



Movement Strategy Center's February 2024 Community News



*A portrait of Dr. Carter G. Woodson from the cover of the [Penguin Classics edition](#) of his book *the Mis-education of the Negro*.*

Hello Friends,

February, as you know, is **Black History Month**. February, as you also know, is the shortest (and coldest) month of the year — something [Chris Rock](#) has joked about (who is going to have a parade in February?) But there's a reason we celebrate Black history in February.

[Dr. Carter G. Woodson](#), born in 1875, was a writer, scholar, publisher, and activist dedicated to celebrating the historic contributions of Black people in America and all over. He believed that "if a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated." Thus, **Woodson worked to ensure that Black people — and all Americans — understood that the often overlooked achievements of Black Americans are not just Black history but American history.**

week of February to not only coincide with the birthdays of [Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass](#), but in acknowledgement of celebrations that were already happening around the country.

“Since Lincoln’s assassination in 1865, the Black community, along with other Republicans, had been celebrating the fallen President’s birthday. And since the late 1890s, Black communities across the country had been celebrating Douglass’. Well aware of the pre-existing celebrations, Woodson built Negro History Week around traditional days of commemorating the Black past. He was asking the public to extend their study of Black history, not to create a new tradition. In doing so, he increased his chances for success.”

In 1976, Negro History Week became Black History Month. [The row house](#) where Woodson lived and worked in Washington D.C.’s Shaw neighborhood — the homebase for his Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and Associated Publishers — was designated as a National Historic Landmark the same year. The National Park Service is hoping the home will finally be open to visitors this fall, after a long restoration.

The organization Woodson founded is now called the [Association for the Study of African American Life and History](#) and they declared that [arts and culture](#) are the themes of this year’s Black History Month, directing us to [the Smithsonian’s](#) culture toolkit. Meanwhile, [Black Lives Matter](#) is celebrating [Black futures](#) — “a visionary and forward-looking initiative inspired by Black movement leaders.” Check out [their Instagram](#) for activism, wellness, music, and more.

History lesson aside, here at MSC, our mission, our work, and the work of our partners uplift Black histories and Black futures 365 days a year — in the face of inequity, discrimination, and [censorship](#). Check us out on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#), where this month and every month we share happenings, stories, calls to action, accomplishments, and culture — **Black past, Black present, and Black future** — from across the ecosystem.

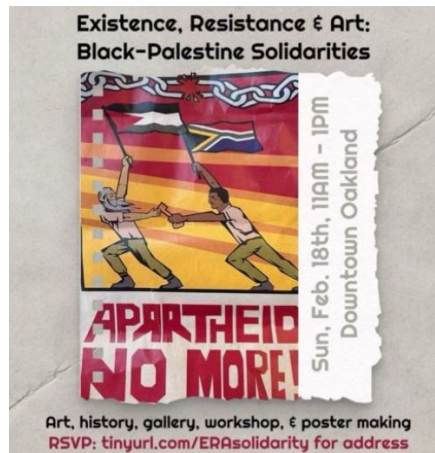
Now, read on for some happenings from the MSC ecosystem:



MSC’s Annual Report is Live

We are thrilled to announce the release of our [2022–2023 annual report!](#) This report — no small undertaking — includes our year in financials, a sort of field guide to our partnerships, a quick reference of our programs, and inspiring testimonials and accomplishments from across the ecosystem. It also represents what an honor it is to provide infrastructure and incubation to an ecosystem of critical and vital movements, as we all adapt in the face of so many intersecting crises.

installment of our blog series on how to push philanthropy towards a more equitable future is about making the best of conflict — navigating through it, learning from it, and even embracing it. “At MSC, we understand [movement building is relational work](#), and not merely a series of one off interactions. Conflict can arise when a party within a relationship does not feel considered. True power, as we see it, emerges from sustained collaboration and a sense of shared community.” Read more at [the Move Blog](#).



Celebrating Black and Palestinian Unity

The ongoing terror in Gaza and the resilience of the [1.5 million Palestinians in Rafah](#) compels us to come together, both as a healing act and to strengthen our spirit. Join our partners, [Wakanda Dream Lab](#) and [Beloved Communities Network](#), on February 18 at 11am PST in Downtown Oakland for an exhibition that highlights the solidarity between Black and Palestinian communities. Hosted in part with the [Palestinian Feminist Collective](#), this event features interactive art from Wakanda Dream Lab and Palestinian artists and invites you to join in poster making as an act of solidarity. RSVP [here](#) to be part of the action.

Humans of the Food System

Our partners at [HEAL Food Alliance](#) are no strangers to advocating for food sovereignty. They continue to call on our leaders to prioritize the wellbeing of BIPOC and rural communities and the environment in the upcoming Farm Bill. Check out their most recent series, “[Humans of the Food System](#),” where they bring you stories from folks in communities across the country sharing how they’ve been impacted by our food and farm systems — and what they are doing to transform them for the better. [Explore the series here](#) and join the conversation on shaping a just food system.



Creative Economics in Memphis

Join our board member, Anasa Trouman, and [New Memphis](#), in exploring the strategic synergy between arts and business in Memphis. [Celebrate What's Right: Creative Economics](#), showcases the ingenuity of leaders from both the creative and business sectors, influencing their city’s identity and economic prosperity. Join the panel, moderated by Jessica Mosely of the Greater Memphis Chamber of Commerce, on February 26 at 3:30pm CST at the Kent. Register [here!](#)

Help Wanted!

Movement Strategy Center is searching for a [Development Assistant](#) to elevate resource utilization and

[The Neighb](#) is hiring an [After School Program Aide](#), ideal for those passionate about youth work.

Interested candidates can email their resumes to theneighb2021@gmail.com.

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