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**NORTH SUBURBAN  
YMCA**  
2705 Techny Road  
Northbrook, IL 60062  
[www.nsymca.org](http://www.nsymca.org)

**For More Information Contact:**

Kim Nyren  
[knyren@nsymca.org](mailto:knyren@nsymca.org)  
847-272-7250

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**North Suburban YMCA honors Black History Month  
Highlighting arts, literature, fashion, history, film and more**

In honor of Black History Month, The North Suburban YMCA is highlighting influential leaders, the arts, historical events and notable organizations through the month of February. The program includes visual displays throughout the Y's facility located at 2705 Techny Road in Northbrook.

"Black history is American history. For 2024, we want to celebrate the key influence African Americans in the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression," said Pam Racansky, Committee Chair of the NSYMCA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion committee.

This year, the Y is featuring local Historic leaders including Kevin Washington, first African American - and the first person of color - to serve as CEO of the YMCA of the USA; Norman Teague, a Chicago-based designer and educator whose practice focuses on the complexity of urbanism to empower black and brown communities; Charles White, one of the preeminent artists to emerge during the city's Black Renaissance of the 1930s and '40s, and many more black influencers.

Also featured this month is a local photographer and artist, Bill Sanders who specializes in portraiture and composite images. Sanders has displayed many of his pieces in the NSYMCA's Community Gallery over the years and his focus is on portrait photography and large party events.

"I was fortunate to be a part of the first NSYMCA Black History Month celebration a few years back," said Sanders. "When it comes to photography I'm just a photographer, not just a Black photographer. Being "Black" has shaped my journey throughout my life and like many "Black" artists, I want to create the art I want, and not limit myself to stuff that others define as "Black." That is a challenge that many "Black" creators face, defeating stereotypes," continued Sanders.

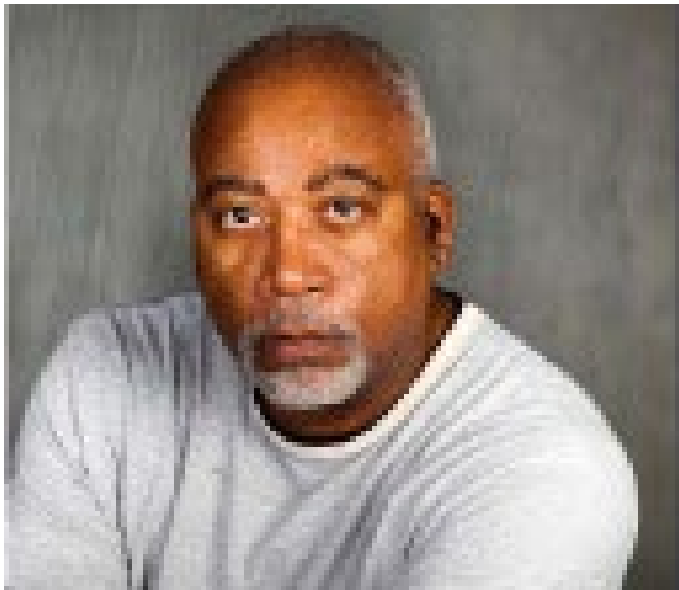
The Black History Month display is presented by the NSYMCA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion committee (DEI), a collective group of NSYMCA staff and board members.

"At the Y, our programming goes beyond Black History month, it's about building an inclusive community for everyone regardless of ability, age, background, ethnicity/race, faith, gender, gender identity or sexual orientation," noted Kathy Fielding, North Suburban YMCA CEO.

For more information about the North Suburban YMCA and programs and services like the DEI committee, visit [nsymca.org](https://nsymca.org), call 847-272-7250, or stop by 2705 Techny Road, Northbrook.

#### About the [North Suburban YMCA](#)

The North Suburban YMCA services Northbrook and 14 surrounding communities with programs and tools that help its residents become healthier, more connected, and confident, ensuring that everyone, regardless of age, income, or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. The NSYMCA focuses on Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility and is a charitable organization, inclusive and welcoming to all in our community. Learn more at [NSYMCA.org](https://NSYMCA.org).



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Titled, My Brother, artist Charles White depicts a man with outstretched hands emerging from a demolished structure, an art piece that hangs in the Gallery Gallery 262, at the Art Institute of Chicago.



This photograph depicts a group of African American leaders joined together to form a new permanent civil rights organization, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).- **History.com**