



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, Feb. 1, 2021

City of San Diego Public Library Celebrates Black History Month

EVENTS INCLUDE VIRTUAL PROGRAMS, STORYTIMES, RELEASE OF
SPECIAL EDITION LIBRARY CARD DESIGNED BY LOCAL STUDENT

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego Public Library has a full schedule of events this February to celebrate the rich and diverse history of Black Americans. The library's Black History Month programming includes storytimes for children, book discussions, author talks and take-home craft kits.

"The San Diego Public Library is proud to celebrate Black History Month and to provide yet another way to connect with our residents who may be isolated at home due to the pandemic," said Library Director Misty Jones. "We hope the library programs will encourage patrons to learn more about the achievements of Black Americans and the contributions they have made throughout our country's history."

As part of the celebration, the San Diego Public Library will release a Black History Month library card. The special edition card was designed by 15-year-old Scripps Ranch High School student Sahithi Lingampalli. The design was chosen from dozens sent in by local students. It features the likenesses of congressman and civil rights icon John Lewis, basketball legend Kobe Bryant, Vice President Kamala Harris and tennis great Serena Williams.

"I wanted to showcase the achievements made by people of African ethnicity, especially in the year 2020 when we were hit with a pandemic," said Sahithi Lingampalli, designer of the Black History Month card. "I felt that these people were standouts over the last year."

Patrons can pick up the Black History Month library card beginning Feb. 1, 2021, at the 25 [San Diego Public Library](#) locations offering limited in-person or contactless pickup services.

In addition to the card, the San Diego Public Library will also host two virtual events with author and historian Anne C. Bailey:

- Reconciling 1619 and 1776 in American History: The Debate over the Soul of a Nation
Thursday, Feb. 25, at 6:30 p.m.

A collaboration with the University of San Diego, the author will discuss the concept of “living history” and connecting events of the past to current and contemporary issues. The author will also take questions from the audience.

- The NY Times 1619 Project and Why Slavery Matters

Friday, Feb. 26, at 4 p.m.

A collaboration with San Diego Unified School District, students will have an interactive discussion with the author.

To register for the author events and for more information on the library’s Black History Month programs and library card, visit the Library’s Black History Month [web page](#) and [Virtual Hub](#).

About the San Diego Public Library

With a vision of being the place for opportunity, discovery and inspiration, the San Diego Public Library is a hub for knowledge and lifelong learning. As the largest library system in the region, it serves a population of more than 1.4 million people. Learn about events at the San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common and 35 community branch libraries, find links to programs and resources or search for materials in the online catalog at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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