

Welcome to Camden's seventh Black History Season, a dedicated programme running from October to December celebrating the incredible achievements, contributions and impact of Black people across Camden and the UK.

The theme for Black History Season 2026 is 'Honouring Our Communities', a powerful celebration of the people, cultures and contributions that strengthen and enrich our communities.

From exploring Camden's Black histories and the people who have shaped them, to creating platforms for young people and contemporary Black voices, the season celebrates both our histories and our futures. It recognises the legacy of those who came before us while shining a light on the activists, changemakers and leaders making a difference in Camden today, giving communities the opportunity to learn, connect and explore.

I am proud to be involved in this brilliant programme, which includes an eclectic mix of film, music, literature, poetry, exhibitions, performances, walks and talks, delivered in partnership with communities and cultural organisations across the borough.

Much of the programme is free or low cost, with ticket proceeds from selected events donated to support the vital work of the African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust (ACLT).

Councillor Sabrina Francis

Cabinet Member for Jobs, Young People and Culture

CAMDEN BLACK HISTORY SEASON 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

Most events in this season are free or provided at a low cost, with proceeds going to support the brilliant work of the African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust (ACLT).

Seeing the Potential

Working with reclaimed materials, Matthew Small creates powerful portraits inspired by the people and rhythms of Camden. Seeing the potential explores visibility, identity and belonging, inviting us to look beyond first impressions and recognise the stories and possibilities within people and the world around us.

Barrel Children: The Families Windrush Left Behind - Film Screening and Q&A

Screening of award-winning journalist Nadine White's acclaimed documentary exploring the untold stories of Caribbean children separated from their Windrush-generation parents, followed by a Q&A with the director.

Legacy in Motion: An Inherited Light Conversation

Join us for an inspiring evening and fresh approach to Caribbean legacy by exploring how creativity, business, storytelling and community leadership are shaping the next chapter of Caribbean presence in the UK.

Lens to the Runway - Season 3

'Honour our communities' with a celebration of creativity, collaboration and culture, as designers, photographers, set designers, creative director, performers and more come together for a one day showcase and creative activation. Expect performances, fashion show, art exhibition, live photoshoot, panel discussion and more.

26 SEPT – 12 DEC

Mon – Thu, 10am – 8pm
Fri – Sat, 10am – 5pm
FREE
Swiss Cottage Gallery

12 OCT

6pm – 8pm
£10
Everyman King's Cross

22 OCT

7pm – 9pm
Claudia Jones Room,
Camden Town Hall
Pay What You Can

31 OCT

3pm – 10pm
Inner Space at Town Hall
by Bottaccio, WC1H 9AU
£10 plus booking fee

FILM - WORKSHOPS

THEATRE - EXHIBITIONS

WALKS - TALKS

10 OCT - 12 DEC 2026

BLACK HISTORY SEASON
CAMDEN

Immerse yourself in our vibrant calendar of events celebrating Camden's Black Culture

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED...

29 OCT, 7pm – 9pm Claudia Jones Room, Camden Town Hall Pay What You Can	Black Music & Rebellion: 60 Years of Punk Don't miss this compelling exploration of the connections between Black music, Black British culture and the development of punk. Broadcaster Ritche Brave and guests explore six decades of punk, rebellion and resistance, and Camden's place within this cultural history.
6 NOV, 7:30pm – 10pm Town Hall by Bottaccio Pay What You Can	Come Mek We Larf Get ready for an evening of big laughs and great company as acclaimed host Mr Cee brings together some of the brightest voices in comedy. Celebrating Black British humour, culture and community, this special night of stand-up promises sharp wit, unforgettable stories and plenty of feel-good moments.
10 NOV, 7pm – 9pm Holborn Library, Main Floor Pay What You Can	Afrodeities: The Misclassified Continent In this powerful talk, Chinenye Egbuna Ikwuemesi, Founder and Director of The Afrodeities Institute, examines the narratives that have shaped perceptions of Africa over time. Exploring questions of representation, identity and power, she invites audiences to reconsider how the continent has been defined and understood.

Please note: Some events require advance booking.

