

For immediate release: January 27, 2025

Library honours more than 100 years of black creativity on the prairies

Join Regina Public Library to celebrate Black History Month with film, visual art, music, and food.

The celebration will feature four-piece live band, Afro Clef; drummer Joseph Ashong; a beading and craft station; and food by local restaurant Auntie Maggie's Caribbean Meals, all happening February 1 at Central Library.

Also on is visual art exhibition, *BLACK PRAIRIES*, honouring more than 100 years of art and photography by black people on the prairies. The exhibition includes original glass plate negatives by early 1900s photographer William "Billy" Beal, contemporary art, and archival photographs reflecting the everyday experiences of the first generation of Black migrants in the Canadian prairies. The show kicks off with opening reception and artist talk February 1 at Dunlop Art Gallery (Central Library).

January 31 showcases a screening and discussion of the newly-created film *For Caesar* at Central Library, a short film exploring the historic African-Canadian Saskatchewan community known as the Shiloh People. Discussion participants will include filmmaker Cheryl Foggo; Leander Lane, the great-grandson of Julius Caesar Lane of the Shiloh People; local community organizer Tiro Mthembu; and Alyssa Fearon, Dunlop Art Gallery Director/Curator.

Black History Month events at RPL:

- [For Caesar film screening and discussion](#) January 31, 7:00pm, Central Library (Community Commons)
- [BLACK PRAIRIES opening reception](#) February 1, 11:00am, Central Library (Community Commons)
- [Black History Month celebration](#) February 1, 12:00pm, Central Library (Mezzanine)
- [NOVISI African Beat Performance](#) February 15 1:30pm, Sherwood Village Branch
- [Whispers of Dusks: Africa in the World of Cinema](#) February 19, 7pm, George Bothwell Branch

All events are free to attend.

Attached image: Plate 42: William S.A. Beal, self-portrait, Big Woody district, Swan River, Manitoba. c. 1918. (William S.A. Beal/Image courtesy of R. Barrow).

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