

National History Day Students Named for Smithsonian Documentary Showcase

National Museum of African American History and Culture Selected Student Films to be Showcased by Smithsonian Learning Lab

WASHINGTON, D.C.—National History Day® (NHD), the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), and the Smithsonian Learning Lab are pleased to announce the global premier of 33 documentary films, to be featured in an [online showcase](#). The films were produced by middle and high school students competing in the 2021 NHD National Contest and were screened and selected by NMAAHC staff. The documentaries premier today, Wednesday, June 16, via the Smithsonian Learning Lab.

NHD students whose films were selected for the showcase grappled with topics consistent with the mission of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Their documentaries address topics of African American history, civil and human rights, and the experiences of historically underrepresented, marginalized, or subjugated peoples. These 10-minute films also reflect the 2021 NHD theme, *Communication in History: The Key to Understanding*.

Due to the continued impact of the coronavirus pandemic, this showcase will be exclusively available online through the Smithsonian Learning Lab, instead of being screened in-person in the NMAAHC’s Oprah Winfrey Theater.

“Despite the ongoing public health emergency, the virtual nature of this showcase allows us to leverage modern technology to share student work that addresses important movements and advancements in communications history,” said National History Day Executive Director Dr. Cathy Gorn. “These students have recognized, researched, and refined powerful stories of communication breakthroughs and pioneers of the past. We are so grateful to our partners at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Smithsonian Learning Lab for making this showcase accessible to millions of people around the world.”

The 33 student films will be [available to stream online](#) for one week via the Smithsonian Learning Lab, from today, Wednesday, June 16 through next Wednesday, June 23.

This program is generously supported by United Airlines.

The following films and students have been selected for this showcase:

Documentary Title	Student(s)	School	City, State
<i>All in the Family: Communicating Controversial Comedy</i>	Shawn Ashley, Shayna Ashley	Canyon Springs High School	Moreno Valley, California
<i>Sting Like a Bee: Muhammad Ali and His Fighting Words</i>	Jefferson Smith	Francis Parker School	San Diego, California

Documentary Title	Student(s)	School	City, State
<i>BeBop's Blare: How Modern Jazz Communicated the Protest of Black Americans in the Middle of the 20th Century</i>	Luca Camponovo	Washington Latin Public Charter School / Real World History	Washington, D.C.
<i>"It's Like a Jungle Sometimes:" How "The Message" Created a Unique Outlet for the Communication of Black Struggle</i>	Max Dinerman	Atlanta International School	Atlanta, Georgia
<i>The Green Book: A Roadmap to Freedom</i>	Temple Lester	Georgia Cyber Academy	Stone Mountain, Georgia
<i>The Soul of We People Who Are Darker than Blue</i>	Eva Cherai, Mary McCoy	Columbus High School	Columbus, Georgia
<i>Mary Kawena Pukui Communicates Endangered Hawaiian Language and Cultural Practices for Future Understanding and Revival</i>	Mandy Kim-Fu	Mililani High School	Mililani, Hawai'i
<i>From Rural RN to Healthcare Hero: Barbara Fassbinder's Passionate Plea for PPE</i>	Cameron Cleveland, Paige Franzen, Kadence Huck, Callahan Levi	Nashua – Plainfield Community Schools	Nashua, Iowa
<i>"Say It Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud": The Media's Misrepresentation of the Black Panther Party</i>	Kara Tao, Brent Pennington, Sandra Mordi	University of Chicago Laboratory School	Chicago, Illinois
<i>Communication In History: The Key To Understanding The 1963 Chicago Public Schools Boycott</i>	Gabrielle Domercant	Oscar Mayer Magnet School	Chicago, Illinois
<i>Singing for Change: The Power of Music in the Civil Rights Movement</i>	Finley Bailey, Caleb Deuel, Robinson Hoffert, Wyatt Stapleton	Edgewood Middle School	Warsaw, Indiana

