

## National History Day Student Filmmakers Named for Smithsonian Documentary Showcase

### *National Museum of African American History and Culture Selected Student Films to be Showcased by Smithsonian Learning Lab*

WASHINGTON, DC—National History Day® (NHD), the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), and the Smithsonian Learning Lab announced today 35 documentary films, produced by middle and high school students competing in the 2020 NHD National Contest, to be featured in an online showcase. The films were screened and selected by NMAAHC staff, and will premier tomorrow, Wednesday, June 17, as a special collection of the Smithsonian Learning Lab.

To be selected for the showcase, students needed to address topics and stories in their documentaries consistent with the mission of the NMAAHC. The ten-minute films also reflect the 2020 NHD theme, *Breaking Barriers in History*.

The documentary showcase was originally planned to be screened in the Oprah Winfrey Theater of the NMAAHC, but will now take place online because of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

“This is an incredible honor for these students and their *Breaking Barriers in History* films to have been selected by the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, a barrier-breaking institution in its own right,” said National History Day Executive Director Dr. Cathy Gorn. “Months and years from now, they will think back fondly on this week when their documentaries were viewed and experienced by people around the world visiting the Smithsonian Learning Lab and the documentary showcase.”

The 35 student films will be available to stream online for one week via the Smithsonian Learning Lab at [s.si.edu/NHDSHOWCASE2020](https://s.si.edu/NHDSHOWCASE2020), from tomorrow, Wednesday, June 17 through next Wednesday, June 24.

The following films and students have been selected for the showcase:

Documentary Title	Student(s)	School	City, State
<i>Breaking Barriers in Journalism: Dorothy Butler Gilliam</i>	Noah Littleton, MacKenzie William	Hampton Cove Middle School	Cross Roads, Alabama
<i>Hattie McDaniel: Breaking Barriers for Future African Americans in Hollywood</i>	Bethany Frazier, Graysen Gowing, Maura Wead	Ozark High School	Ozark, Arkansas
<i>Wilma Rudolph: A Story of Perseverance; From Polio to Practice to Perfection</i>	Isabelle Clements	Russellville Junior High School	Russellville, Arkansas

<i>The Deafening Sound of Barriers Being Broken: The American School for the Deaf</i>	Leah Glaspey, Nandini Shah	Irving A. Robbins Middle School	Farmington, Connecticut
<i>On the Highest of Seven Hills</i>	Khalil Sommerville	Eastern High School	Washington, D.C.
<i>The Actress Who Died a Thousand Deaths: Anna May Wong and Racism in Hollywood</i>	Kylie Leung, Shareen Qazi	Cab Calloway School of the Arts	Wilmington, Delaware
<i>Shirley Chisholm: The Good Fight</i>	Temple Lester	Midtown International School	Druid Hills, Georgia
<i>Ho'i ka 'Ōlelo: The Revitalization of Hawaiian Language in the Education System</i>	Li'ua Tengan	Kamehameha Schools Kapalama Campus	Honolulu, Hawaii
<i>One Woman's Vision: Eunice Kennedy Shriver's Race for Equality</i>	Eshaan Chandani, Anjali Kumar	Johnston Middle School	Johnston, Iowa
<i>Soul Train, Soul Change</i>	Avery Kelley	Keller Regional Gifted Center	Chicago, Illinois
<i>How Jazz Broke Racial and Cultural Barriers</i>	Lola Fratto	Lincoln Park High School	Chicago, Illinois
<i>Breaking Barriers at Bat: The Indianapolis Clowns</i>	Julius Jodway, Timothy Kaye, Payton Krueger, Aldan Zolman	John J. Young Middle School	Mishawaka, Indiana
<i>"Either You Print It Just the Way I Draw It or I Quit"</i>	Adyson Cashman, Allie Jones	Seaman Middle School	Topeka, Kansas
<i>Alvin Ailey: Breaking Barriers in American Dance</i>	Liliana Christensen, Zora Lotton-Barker	Lawrence High School	Lawrence, Kansas
<i>Breaking the Barrier of Truth around King Leopold II's Congo Free State through the Use of Mass Media</i>	Shana Wolckenhaar	Bedford High School	Bedford, Massachusetts
<i>Breaking the Invisible Barrier: The National Mental Health Act of 1946</i>	Bobby Diaz, Rohin Garg, Thomas Huang, Allen Tang, Andrew Wang	Winston Churchill High School	Potomac, Maryland
<i>Keith Haring: Breaking Barriers during the AIDS Crisis</i>	Matt Koff	Bullis School	Potomac, Maryland
<i>Breaking into the Billboard Hot 100: How Motown Got Everybody "Dancing in the Street"</i>	Laura Thielman	Whitehall Middle School	Whitehall, Michigan

