



Culture and History Collide in February
Atlanta celebrates heritage and education during Black History Month

ATLANTA (February 3, 2004) – Join some of Atlanta’s historic attractions this February as they take a look at African-American culture and heritage during Black History Month.

The Atlanta History Center has events planned throughout the month to honor and educate. Celebrate blues music, Feb. 5 and 6, with *Nothin’ but the Blues: Tribute to Howlin’ Wolf*. The sixth annual concert series features “Wild Child” Butler, Henry Grady and Jody Williams. A panel of local experts will examine the effects of changing diversity on political structures during *Hear and Now: It’s No Longer Black and White: Race and Ethnicity in the 21st Century*, Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. *Black Family History Day*, Feb. 28, offers the chance to explore black family history and the study of genealogy and includes a session honoring prominent members of the African-American community who continue to shape Atlanta with their contributions.

Each Friday this February, students are invited to the Atlanta History Center to explore the African-American experience throughout history. A different time period will take center stage each week as exhibits, live performances, living history interpreters and hands-on activities teach about the heritage of this culture.

Atlanta Cyclorama visitors will be able to watch history take place, Feb. 7 and 8 as the Civil War reenactment group Company “K” of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, the Black unit featured in the movie *Glory*, provides a living history on the life of a soldier. The group includes descendants of soldiers that served with the 54th during the Civil War.

The Margaret Mitchell House and Museum will host literary discussions of African-American heritage throughout the month of February. Hear Michael Thurmond speak on “Freedom” Feb. 10 and Andy Ambrose discuss his book *Atlanta: An Illustrated History*, March 1. Attendees of Ambrose’s discussion will also enjoy an appearance by Congressman John Lewis, who wrote the forward to the book.

Fernbank Museum of Natural History invites visitors to recognize national African-American History Month, Feb. 28. Special programming for *Fernbank Celebrates Africa* will include activities that focus on the wildlife, landscapes and cultures of Africa. This event will kick off the 2004 schedule of the *Fernbank Celebrates* family days.

Special planetarium shows will be featured at Fernbank Science Center during February. Adults can enjoy *African Eyes*, *African Skies* through Feb. 29, which will take them back thousands of years, to learn about the first African astronomers. The whole family will

enjoy African lore and legends told by the stars during *African Story Book*, playing through March 14.

For more information, visit www.atlanta.net.

Established in 1913, the ACVB is a private, non-profit organization created exclusively to market metro Atlanta and Georgia as the premier conventions, meetings and leisure destination in the regional, national and international marketplace, and favorably impact the Atlanta economy through conventions and tourism.

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