

# History Month: African Americans and Labor

By ASALH

The mission of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) is to promote, research, preserve, interpret, and disseminate information about Black life, history, and culture to the global community.

When Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week in 1926, he realized the importance of providing a theme to focus the attention of the public. The intention has never been to dictate or limit the exploration of the Black experience but to bring to the public's attention important developments that merit emphasis.

The 2025 Black History Month theme, African Americans and Labor, focuses on the various and profound ways that work and working of all kinds—free and unfree, skilled and unskilled, vocational and voluntary—intersect with the collective experiences of Black people. Indeed, work is at the very center of much of Black history and culture. Be it the traditional agricultural labor of enslaved Africans that fed Low Country

colonies, debates among Black educators on the importance of vocational training, self-help strategies and entrepreneurship in Black communities, or organized labor's role in fighting both economic and social injustice, Black people's work has been transformational throughout the United States, Africa, and the Diaspora. The 2025 Black History Month theme, African Americans and Labor, sets out to highlight and celebrate the potent impact of this work.

Considering Black people's work through the widest perspectives provides versatile and insightful platforms for examining Black life and culture through time and space. In this instance, the notion of work constitutes compensated labor in factories, the military, government agencies, office buildings, public service, and private homes. But it also includes the community building of social justice activists, voluntary workers serving others, and institution building in churches, community groups, and social clubs and organizations. In each of these instances, the work Black people do and have done have been instrumental in shaping the lives, cultures, and histories of



Black people and the societies in which they live. Understanding Black labor and its impact in all these multivariate settings is integral to understanding Black people and their histories, lives, and cultures.

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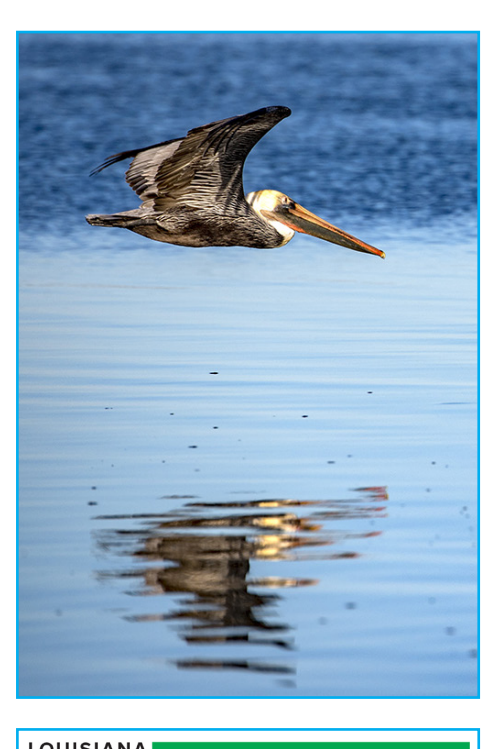
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**Virtual Community Meeting for the Development of 1141 Esplanade Avenue**

**Thursday, February 13, 2025 • 5:30 pm**

New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA) and its selected development partners, HRI Communities and New Orleans Restoration Properties, will host a virtual community meeting for updates on the development of 1141 Esplanade Avenue. The planned development includes 50 units of mixed-income housing with two ground floor commercial spaces. During the February 13 meeting, the project team will update the community on the project's current status, design, and development timeline.

[Click here to register in advance](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please contact Project Manager Leslie-Johns McCann with any questions at [leslie.mccann@nola.gov](mailto:leslie.mccann@nola.gov) or (504) 658-4412.

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**Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Certification Program Webinar**  
Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 1:00 pm–2:00 pm CST Online  
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
Contact: Patrice Dozier, [patrice.dozier@sba.gov](mailto:patrice.dozier@sba.gov)  
Fee: Free; registration required

SBA is creating a space for Woman-Owned Small Businesses, via WOSB certification! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions include an overview of the self-certification process, and a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/woman-owned-small-business-wosb-certification-program-tickets-1123658967219>

**8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar**  
Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 9:30 am–11:00 am CST Online  
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, [illinois.do@sba.gov](mailto:illinois.do@sba.gov)  
Fee: Free; registration required

Join the Small Business Administration (SBA)

Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer additional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. To register for this free webinar, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/basics-of-sbas-8a-business-development-orientation-and-sam-registration-tickets-1030102924577>

**Selling to the Federal Government Webinar**  
Thursday, February 27, 2025, 12:00 pm–3:00 pm CST Online  
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, [george.tapia@sba.gov](mailto:george.tapia@sba.gov)  
Fee: Free; registration required

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**CERTIFICATION**

Small Business Exchange, Inc. is **DBE certified** by the Louisiana UCP.