<i>Penumbra Theatre: Presenting African American Narratives through Performance</i>	Iris Carroll	Open World Learning Community	St. Paul, Minnesota
<i>Freedom Found on a Bootheel Roadside: The 1939 Sharecroppers Strike</i>	Chelsea Swasho, Rylee Taylor	Richland High School	Richland, Missouri
<i>Gaines v. Canada: The NAACP's Legal Strategy to End Segregation in Education</i>	Ian Morgan	Central High School	Springfield, Missouri
<i>Kathleen McIlwain</i>	Folsom Berry, Ruby Murray	Pascagoula High School	Pascagoula, Mississippi
<i>Kill Us or Desegregate Us: Diane Nash and Her Life through Breaking Barriers</i>	Rechelle Gutierrez	Silver High School	Silver City, New Mexico
<i>Yaa Asantewaa the War of the Golden Stool</i>	A'Kaeila Coulter	Leadership Academy of Nevada	Las Vegas, Nevada
<i>Breaking the Curfew: The Story of Minoru Yasui</i>	Kyler Wang, Alan Zhou	Lincoln High School	Portland, Oregon
<i>Operation Firefly: The Barrier Breaking Battalion</i>	Rylee Mann, Karalin Reynolds	Helix School	Helix, Oregon
<i>Diverse City: Residential Integration in Philadelphia's West Mount Airy</i>	Lily Cohen, Margaux Engel, Isabella Greene, Emmett Gordon	Central High School	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
<i>Dr. Bennet Omalu's Research on Brain Injuries: A Scientific Touchdown That Caught the NFL Offside</i>	Nishka Malik	Singapore American School	Singapore
<i>To Hell and Back</i>	Adam Kinder	Impact Early College High School	Baytown, Texas
<i>Mendez v. Westminster: Breaking Barriers</i>	Natalia Lopez	Green Canyon High School	North Logan, Utah
<i>Dr. Patricia Bath: Breaking Racial, Gender, Medical, and Economic Barriers</i>	Alexandria Pereira	The Delta High School	Richland, Washington
<i>Hazel Scott: The Unsung Champion of Civil Rights</i>	Ellie Leverett	University School of Milwaukee	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
<i>To Be Young, Gifted, and Black: Nina Simone and the Civil Rights Movement</i>	Eliot Algrem, Kendall Hoida	Green Bay Southwest High School	Green Bay, Wisconsin
<i>Breaking Barriers in Black History: Carter G. Woodson and the Pursuit of Truth</i>	Lucas Mooney	Homeschool	Charles Town, West Virginia

<i>The Science of Determination: Dr. Percy Lavon Julian, the Hidden Chemist</i>	Matthew Gray, Josey Johnson, Brett Pettibone, Annika Wilmot	Lander Middle School	Lander, Wyoming
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### **About National History Day® (NHD)**

NHD is a non-profit organization based in College Park, Maryland, which seeks to improve the teaching and learning of history. The National History Day Contest was established in 1974 and currently engages more than half a million students every year in conducting original research on historical topics of interest. Students present their research as a documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, or website. Projects compete first at the local and affiliate levels, where the top entries are invited to the National Contest at the University of Maryland at College Park. NHD is sponsored in part by HISTORY®, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Park Service, Southwest Airlines, The Better Angels Society, Jacqueline B. Mars, and BBVA. For more information, visit [nhd.org](http://nhd.org).

### **About the National Museum of African American History and Culture**

Since opening Sept. 24, 2016, the National Museum of African American History and Culture has welcomed more than 7 million visitors. Occupying a prominent location next to the Washington Monument on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the nearly 400,000 square-foot museum is the nation's largest and most comprehensive cultural destination devoted exclusively to exploring, documenting and showcasing the African American story and its impact on American and world history. For more information about the museum, visit [nmaahc.si.edu](http://nmaahc.si.edu), follow @NMAAHC on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, or call Smithsonian information at (202) 633-1000.

### **About Smithsonian Learning Lab**

The Smithsonian Learning Lab is a free, interactive platform for discovering millions of authentic digital resources from across the Smithsonian's museums, research centers, libraries, archives and more. The site allows teachers and students to create and adapt personalized interactive instructional materials with online tools and share in the Smithsonian's expansive community of knowledge and learning. Prepackaged collections contain lessons, activities and recommended resources made by Smithsonian museum educators and thousands of classroom teachers across the country. For more information about the Smithsonian Learning Lab, visit [learninglab.si.edu](http://learninglab.si.edu), follow @SmithsonianLab on Twitter, or email [learninglab@si.edu](mailto:learninglab@si.edu).

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