



WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Hello UNC Community! Let me be one of the first to say, welcome to Black Heritage Month!

This particular phrasing may be new to some; most are probably familiar with referring to February as Black History Month. Though neither option is technically wrong, I tend to favor the former. The reason being Black Excellence is not solely something of the past. Rather, it is the rich and influential culture of resilient people who experienced and won against unfair odds stacked against them for centuries. Yet, it is that same legacy of strength and perseverance that runs within the blood of Black people today as we continue to face those same odds no matter their manifestation. To me, Black Heritage Month pays a necessary spotlight as an emphasis on our people's greatness both then and now. Within the same vein, I believe this time of year holds a mirror up to this nation's face, displaying a cracked and unflattering reflection – a reminder that the treatment towards people of color has not changed. Yet, as the past year alone has shown us, social injustices against Black people occur well after February.

Two weeks ago, the 2021 Virtual MLK March Celebration was held, and a call to action was unveiled. It is here I echo that same call, or more fittingly, urgent plea as numerous Black lives are unnecessarily murdered every day. We *must* rise together and fight, to the fullest degree, in unity and opposition to the various instances of prejudice, systemic racism, and blatant violence against *our* Black brothers and sisters. I conclude by providing one way to begin this long and arduous journey – hold mirrors up to our personhood in one hand and that of our fellow Americans in the other. What may be revealed is accountability for each of us to understand how an imperfect reflection, regardless of what one may believe, can contribute to the greater image and thus, represent our country.

Please visit the [Marcus Garvey Cultural Center page](#) for a full list of activities

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