



THE LEWIS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Lewis Museum Marks the 100th Black History Month With Dynamic February Programming, the Public Opening of the New Kid Zone Exhibit, and a New Mural

Baltimore, MD – February 1, 2026 – The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture announces a dynamic slate of programs and exhibitions in celebration of the **100th Black History Month, marking a century of national Black history commemorations**. Throughout February 2026, the Museum invites visitors to engage with performances, panels, workshops, and exhibitions that highlight Black history, creativity, resilience, and legacy in Maryland and beyond.

Following a soft opening during King Day Weekend, the Museum's new **Kid Zone Exhibit—an interactive, family-focused experience designed to engage young learners—will fully open to the public in late February**. Created to introduce children to Black history through exploration, play, and discovery, the Kid Zone reflects the Museum's continued commitment to youth engagement and intergenerational learning.

The Kid Zone is complemented by **a new mural by Maryland artist Jordan Lawson titled, The Children Shall Lead**, created as part of the Museum's vision for a dynamic, youth-centered space. The mural introduces themes of Black childhood, imagination, and discovery, serving as a visual entry point into the Kid Zone experience.

Black History Month 2026 Programs

All programs can be registered for on the Museum's website at www.lewismuseum.org.

Roots and Resonance: An Operatic Love Letter to Baltimore

Saturday, February 14, 2026 | 11:00 am – 3:30 pm | Cost: Museum Admission

Black History Month programming launches with Roots and Resonance, a collaborative public program presented with Opera Baltimore and the Jewish Museum of Maryland. Using vocal music as a lens, the program **explores the shared histories and artistic exchange between Black and Jewish communities in Baltimore**.

The day begins with a moderated panel featuring scholars, archivists, and performers, including acclaimed Baltimore-born opera singer Daniel Rich. Anchored by artifacts from The Lewis, the discussion explores themes of migration, resilience, tension, and solidarity. The afternoon concludes with a live recital by Rich, tracing his artistic journey through opera, musical theater, spirituals, and works by Baltimore composers. Daniel will be joined by poet, singer, and visual artist Vincent Stringer and pianist, JoyAnne Amani.

Beyond the Scoreboard: The Baltimore Black Sox and the Negro Leagues' Civil Rights Legacy

Saturday, February 21, 2026 | Noon – 3:00 pm | Cost: Free program

This panel discussion **celebrates the legacy of the Baltimore Black Sox and examines the role of Negro League baseball in the broader Civil Rights Movement.** The program explores how Black athletes navigated segregation and used sport as a platform for leadership, resistance, and community pride.

Following the discussion, visitors can participate in preservation workshops focused on family genealogy and community traditions, including baseball culture and family celebrations.

Partnerships:

This program is presented in partnership with Parks & People and the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership as part of the Baltimore Black Sox Memorial Project. This program aligns with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) Black History 2026 theme: A Century of Black History Commemorations.

Business 101: How to Thrive as a Creative Entertainer

Saturday, February 28, 2026 | 1:00 pm | Cost: Museum Admission

Artist and cultural leader **Wordsmith** leads a **practical workshop for aspiring creatives and entrepreneurs**, sharing insights on building sustainable careers across music, acting, composing, and songwriting. The program concludes with live musical selections by Wordsmith. Presented in conjunction with TITAN: The Legacy of Reginald F. Lewis.

Exhibitions On View

In addition to the Kid Zone Exhibit, visitors can explore several powerful exhibitions currently on view, including:

- **iWitness**, an immersive exploration of the media's role in the Civil Rights Movement leading up to the 1964 Civil Rights Act.
- **TITAN: The Legacy of Reginald F. Lewis**, chronicles the life and impact of the pioneering businessman and philanthropist.
- **Lynching in Maryland**, examines the history and legacy of racial violence in the state.
- **The Permanent History Gallery**, tracing Black history in Maryland from the 17th century to the present.

As the nation commemorates 100 years of Black History Month, The Lewis continues to serve as a space for learning, reflection, and celebration—connecting history to the present while

inspiring future generations. For full program details and registration, visit www.lewismuseum.org

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About the Reginald F. Lewis Museum

The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture documents, interprets, and preserves the complex experiences, contributions, and culture of Black people in Maryland. The museum serves as a catalyst for sustained change by providing programs, exhibitions, and bold conversations that educate and challenge.