Black history is *all* our history. It's impossible to disentangle Black history from white people, especially the history of the United States, as this nation owes its prosperity to the seizing of resources from Native Americans who dwelled here, and on the backs of enslaved people who allowed colonizers to flourish. In this month set aside specifically to honor Black history, here are just a few of our own local contributors to the Midwest's rich Black history.

Vivian Harsh, the first Black librarian at the Chicago Public Library, was an accomplished woman and significant figure in Chicago's Black Renaissance. Amongst her many accomplishments was establishing the Book Review and Lecture Forum, where some of the most important Black authors of the 20th century shared their work for critique and review, and establishing within her branch a collection of documents relevant to Black history and Black present—a repository in its most nascent stages that would grow to be the Vivian G. Harsh Collection of African American History. She began what is now the largest archive of African American history in the Midwest and can be visited at the Carter Woodhouse Branch of the Chicago Public Library.

The Black Metropolis Research Consortium, of which DePaul is a member, furthers the work started by Harsh. Their Collections on Black Experiences allows you to search topics related to African American history in the Chicago region. During this month dedicated to the Black experience, we urge DePaul staff to use this and other resources to make further discoveries about our collective history.

Lastly, we share with you a work by Shemar James in Student Affairs. It was important to us to share a voice from our own DePaul community. Shemar was a student at DePaul, and the reflections shared inspired us as we continue to do our work in supporting students. We hope our staff colleagues throughout the university are similarly uplifted in their work—the work we do matters, and DePaul wouldn't be the same without you.

Sources: Chicago Black Renaissance Literary Movement; Vivian Gordon Harsh at Blackpast.org

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & LINKS
Please use the virtual sphere we are in to travel across the U.S. to view Black art, culture, and history from organizations close to home—like the DuSable Museum—and those farther away—like the National Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington, D.C. See the links below for online plays, videos, photo galleries, and virtual museum tours and programs. There are also family centered Black History Month activities, like coloring pages and programming from the Field Museum.

Theatrical Presentation about Black History Month called, "Who I Am" https://theatrewest.org/on-stage/dt2021/who-i-am

Check out the virtual exhibits of the National Museum of African American History & Culture: https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/exhibitions

The Hewitt Collection of African American Art: https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/the-hewitt-collection-of-african-american-art/IwIys-hofVq5KQ

Art as Activism: Graphic Art from the Merrill C. Berman Collection: https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/art-as-activism-graphic-art-from-the-merrill-c-berman-collection/sAKiXQYsmgtaIw

Freedom, Resistance, and the Journey Toward Equality (DuSable Museum of African American History): https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/freedom-resistance-and-the-journey-toward-equality/XAIyXmo-4K54KQ

Matt Brooks and Higher Learning Photography present this homage called- "There Is Beauty In Being Black." "There Is Beauty In Being Black": Black Chicago Appreciation Project

Family Activities:
Black History Coloring Pages: https://coloringbookfun.com/misc/black-history

Chicago Children's Choir Black History Month Concert (February 25th -6:45 pm): https://ccchoir.org/black-history-month-2021/

Field Museum Black History Month Events: https://www.fieldmuseum.org/visit/daily-events/black-history-month

Support Black Owned Businesses in Chicago: https://blackshopfriday.com/shops?neighborhood=all