

STATE OF OREGON
PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

- WHEREAS:** In February 2021, Oregon recognized the significance of this date for its Black community members as a widely recognized recorded date of the first enslaved Africans reaching the shores of the Americas over 400 years ago; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2021, Oregon acknowledges and honors the history of its Black community members and their significant contributions to the foundational pieces in building this country and state, from the history of American chattel slavery through Reconstruction, Jim Crow, segregation, civil rights—and the invaluable social, cultural, and economic investments to our communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Black community members, from generations past to this current moment, have courageously led the pursuit of justice, equity, and equality. As we work to learn from and overcome the past, while still moving forward, Oregon strives to embody the founding principles that all people are created equal; and
- WHEREAS:** Visionary Black leaders and organizations continue to speak to ensure that Black achievements are in our history books and cultural celebrations for new generations. While taking on the challenges to advance reforms and break down barriers, we also recognize that despite progress, racial injustice is very much alive and thriving in America; and
- WHEREAS:** As individuals, we must come together to end racial injustices by ensuring equity and opportunity for Black Oregonians, and proudly join with the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs to continue to build a more equitable Oregon where all its residents can realize their full potential and the promises of America.

NOW,

THEREFORE: I, Kate Brown, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim **February 2021** to be

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day, February 1, 2021.



Kate Brown
Kate Brown, Governor

Shemia Fagan

Shemia Fagan, Secretary of State