

NARA BLACK HISTORY BASIC TRAINING

Feb 17 – Black Arts Movement

The [Black Arts Movement](#) (BAM) emerged out of an explosion of creativity by African American poets, writers, painters, and musicians in the 1960s and 1970s. They used art, poetry, music, fashion and sports to openly and proudly express their Blackness. BAM shared the same sentiment for love of Black people with the Black Power Movement. Performance artists and poets words inspired the Black community by bringing attention to Black love, hope and unity. BAM also held space for Black visual artists to create works the expressed the beauty of being Black in America. Members included: [Faith Ringgold](#), [Audre Lorde](#), and [Gil Scott-Heron](#).



“Once you know who you are, you don’t have to worry anymore.” – Nikki Giovanni

Records:

- ✓ [Black Arts Movement Topic Page](#)
- ✓ [The Black Arts Movement Collection](#), Smithsonian Learning Lab

Viewing:

- ✓ [Why is We Americans](#), Amiri Baraka
- ✓ [Poem for Some Women](#), Sonia Sanchez

Reading:

- ✓ ‘After Mecca’: Women Poets and the Black Arts Movement (Rutgers University Press), 2004
- ✓ Visions of a Liberated Future: Black Arts Movement Writings (Basic Press), 1993