebrated as Black History Month Black History Month is so important to all of us to the world to the country and should be proclaimed a special day. This year especially its the 100 year celebration.
			Item Total	

Grand Total			13	
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The proclamation leaves out the primary driver and keeper of Black History in Southern California. The oldest continuous guardians, promoters and defenders the Our Authors Study Club, Inc.

Our Legacy Continues: Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future

For 81 Years of Legacy | 76th City-Wide Celebration | 100 Years of Black History in America

Founded in 1945 by visionary leader Vassie Davis Wright and personally chartered by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the Father of Black History, Our Authors Study Club (OASC) stands as one of the nation's most enduring guardians of African American history and culture. Born from a shared commitment to study authentic Black writings and secure Black History's rightful place in the American narrative, OASC has spent more than eight decades transforming scholarship into action and memory into movement.

What began as a small collective of dedicated postal workers has grown into a nationally recognized cultural institution—one that has inspired generations through storytelling, education, and community engagement. OASC's legacy is built on resilience, unity, and pride, reflected in its wide-reaching programs that include youth oratorical contests, public lectures, cultural forums, and intergenerational learning experiences that uplift voices too often left unheard.

At the heart of this work is the City-Wide Black History Celebration, now in its 76th year. Each February, OASC convenes scholars, artists, civic leaders, students, and community members in a powerful, month-long celebration of excellence and truth. Through dynamic performances, thought-provoking discussions, and the recognition of emerging young leaders, OASC affirms that Black History is not limited to a single month—it is a living, evolving story that shapes our collective future.

As OASC marks 81 years of legacy and honors the ASALH National theme *100 years of Black History Commemorations*, the mission remains clear and urgent: to educate, preserve, and inspire—ensuring that American history is told fully and truthfully.

We ask that our community join the legacy. Not leave us out of the vibrant history that we have kept alive when no one else was there. Partner with us. Volunteer. Support the work. Stand with OASC as we continue to connect communities, empower youth, and celebrate the enduring truth that Black History IS American History, must be taught, and shared and lived year round.

Opinion

Black History Is Not a Month. It Is the Measure of a Nation

By Lura Daniels-Ball, President, Our Authors Study Club, Inc.

As President of the oldest Black history organization in Los Angeles, I speak from a position shaped by stewardship, not symbolism. For more than eight decades, Our Authors Study Club, Inc. has carried forward the charge first articulated by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and sustained by our founder, Vassie D. Wright: to tell the truth about Black history, to preserve it with integrity, and to insist that it be recognized for what it is—American history.

That insistence matters now more than ever.

Black History Month was never intended to be a ceremonial pause or a seasonal observance. It was conceived as a corrective. A declaration. A disciplined intervention into a national narrative that had systematically excluded the truth. History, after all, is fact. That is precisely why we do not use the word *heritage*. Heritage is optional. History is not.

To control the narrative of Black history is to defend fact against distortion, erasure, and silence. It is to affirm that the Black presence in this country is not peripheral but foundational—woven into every chapter of America’s political, cultural, economic, and moral development. To deny that truth is not merely an academic failure; it is a threat to the nation’s understanding of itself.

Celebrating Black History Month, therefore, demands more than proclamations. It requires participation—and it requires commitment beyond February.

We begin by **exploring Black history** where it lives. In our neighborhoods. In our churches. In our family stories. We learn by reading books written by Black authors, by visiting African American history museums, and by engaging elders and institutions that have safeguarded memory when others would not. Local libraries, independent bookstores like Malik’s and Reparation Sisters, and organizations rooted in scholarship and community are essential gateways to truth.

We celebrate by **supporting Black-owned businesses**, recognizing that economic agency has always been a companion to cultural survival. Every purchase is a vote for visibility, sustainability, and self-determination.

We deepen our understanding by **learning about Black leaders**, past and present—those whose names fill textbooks and those whose impact lives quietly in communities. Following Black media, engaging credible historical sources, and honoring factual legacy over myth are acts of responsibility.

We honor our stories by **watching films and documentaries created by Black filmmakers**, whose work expands narrative ownership and presents our lives with nuance, agency, and depth. Platforms like BHERC TV and the work showcased through Black film festivals preserve voices too often excluded from mainstream distribution.

And we sustain progress by **organizing educational events**—not as performances, but as spaces for rigorous learning, intergenerational dialogue, and social justice grounded in lived experience. Education that ignores the voices of the oppressed is incomplete by design.

Finally, and most critically, we must **commit beyond February**. Black history does not end when the calendar turns. It requires year-round investment—of time, resources, and attention. A strategic, ongoing commitment, including monthly support of institutions like Our Authors Study Club, Inc., ensures that this work remains protected, accurate, and accessible for generations to come.

Black History Month is not a courtesy extended to Black people. It is a responsibility owed to the nation. Because a country unwilling to tell the truth about its past will never fully understand its present—nor secure its future.
