

January 28, 2019

## ***Know the past. Shape the future: Celebrating Black History Month***

Edmonton – MacEwan’s first university-wide Black History Month aims to raise awareness about the contributions made by black Canadians to Canada’s culture and legacy, both past and present.

“Working with students, faculty and staff, we’ve developed a series of events that help celebrate and bring awareness to people of African, Afro Caribbean and Afro-Latino ancestry,” says Irfan Chaudhry, director, Office of Human Rights and Equity. “Through events and presentations, students, faculty, staff and the Edmonton community can experience black history from new perspectives and build on this year’s theme: *Know the Past. Shape our Future.*”

### **HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

#### **Black History Month Kick-off**

The event will showcase African drumming and dance by Sangea Academy, a special spoken-word performance by Edmonton’s poet laureate Ahmed Ali (Knowmadic), and a keynote address by MLA David Shepherd.

#### **Film screenings featuring works by black filmmakers:**

##### ***Free Angela and all Political Prisoners***

A young professor’s social justice activism implicates her in a botched kidnapping attempt that ends in a shootout with four people dead, and her name on the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted list.

##### ***Sorry to Bother You***

Telemarketer Cassius Green finds himself in a macabre universe after discovering a magical key that leads to material glory. As Green’s career begins to take off, a delusional CEO offers him a salary beyond his wildest dreams, while his friends and co-workers protest corporate oppression.

##### ***13th***

This documentary outlines how slavery continued in America after the Civil War in the form of criminal punishment and eventually led to the mass incarceration of African-Americans.

#### **Musical performances:**

##### ***La Connexion Afro Latin Dance Workshop***

This interactive and informative performance delves into the cultural comparisons between African and Latino communities.

##### ***Sangea Academy***

Sangea Academy will lead a West-African drumming and dance workshop, while exploring various drumming techniques.

#### **For more information, please contact:**

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**Art Showcase**

The showcase features various forms of art culture representing black history in Canada and features a photo collage of influential black Canadians.

**Pop- Up Shops**

Throughout Black History Month a variety of pop-up shops will showcase local African, Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Latino vendors.

**Black History Month close-out event**

An evening of spoken word and performance from local Edmonton artists with a keynote address by Edmonton's poet laureate, Ahmed Ali (Knowmadic).

[Complete listing of Black History Month events, locations and times](#)

*Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.*

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