BLACK HISTORY MONTH FEBRUARY 1st - 28th  2018

Programs & Events (chronological):

2/1/2018
12:00 pm University Mall; Fogler Library Student Memorial Union
Unity March:
This year we have elected to start our opening day ceremony with a Unity March. This event will begin on the University Mall area in front of Fogler Library and end with a gathering in the North Pod of The Memorial Union to share opening remarks and statements on the goals and vision of Black History Month at The University of Maine.

2/1/2018/ to 2/28/2018
Opens at 1:00 pm The University of Maine’s Innovative Media Research and Commercialization Center
Student Art Exhibition: Many individuals attending and working at The University of Maine are unaware of the rich and diverse collective of local and international artists that have chosen UMaine as a place to showcase their talents. Last year IMRC Graduate Student Eleanor Kipping showcased her Brown-Bag-Test. This interactive media piece portrayed women of color juxtaposed with a paper bag. For those who are unfamiliar with this symbology, paper bags were the racial litmus test use to determine the worth of a slave and their treatment on the plantation.

2/2/2018
5:00 pm North Pod Student Memorial Union
Community Potluck: Black History Month community potluck. Special Guests of Honor University of Maine Machias Black Student Union

2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26
1:00pm - 3:00pm Office of Multicultural Student Life
Black History Month Mondays:
During Black History Month we will use this as an opportunity to view current documentaries, short films, and TedTalks surrounding race, culture, and people of color. Some weeks this may include visual art, performing art, and music videos that speak to complex contemporary social justice issues. When appropriate a brief discussion may follow.

2/7/2018 & 2/21/2018
1:00 pm Office of Multicultural Student Life, COE Room if necessary
Lunch-N-Learn Student Development Discussion: All too often student’s historical perspective of Black History Month focuses on the obstacles and struggles of people of color. Throughout these discussions, our Black History Month Committee has created a forum that highlights the positives, strengths, and talents of entrepreneurs, physicians, and educators of color. These discussion will give student the opportunity to engage with successful individuals of color from the state of Maine and surrounding region. Our
goal is for students to receive advice and build real-world applications that can help them to succeed in areas with diversity demographics resembling Orono and similar communities in Maine. Not only does this aid our students in their own professional development, discussions such as these offer an opportunity for our community to create an environment which builds on diversity, economic opportunities, and career development after graduation.

Black History Month Kickin Flix Collaboration with Campus Activities & Student Engagement
8:00 pm Wednesday’s & Saturday’s
Wednesday February 7th & Saturday 10th Marshall
Wednesday February 21st & Saturday 24th Love Beats Rhymes
Each year CASE coordinates its film schedule to show culturally relevant & culturally significant films for Black History Month.

2/8/2018 & 2/22/2018
1:00 pm Bangor Room Student Memorial Union
WORKshops: experiences to increase social consciousness
Eleanor Kipping explores the Black experience in the United States in consideration of hair politics, colorism, gender, and sexuality. As an intermedial artist she engages audiences through installation, performance, and social practice. Her creative practice is heavily informed by popular culture, her/history, and personal narratives, including her own. Currently Eleanor is developing a body of work that will engage audiences through interactive workshops and her creative practice.

1. WORKshops: Experiences to increase social consciousness. This interactive series is designed to engage audiences of all races and identities with discussion and physical engagement that allow audiences to explore the Black experience in America as well as their own relationship to contemporary race relations.

2. i. film noir: The representation of Black bodies in contemporary film
An interactive discussion-based workshop that explores the representation of race in films between the mid-1900s to today. Discussions would be guided and would explore how representation (or a lack of), and misrepresentation of Black bodies has contributed to contemporary race relations and Black identity in America today.

2/9/2018
7:00 pm North Pod Student Memorial Union Open Mic Night: The open mic night is a unique opportunity for students of diverse heritages and cultures to share in the celebration of performing arts. This will showcase students poetic, musical, and comedic work. The goal of this program is to provide a space in which students can share hidden talents and gifts that are not commonly demonstrated in the academic arena or campus activities.
2/13/2018 & 2/27/2018
2:00 pm LGBTea Party Rainbow Resource Center
LGBTea Parties are bi-weekly group discussions about current events and LGBTQ+ topics lead by RRC staff members. All LGBTea Parties are on Tuesdays at 3pm in the RRC, with snacks provided. During our two scheduled LGBTea parties during Black History Month we'll be discussing topics like violence against trans women of color and race in the LGBTQ+ community

2/15/2018
8:00pm-10:00pm Bear’s Den
Trivia: In collaboration with Campus Activities & Student Engagement we have planned to hold a black history month trivia night. This trivia event will work to enhance the education and awareness of the achievements and contributions of people of color and that allies throughout both national and international history. Trivia will include cultural & historical facts with contemporary events & pop culture.

2/24/2018
11:00-4:00pm Black Student Union Scholarship Dodgeball Fundraiser New Balance Fitness Center
A collaborative with the New Balance Fitness Center & Student Wellness Center, to host our first annual Black History Month Dodgeball Tournament. This tournament will include participants from Greek Life, student organizations/clubs, the entire student body, staff, & faculty. Teams will pay to enter the tournament and all funds will go towards the Black Student Union Scholarship fund. The creation of this fund is designed to demonstrate that the University of Maine not only supports these initiatives but also is willing to participate in the efforts and organizing necessary to make these events a reality. Sponsors for this event include WA Bean & Son’s and Coca-Cola products donated from Student Life.

2/28/2018
End of Black history Month Finale Student Memorial Union
12:00 pm Student Sit-In & Reading
To end the month we will be holding a sit-in with a reading from the black feminist collective; Combahee River Collective Statement. This reading will highlight the agenda and goals for people of color. The reading will be followed by a discussion focused on continuing the progress of the month’s events and how this discussion transitions into Women’s History Month in March.
6:00pm The Wilson Center
Post Reading Discussion: This will take place at The Wilson Center and will be facilitated by student leaders, activists, and student organization members.