For the full programme, event details and booking info, visit:
lovecamden.org/blackhistoryseason



Discover the full programme:
lovecamden.org/blackhistoryseason



CAMDEN BLACK HISTORY SEASON EVENTS CALENDAR 2026

EXHIBITIONS

26 SEPT – 12 DEC, FREE Mon – Thu, 10am – 8pm Fri – Sat, 10am – 5pm Swiss Cottage Gallery	Seeing the Potential Working with reclaimed materials, Matthew Small creates powerful portraits inspired by the people and rhythms of Camden.
1 – 31 OCT, FREE Outernet London	Carnival at 60: Ian Watts at Outernet A selection of Ian's photographs from the last four decades of Notting Hill Carnival.
9 – 25 OCT, FREE Camden Market and Hawley Wharf	Honouring Our Community – Our People, Our Spirit, Our Stories An indoor and outdoor photographic exhibition celebrating some of Camden's iconic Black creatives and literary figures, from Horace Ové to Beryl Gilroy.
17 OCT, 12pm – 3pm, FREE Conway Hall	Femmes De Soleil (Women of the Sun) ♦ A body of artwork by fine artist Rhia Elise, celebrating the Black body as art.
Until 7 MAY 2027, £5 – £10 / Pay What You Can Queer Britain Museum	Resist! - Black Lesbian and Gay Centre Display An inspiring exhibition showcasing archival ephemera, photographs, leaflets and more.

FILM

12 OCT, 6pm – 10pm, £10 Everyman King's Cross	Barrel Children: The Families Windrush Left Behind - Film Screening and Q&A Acclaimed documentary exploring the untold stories of Caribbean children separated from their Windrush-generation parents.
21 OCT, 6pm, FREE Swiss Cottage Library	Film Screening: Mama Sheila's Montage Selected for the Portobello Film Festival, Mama Sheila's Montage is a 30 minute personal documentary exploring family, heritage, identity and the strength of a generation.

TALKS

2 OCT, 6:15pm – 10pm, £6 – £12 Holy Cross Church	Between The City And Me: A Panel of Grassroots Voices ♦ An inspiring evening of performances celebrating the power of solidarity amongst diverse communities.
10 OCT, 2.30pm – 4pm, £15 / Pay What You Can Queer Britain Museum	Revolutionary Acts: Love and Brotherhood in Black Gay Britain Join author Jason Okundaye for a thought-provoking discussion exploring the histories, experiences and communities that have shaped Black gay life in Britain.
18 OCT, 3pm – 4:30pm, £6 – £15 Conway Hall	Ethical Matters: Creating Beyond the Mainstream Courtia Newland explores key aspects of creating beyond the mainstream: centring your own voice, reading outside of the white Western canon, and how success shapes the work of historically excluded creatives.
22 OCT, 6pm – 9pm, Pay What You Can Claudia Jones Room	Legacy in Motion: An Inherited Light Conversation Join us for a powerful evening exploring how creativity, business, storytelling and community leadership are shaping the next chapter of Caribbean presence in the UK.
29 OCT, 7pm – 9pm, Pay What You Can Claudia Jones Room	Black Music & Rebellion: 60 Years of Punk Broadcaster Ritchie Brave and guests explore six decades of punk, rebellion and Black music, and Camden's place within this cultural history.
3 NOV, 6pm, FREE Camden Local Studies & Archives Centre	Beryl Gilroy – Black Teacher 50 Years On Explore Beryl Gilroy's archive from the British Library, and discover her child-centred, collaborative approach to learning.
10 NOV, 7pm – 9pm, Pay What You Can Main Floor, Holborn Library	Afrodeities: The Misclassified Continent Join Chinenye Egbuna Ikwuemesi for a talk examining how the African continent has been represented, categorised and misunderstood.
8 NOV, 3pm – 4:30pm, £7 – £16 Conway Hall	Ethical Matters: A History of Black People and Alternative Music Journalist and feminist punk musician Stephanie Phillips reclaims the past and future of rock 'n' roll for the Black artists who tore up and re-wrote its rules.
9 NOV, 6pm – 7pm, FREE West Hampstead Library	Author Talk – Diane M. Hinds: Writing the History Nobody Taught You Discover the research and writing process behind telling overlooked histories through fiction in this compelling talk for readers and writers.
12 NOV, 6:30pm – 8pm, FREE Swiss Cottage Library	Author Talk – Diane M. Hinds: The Island Britain Bought Explore how Trinidad passed from Spanish to British rule and the impact this had on the people already living there.
18 NOV, 6:45pm, FREE Holborn Library	Author Talk – Diane M. Hinds: Thomas Picton and Luisa Calderon Discover the trial that forced Britain to confront the actions of its colonial governors and the legacy it left behind.