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<i>"We Won't Move!": Communicating Asian-American Resistance and the Fight for Affordable Housing</i>	Vy Nguyen	Derby High School	Derby, Kansas
<i>When the World Came to Little Rock</i>	Anna Barnette, Ella Mayfield	West Ouachita High School	West Monroe, Louisiana
<i>Ida B. Wells: The Princess of The Press</i>	Sophie Hrad, Morgan Gibson	Hanscom Middle School	Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts
<i>Taking a Seat for Justice: The 504 Sit In</i>	Allen Tang, Andrew Wang, Andrew Yu, Rohin Garg, Thomas Huang	Winston Churchill High School	Potomac, Maryland
<i>The Birth of a Nation: The Damaging Power of Communication</i>	Joshua Fan, Charlotte Lucas, Carol Li	Richard Montgomery High School and Walter Johnson High School	Rockville, Maryland and North Bethesda, Maryland
<i>"Do Not Ride a Bus Today": How Communication in the Montgomery Bus Boycott Desegregated the Public Bus System</i>	Jordan Young, Eden Marshall, Maya Zimmerman	Greely Middle School	Cumberland Center, Maine
<i>The First Lady of the Black Press: Ethel Payne and Communication in Journalism</i>	Zoe Champion, Elsa Carlson	Open World Learning Community	St. Paul, Minnesota
<i>"An Earnest Paramount Work of Journalism"</i>	Elizabeth Arnold	Richland R1 High School	Essex, Missouri
<i>Liberating Language; Fighting for Freedom: The Hidden Exchange of African American Literary Societies</i>	Mikee Alvarez, Rinnah Segovia, Krishna Patel, Felicity Zhou	Rosa International Middle School	Cherry Hill, New Jersey
<i>Communicating Through Art: The Harlem Renaissance</i>	Rashel Barragan	Silver High School	Silver City, New Mexico
<i>Communication through the Arts: Gordon Parks' Choice of Weapons</i>	Elizabeth McDonald	Silver High School	Silver City, New Mexico

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<i>Lorraine Hansberry: "To Be Young, Gifted and Black"</i>	Emily Kim, Catherine Kim	Jericho Senior High School	Jericho, New York
<i>The Doll Test: How Baby Dolls Spoke for America's Black Children</i>	Violet Brush	Willetts Road School	Roslyn Heights, New York
<i>Communication in Song: How Lady Day Paved the Way</i>	Laila Christian	Shaker Heights High School	Shaker Heights, Ohio
<i>Beatrice Morrow Cannady: Speaking Out Against Racism in the Film Industry</i>	Sam Kubishta	Griswold High School	Helix, Oregon
<i>The Harlem Writers Guild: The Communication of Equality Through Powerful Words</i>	Lila Wesner, Ginger Dow	De La Salle Middle School / La Salle Academy	Providence, Rhode Island
<i>Jo Ann Allen Boyce and the Story of The Clinton 12</i>	Krishnav Manga	Lausanne Collegiate School	Memphis, Tennessee
<i>Exposing the Lie: James Baldwin's Communication of the American Truth</i>	Adam Kinder, Brandon Rupp	Impact Early College High School	Baytown, Texas
<i>In the Words of Those Who Endured: How Slave Narratives are the Key to Understanding the Lives of Former Enslaved African Americans and Communicating an Accurate History of Slavery in America</i>	Maci Hill	Livingston High School	Livingston, Texas
<i>Absence of Understanding: Consequences of Miscommunicating the Native American Experience</i>	Paige Topham, Kate Willis, Kate Topham	Timberline Middle School	Alpine, Utah
<i>Sending A Message: How Postcards Communicated Terror to a Race of Americans</i>	Krin Blegen	Kettle Moraine Middle School	Dousman, Wisconsin

Documentary Title	Student(s)	School	City, State
<i>The Purple Pamphlet: The Key to Understanding the Johns Committee's Injustices and Its Impact on the LGBTQ Community</i>	Camilla Laterman, Emerson Bentley	University School of Milwaukee	Milwaukee, Wisconsin

About National History Day® (NHD)

NHD is a non-profit organization based in College Park, Maryland, which seeks to improve the teaching and learning of history. The National History Day Contest was established in 1974 and currently engages more than half a million students every year in conducting original research on historical topics of interest. Students present their research as a documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, or website. Projects compete first at the local and affiliate levels, where the top entries are invited to the National Contest at the University of Maryland at College Park. NHD is sponsored in part by HISTORY®, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Park Service, Southwest Airlines, The Better Angels Society, Jacqueline B. Mars, and BBVA. For more information, visit nhd.org.

About the National Museum of African American History and Culture

Since opening Sept. 24, 2016, the National Museum of African American History and Culture has welcomed more than 7 million visitors. Occupying a prominent location next to the Washington Monument on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the nearly 400,000 square-foot museum is the nation’s largest and most comprehensive cultural destination devoted exclusively to exploring, documenting and showcasing the African American story and its impact on American and world history. For more information about the museum, visit nmaahc.si.edu, follow @NMAAHC on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, or call Smithsonian information at (202) 633-1000.

About Smithsonian Learning Lab

The Smithsonian Learning Lab is a free, interactive platform for discovering millions of authentic digital resources from across the Smithsonian’s museums, research centers, libraries, archives and more. The site allows teachers and students to create and adapt personalized interactive instructional materials with online tools and share in the Smithsonian's expansive community of knowledge and learning. Prepackaged collections contain lessons, activities and recommended resources made by Smithsonian museum educators and thousands of classroom teachers across the country. For more information about the Smithsonian Learning Lab, visit learninglab.si.edu, follow @SmithsonianLab on Twitter, or email learninglab@si.edu.