



# NEWSLETTER

Telephone (323) 293 0977 4126 Arlington Ave. Website: [www.gcrcla.org](http://www.gcrcla.org)  
Los Angeles, CA. 90008



## BLACK AMERICA 250: WE BUILT THIS

In 2026, the United States marks 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. For Black communities, this milestone is more than a birthday for the nation - it is a moment to tell the fuller story of how African Americans have shaped, built, and transformed this country across two and half centuries. "Black America 250" is an emerging national frame that insists that when we commemorate 1776-2026, we must also reckon with 250 years of Black labor, creativity, resistance and vision. From the very beginning, Black people were central to the American project. Enslaved Africans and their descendants built much of the country's early wealth in agriculture, trade and industry while being denied the basic freedoms that July 4 is supposed to represent. Black America 250 invites us to openly honor the contributions of

Black people to this nation rather than treating them as a footnote to the national story. Black America 250 calls attention to the "unfinished work" of freedom. Many of the injustices that shaped earlier centuries still show up today in different forms. The gap between American ideals and everyday reality remains painfully clear. Black America 250 challenges our institutions to see July 4, 2026 as more than fireworks and parades. It must also be seen as an opportunity for accountability, repair, and concrete investments in equity. (cont on page 2)



## Our Work

GCRC operates under three pillars: Health, Education and the Arts. Since 2018, the Ford Reynolds family contributions and contributions from the June Brandon family have enabled GCRC to award scholarships to high school graduates who want to further their education. This month's issue celebrates the accomplishments of Serenapah Carlisle.



### Serenapah Carlisle

"Serena" was one of the recipients of the Ford Reynolds Star Scholarship in 2020. After graduating high school she enrolled in California State University Northridge. She graduated in 2026 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an option in Real Estate. She plans to take the real estate license exam to attain a broker license which will enable her to work as a Realtor. Serena is passionate about swimming. Helping adults and children to overcome fear and learning life-saving skills through aquatic confidence is her way of creating a safer, stronger and more connected community.

### ***Black America 250: We Built This (cont;d)***

Ultimately, Black America 250 reminds us that Black communities have never been passive observers of history - they have always been authors of it. As we approach this national milestone, we have a chance to affirm that truth loudly and clearly. By telling honest stories, investing in Black-led solutions, and committing to justice beyond the anniversary year, we can move closer to a future where the freedom celebrated on July 4 truly belongs to everyone. To learn more about Black America 250 go to: <https://theblackamerica250.org>

## **EDUCATION**

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Nelson Mandela  
We all know the importance of education. The Bureau of Labor Statistics "Education Pays" table shows a significant difference in earnings when comparing someone with a high school diploma to someone with an Associate's degree, a Bachelor's degree or a skilled trade such as electricians, or plumbers, We also know that many of our high school graduates lack the funds to enroll in college. GCRC is committed to assisting students who want to attend college. Thanks to the generosity of the June C. Brandon Scholarship and the Ford Reynolds Star Scholarship, in June 2026 we awarded scholarships to six high school graduates, totaling \$12,000. This scholarship is opened to all Los Angeles County high school graduates who are planning to attend an accredited college..

## **HEALTH & WELLNESS**

Our Health Pillar has done an amazing job. During Fiscal Year 2025-2026, more that 400 individuals attended our Health Equity Presentations. The topics covered a variety of illnesses that affect minority populations. We are eternally grateful to all of our speakers who volunteered their time to share valuable information with us. We are especially grateful to the Providence Well Being Trust for their generous contribution which allowed us to offer several mental health topics.

Our All Things New Program serves more than 680 individuals, including seniors, families and children across ten supportive housing communities throughout Los Angeles. We provide food, housing essentials, medical supplies as well as on-site vaccine clinics. This program also hosts a monthly Community Share which consists of a produce giveaway as well as clothing and other items.

### ***A TIP FROM LA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT***

If you call the Marina station of the LASD, (310-482-6000) don't get discouraged if it rings for a very long time. Don't hang up!! Someone will eventually answer.



All donations are tax deductible.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Community Share (Food & clothing giveaway)	July 18	10AM - 12 Noon
Vacation Bible School	July 20 - 24	5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Youth Driven Sunday Choir Rehearsal	July 25	9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Youth Driven Sunday	July 26	11 AM Sharp

All of these events are held at Lincoln Memorial Church  
4126 Arlington Ave.



**We are ready to feed  
our community!!**



**Onsite Blood Pressure screenings are  
provided on a regular basis.**



**\$12,000 in scholarship awards given to high  
school graduates.**