THEATRE

10 OCT – 28 NOV, FREE Donmar Warehouse	Ilford Boy A funny, moving drama by Danny Lee Wynter, following mixed-race teenager Ted as he navigates family, identity and belonging in 1990s East London.
17 OCT, 7pm – 9:30pm, £6 – £20 Conway Hall	Nuns With Tattoos ♦ A musical cabaret by queer Christian British-Jamaican performing artist Esther Foga and Musical Director Dean Austin.
29 – 30 OCT, 7pm, £10 – £15 Holy Cross Church	Sankofa A one-woman play; Nicole Acquah's Sankofa weaves music, poetry, pottery and storytelling in an evocative journey exploring Ghanaian-British heritage.

MUSIC

16 OCT, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, £25 The Foundling Museum	Abolition Song and its Legacies A six-musician ensemble will bring to life rarely heard British anti-slavery art songs from 1787 - c1830, interwoven with readings from eighteenth-century Black writers.
17 OCT, 2:15pm – 10:30pm, £20.50 – £35.50 Cecil Sharp House	Black British Folk Takeover A music festival-style all-dayer shining a light on the African Diaspora's connection with British folk.
24 OCT, 7:30pm – 9pm, £6 – £20 Holy Cross Church	African Eye to the Sun: African-Jazz Fusion REGEN onstage are a high wire act of bebop idiosyncrasies with a pounding African rhythm section.

FASHION

31 OCT, 3pm – 10pm, £10 plus booking fee Inner Space at Town Hall by Bottaccio	Lens to the Runway – Season 3 A celebration of creativity, collaboration and culture, as designers, photographers, performers and more come together for a one-day showcase and creative activation.
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WALKS

1 OCT – 30 NOV, FREE Available in print from Burgh House or to download from burghhouse.org.uk	Black History Trail of Hampstead A self-guided walking tour providing a fascinating history of the famous residents of Hampstead and the surrounding area.
30 OCT, 10:45am – 12:45pm, FREE Meeting point: Camden Town Hall	Black History Season Walk 1: Reclaiming Narratives Join this guided walking tour exploring Black histories and achievement across Camden.
7 NOV, 10am, Pay What You Can Meeting point: Near Brunswick Centre	South Camden Black History Walk Step into African and Caribbean history on a walking tour between UCL and Tottenham Court Road.
28 NOV, 10:30am – 12:30pm, FREE Meeting point: Kenwood House	Black History Season Walk 2: Hampstead & Highgate via Kenwood Discover the rich and often overlooked Black histories connected to Hampstead and Highgate.

WORKSHOPS

3 OCT, 2pm – 5pm, FREE Holy Cross Church	Let's See What Happens: Stories of Joy ♦ A multidisciplinary theatre-making workshop bringing communities together in a celebration of collective joys, hopes and dreams.
28 SEP – 22 OCT (Workshops) 12 NOV, 5pm – 7pm (Public Showcase)	Then, Now & Us: From Their Stories to Ours Young people will explore Black histories and community through music, rap, poetry and acting. Ages 16+.

DANCE

Autumn Term: 19 SEPT – 5 DEC (Half Term: 24 – 31 OCT) Impact Dance	Impact Dance Academy A Black-led arts-for-social-change organisation empowering young people aged 11-19 to unlock their full potential through Hip-Hop dance. Bursaries available
16 OCT, 7:30pm, £18 – £22 The Place	Afro Dance Xplosion 2026: Transcen-dance The Afro Dance Xplosion festival celebrates dance forms from Africa and its Diaspora, bringing together the best of dance, with both homegrown and international artists.

