

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Library hosts Black Film Watch Parties

ST. ALBERT, AB – This February, St. Albert Public Library celebrates Black History Month with another series of Black Film Watch parties in partnership with the Africans & African Descendants Friendship Club (AADFC) of St. Albert. This year we are pleased to return to in-person film watch parties; the four-part docuseries *BLK: An Origin Story* will be screened at the Downtown Library over the first two Friday nights in February.

BLK: An Origin Story is a rich and powerful history that looks beyond the Underground Railroad to explore the untold stories of Black Canadians from the 1600s to the present. After each screening, AADFC Director of Youth Mentorship and Community Engagement Toni Harrison will host an audience conversation about the series.

"The AADFC is proud to partner with the Library to present this screening of a modern and engaging documentary series produced by a Black Canadian production company featuring Black Canadian historians, actors, and writers," Harrison says. "The series will no doubt encourage reflection in the St. Albert community about the often untold and resilient history of Black people in Canada. This history, which goes back over four centuries, is vital for us all to understand in order to build an anti-racist present and future. "

Episodes 1 & 2 of *BLK: An Origin Story* screen in Forsyth Hall at the Downtown Library on Friday, February 3, and episodes 3 & 4 screen on Friday, February 10. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the film screenings begin at 7 p.m. African snacks and refreshments are provided both evenings by the AADFC.

"After two amazing years of online watch parties for Black History Month, we're excited about the opportunity to come together in person for two nights of learning, fun, and amazing food," says Library assistant Geoffrey Manderscheid. "With the support of community hosts from the AADFC, we cannot wait to connect the community to this groundbreaking docuseries and its unfiltered Black history that will help to better understand the present."

Register in advance for *BLK: An Origin Story* at sapl.ca. The film watch parties are free and everyone is welcome.

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