

Black History Highlights of Southwest Washington: Presented by the Vancouver NAACP

This timeline reveals little-known Black history of Clark County and Washington from early explorers to World War II to the present. The Vancouver NAACP hopes to inspire our youth, educate our community, and celebrate the accomplishments of Black people from Clark County. The timeline shares just a few stories of the many Black people who have contributed to this place we all call home.

Vancouver NAACP Branch #1139

This exploration of Black history in Clark County and Washington was made possible through the generous time, knowledge, and funding of the Vancouver NAACP. The Vancouver NAACP Branch #1139 was founded in 1945 to combat and eliminate racial discrimination and, to this day, continues to advocate for equality and justice for all in our community.

Claudia Starr Carter

This timeline was created under the leadership of beloved community leader, ceramic artist, and educator, Claudia Starr Carter. It was originally composed for the exhibit, "The Lost Ark of African American Art, History & Experience in Vancouver and the Northwest," held annually at the Fort Vancouver Regional Library since February 2018. Carter uses her immense artistic skill as a ceramicist to explore historical topics through sculpture. Her pieces are on display at the main library and the Vancouver Housing Authority.

The Vancouver NAACP would like to thank everyone who shared their stories and photos. Thank you also to those who helped in the timeline production: Melissa Williams; Holly Williams; the library staff at Clark College, Washington State University Vancouver, and Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries; Katie Bush; and Masako Brachmann.