COMEDY

6 NOV, 7:30 – 10pm, Pay What You Can Town Hall by Bottaccio	Come Mek We Larf An evening of live comedy hosted by Mr Cee, bringing audiences together to celebrate Black British humour, culture and community through stand-up performance.
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COMMUNITY

1 OCT – 3 DEC, Every Thursday O2 Centre, Finchley Road	Carib Eats Camden Weekly Canteen A vibrant community dining space that offers greeted by a warm welcome, a plate of affordable Caribbean food, social activities, access to advice and resources.
3 OCT, 7pm – 9:30pm, £6, £12 & £20 / Pay What You Can Holy Cross Church	upLIFT: Stories of Joy ♦ An evening of curated multidisciplinary performances centered on lifting up emerging artists to creatively empower audiences through the theme 'Stories of Joy'.
23 OCT, 5pm – 8pm, FREE Crowndale Centre	Somali Cultural Day 2026 A celebration of Somali culture including live performances, music and Somali food.
22 NOV, 12.30pm – 3pm, FREE JW3	Sigd Dive into a rich, immersive afternoon celebrating Ethiopian Jewish heritage through music, culture, storytelling, and community.

ONLINE

2 OCT – 10 DEC, FREE Online – itchradio.com	Itch Radio x Camden Black History Season Special Tune in to a season-long celebration of Black culture, creativity and community with Itch Radio's young broadcasters and emerging DJs.
6 NOV, 4pm – 5:30pm, Pay What You Can Donation Online (facilitated by Freud Museum London) Delivered in Portuguese	The Colonial Pact of Psychoanalysis and Violence Against Women/O pacto colonial da psicanálise e a violência contra a mulher This online discussion questions to what extent the very concepts used to think about violence against women are rooted in a colonial framework.

FAMILY

14 OCT, 4pm – 5:30pm, FREE Swiss Cottage Library	Author Event – Jessica Wilson: If Afros Could Speak Through storytelling, creative writing and a fun braiding activity, children will discover the connections between hair, identity, culture and ancestry.
17 OCT, 12:30pm – 1:30pm, FREE Swiss Cottage Library	Camden Music Service: Steel Pan Performance and Workshop Experience the vibrant sounds of steel pan music in this interactive workshop led by Camden Music Service. Suitable for all ages.
19 OCT, 4pm – 5pm, FREE Camden Town Library	Author Talk – Anne John-Ligali: St Vincent, Chief Chatoyer and the Garifunas Join this interactive journey through storytelling, Caribbean history, music and a fun craft activity. Ages 6+.
26 OCT, 3pm – 4:30pm, FREE Queens Crescent Library 27 OCT, 3pm – 5:30pm, FREE Swiss Cottage Library	Kente Creations Craft Workshop A fun, hands-on workshop exploring the colours, patterns and symbols of Ghana's Kente cloth while creating your own personalised necklace.
27 OCT, 3pm – 4pm, FREE Holborn Library	SOAL Explore Africa: Weaving Cultures – Pattern & Textile Workshop Create your own woven artwork while learning about traditional African weaving and textiles. All ages.
28 OCT, 3pm, FREE Swiss Cottage Library	SOAL Explore Africa: West Africa Edition Get creative with weaving, textiles or Senegal-inspired sand art, and explore a selection of West African snacks. All ages
28 OCT, 3pm – 4pm, FREE Swiss Cottage Library & Camden Town Library	SOAL Explore Africa: Flags of the World Discover African countries, flags, landmarks, wildlife, languages and cultures through maps, games, quizzes and hands-on activities. Suitable for families and all ages.
29 OCT, 3pm – 4:30pm, FREE Pancras Square Library	Rakaya: Children's Workshop Explore language and African history with poet Rakaya Fetuga through storytelling, poetry, games and creative writing activities. Ages 7–12 years.
11 NOV, 4pm – 5:30pm, FREE Swiss Cottage Library	Author Event – Jessica Wilson: Black Love An exploration of Black Love, identity, family and community through storytelling and creative writing activities for children.