



Contact: Sheena Pegarido
spegarido@linksp.com, 202-559-4431

**DC HISTORY CONFERENCE TO DIVE DEEP INTO DISTRICT'S PAST,
INCLUDING DISENFRANCHISEMENT AND STATEHOOD**
Three-day conference takes place March 23-25;
In-person event is free and open to the public; registration required

WASHINGTON (March 14, 2023) — The 49th Annual DC History Conference, co-presented by the DC History Center, the DC Public Library, and HumanitiesDC, returns with a compelling series of illuminating discussions relevant to the current moment. The community event takes place from Thursday, March 23 to Saturday, March 25, at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library.

The program will feature more than 100 presenters across 25 sessions, panels, and presentations that focus on disenfranchisement, Black women's experience under slavery, displacement, and the fight for disability rights, among others. The event is free to all attendees, but online pre-registration is required. To see the detailed schedule and register, go to conference.dchistory.org.

"Each year, we bring our communities together for engaging conversations, using the tools of local history to shed light on the urgent issues we face today," said Laura Brower Hagood, DC History Center Executive Director. "Everyone who calls themselves a Washingtonian will find something to spark their curiosity and broaden their perspective on our fascinating city."

Speakers represent various backgrounds and expertise, from university professors to actors, from anthropologists to journalists, and from government leaders to community organizers. The three-day event opens on Thursday, March 23, with the Letitia Woods Brown Lecture. Dr. Tamika Nunley, author of *At the Threshold of Liberty: Women, Slavery, and Shifting Identities in Washington, D.C.* and associate professor of history at Cornell University, discusses Black women's history as American history.

A panel on Friday, March 24 highlights DC's history of disenfranchisement, illuminating the federal government's heavy-handed role in governing the District. On Saturday, March 25, the conference concludes with a 50th Anniversary Remembrance of The DC Home Rule Act of 1973 panel, featuring veterans of the fight for Home Rule, Arrington Dixon and Carol Schwartz.

The DC History Conference is organized by a volunteer planning committee and sponsored by the Public History Program at American University. Supporters include the DC Public Library



Foundation, the DC Office of the Secretary, Georgetown University Press, AARP, DC Preservation League, the Family of Letitia Woods Brown, and the White House Historical Association, as well as Events DC and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

More information on the in-person conference schedule and speakers can be found at conference.dchistory.org (virtual participation is not available this year).

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About the DC History Conference

The DC History Conference is an interdisciplinary, community conference considering the District's past, present, and future. Since 1973, the conference organizers aim to provide a welcoming, educational, and stimulating forum for original research on and engagement with the history of the Washington, DC metropolitan area, including Maryland, Virginia, and the federal government. For more updates, follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (@dchistcon) and share about the conference using the hashtag #DCHistCon. For more information, visit dchistory.org/conference.

Conference Planning Committee Members

Mariana Barros-Titus, Mark Benbow, Kimberly Bender, Natalie Campbell, Jenna Febrizio, Mark Greek, Laura Brower Hagood, Karen L. Harris, Linnea Hegarty, Julianna Jackson, Rebecca Kaliff, Angela Kramer, Lily Liu, Lina Mann, Lopez Matthews, Fontana Micucci, Aungelic Nelson, Lois Nembhard, Maren Orchard, Andrea Pedolsky, Alexandra Piper, Ashley Robertson Preston, Trisha Smith, Domonique Spear, Jackie Streker, and Sajel Swartz.

About the DC History Center

Established in 1894 and located at the Carnegie Library in Downtown DC, the DC History Center is a community-supported nonprofit organization, which deepens understanding of our city's past to connect, empower, and inspire. It collects, interprets, and shares the history of our nation's capital through research and scholarship, adult programs, youth education, and exhibits. We seek to do this work as a welcoming and inclusive community that fosters curiosity and nurtures civic engagement to strengthen the District for all. For more information visit dchistory.org.

About the DC Public Library

The District of Columbia Public Library is a dynamic source of information, programs, books and other library materials and services that improve the quality of life for District residents of all ages that, when combined with expert staff, helps build a thriving city. The Library provides environments that invite reading, community conversation, creative inspiration and exploration, lectures, films, computer access and use, workforce and economic development,



story times for children, and much more. DC Public Library provides services at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, 25 neighborhood libraries and in nontraditional settings outside of the library buildings. DC Public Library enriches and nourishes the lives and minds of all District residents, provides them with the services and tools needed to transform lives, and builds and supports communities throughout the District of Columbia. For more information, visit dclibrary.org.

About HumanitiesDC

HumanitiesDC aims to illuminate the rich communities that make up the District using the tools of the humanities. Through our grantmaking we support Washingtonians and local organizations interested in helping build a vibrant city where all can engage in intellectual exchange, reflect on our connected stories and celebrate our various cultures. With our public programs we partner with local experts, scholars and creatives to design and host unique initiatives, workshops, discussions, performances, storytelling gatherings and more that explore the culture of our nation's capital. To learn more about our grant opportunities, programs and how you can become involved visit humanitiesdc.org.