BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Inspirational figures in Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

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Maya Angelou

Angelou is a famous writer, poet, and civil rights activist. Her most famous work is often autobiographical. With the publication of 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,' Angelou publicly discussed aspects of her personal life. She was respected as a spokesperson for Black people and women, and her works have been considered a defence of Black culture. She has received dozens of awards and more than 50 honorary degrees.

> You may shoot me with your words, you may cut me with your eyes, you may kill me with your hatefulness, but still, like air, I'll rise!"

Barack Obama

Barack Obama is an American politician who served as the 44th president of the United States from 2009 to 2017. He was the first African-American president in the history of the United States.
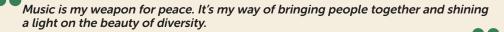
> Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

Angelique Kidjo

Angelique Kidjo is a world-renowned singer, songwriter, and activist. Known for her powerful voice and electrifying performances, Kidjo has blended African music with elements of funk, jazz, Latin, and pop, breaking barriers across genres. She is celebrated not only for her music but also for her commitment to social justice, advocating for women's rights, education, and environmental sustainability. Kidjo has won multiple Grammy Awards and is widely regarded as one of the most influential voices of African music.

> Music is my weapon for peace. It's my way of bringing people together and shining a light on the beauty of diversity.

Lilian Seenoi-Barr

Lilian Seenoi-Barr is a Kenyan-born human rights activist and community leader who has made significant strides in advocating for social justice, equality, and inclusion in Northern Ireland. She first arrived in Northern Ireland as a refugee in 2010, and has since worked to improve the rights of migrants and refugees. She is currently serving as the Mayor of Derry City and Strabane, making her Northern Ireland's first Black mayor.

> We must continue to stand up for what is right, speak out against injustice, and build communities where everyone belongs, regardless of their background.