

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in MIAMI

From the swamps to a Metropolis

Overtown

Along with Henry Flagler's Railroad, African Americans came to Miami seeking work. Among them was D.A Dorsey in 1896, one of Florida's First Black Millionaires. Dorsey helped build worker housing in Overtown, owned the first African American hotel and bank, and once owned Fisher Island.

1880s

Coconut Grove

Bahamians began to migrate to Coconut Grove. In 1888, E.W.F. Stirrup arrives & builds over 100 homes for the growing community, becoming a pioneer leader and successful businessman.

1890s

Little Broadway

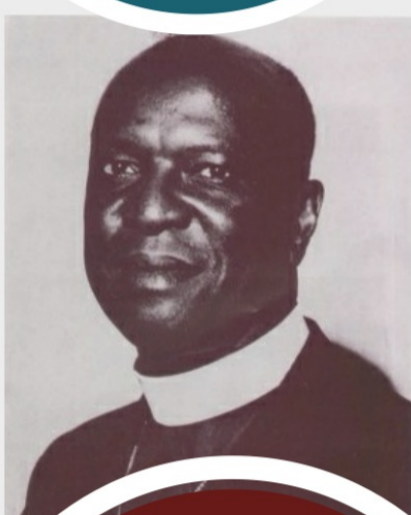
In 1913, the Lyric Theater opened in the "Little Broadway" district. It was a cornerstone of African American culture and art in the South. After closing for nearly five decades, the theater reopened in February 2014.

1910s

Growth

In 1923, H.E.S. Reeves opened Miami's first Black newspaper, Miami Times. Lincoln Memorial Park opened in 1924. This historical black cemetery houses many of the city's pioneer African Americans. In 1927, Booker T. Washington Senior High School became the first public school in South Florida to provide 12th grade education for Black children.

1920s



Theodore Gibson

Father Theodore Gibson, civil rights leader, served as the president of the NAACP from '54-'64. He led the desegregation of downtown lunch counters, Miami schools and public beaches. When targeted during the McCarthy era, Gibson withheld names of NAACP members, brought his case to the Supreme Court and won.

1950s

Desegregation

Following a series of lawsuits, sit-ins, and wade-ins led by Gibson, the NAACP and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the Miami public schools and beaches were desegregated in 1959, followed by lunch counters in 1960.

1960s

Florida Memorial University

After existing in many forms in Jacksonville and then St. Augustine, Florida Memorial College opened in Opa-Locka in 1968. FMU is the only Historically Black University in South Florida.

1970s

Breaking Barriers

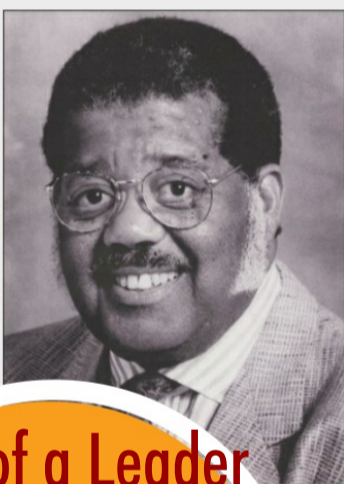
In 1970, Gwendolyn Sawyer Cherry, the first black woman to practice law in Miami, is elected to the Florida Legislature as the first female African American representative in state history.



1980s

Riots

Following the death of Arthur McDuffie in 1979 and the acquittal of the four white police officers 1980, Miami experiences some of the worst riots in modern US history.



Loss of a Leader

Dewey Knight Jr., community leader and social worker for 29 years before passing in 1995. Knight was the first black social worker of Kendall Children's Home and was key in restoring peace after Miami riots.

1990s



Reaching Higher

In 2007, Miami's Barrington Irving became the first African American, and at the time youngest individual, to fly around the world alone, both taking off and landing in his hometown.

2000s

Present Day Miami



2010s

Today's Black Community in Miami-Dade

30.9%

The % of Miami's foreign born blacks, 52.9% of which are Haitian.

While African Americans only make up 17.6% of the County population over 18, they make up 23.6% of its Veterans.



Community Comparison 2015

	Miami-Dade	Black Community
Unemployment	10.0%	17.3%
Median Household Income	\$43,129	\$33,103
Below Poverty Line	20.4%	29.8%
Homeownership	53.8%	43.9%
Bachelor's Degree of Higher	26.9%	15.2%

SOURCES: Census 2015 ACS 5 year estimates; Black Archives, Miami New Times, Miami Herald, Sun Sentinel, Florida Memory State Library and Archives of Florida

PHOTO SOURCES: The Black Archives History & Research Foundation of South Florida, Inc.; City of Miami, FIU

FIU Metropolitan Center
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

