

Queering

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



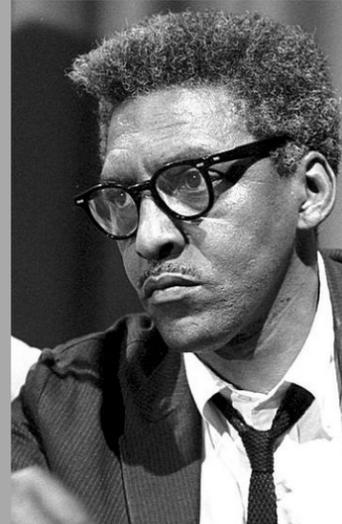
**#QUEER
BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**



THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR
**GENDER + SEXUAL
DIVERSITY**

Bayard Rustin (1912-1987)

Bayard Rustin was a lifelong leader in several social movements including both the civil rights movement and the gay rights movement. He is best known as the chief organizer of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, marching alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Later in the 1980s, Rustin began engaging in gay rights activism and worked to bring the AIDS crisis to the attention of the NAACP. Until recently, Bayard Rustin's contributions were often downplayed because of the public's discomfort with his homosexuality. Today, his legacy is his commitment to justice for all and his nonviolent approach to protest and resistance.



Marsha P. Johnson (1945 - 1992)

Marsha P. Johnson was a black "gay liberation" activist and self-identified drag queen. She is best known for being one of the first to resist the NYPD attacks on the Stonewall Inn and playing an integral role in the 1969 Stonewall Riots - which is considered by some to be the origin of modern pride parades. Because of this, she is an extremely important figure in North American LGBTQ+ history.



Audre Lorde (1934-1992)

Audre Lorde was a black lesbian poet, writer, and activist who used her works to address and challenge issues of race, gender and sexuality. She is considered a trailblazer of intersectional feminism and highlighted the multi-faceted nature of identity.



Contemporary Anti-Racism Initiatives

Racism, especially anti-black racism, is still far too prevalent in our communities today. Within the LGBTQ2+ community, QTIBPOC are still fighting to be heard and seen as an integral part of our community.

Black Lives Matter raised awareness of the systematic inequality by protesting at pride parades across Canada. Among their demands was the removal of uniformed police at the parade and to transform the culture and leadership of events to be more inclusive of marginalized people.



The City of Philadelphia unveiled an updated rainbow flag during their **#MoreColorMorePride** campaign to support racial inclusion within the LGBTQ+ community.



About the CCGSD

The Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity is proud to offer programming, conferences, and opportunities year-round. To get involved, or attend any of our events, please visit the CCGSD website at: <http://ccgsd-cddgs.org>

On our site, you can learn more about our:

- National Forums
- GSA Forum
- Allship in Action
- Service Providers' Summit
- Conferences for Educators
- 20+ Regional Conferences across Canada, in every geographic region.
- Training for businesses, NGOs, and governments.
- Free workshops in schools!

Make every week awareness week!

Black LGBTQ+ Film

Consider hosting a movie night in your community to celebrate and learn more about black queer trailblazers and resistance!

Movies and Documentaries

- Paris is Burning, 1990.
- The Peculiar Kind, 2012.
- Change, 2011.
- Bessie, 2015.
- Moonlight, 2016
- Brother Outsider, 2003.
- Pay It No Mind: The Life and Times of Marsha P. Johnson, 2012

"If I could take all my parts with me when I go somewhere, and not have to say to one of them, 'No, you stay home tonight, you won't be welcome, because I'm going to an all-white party where I can be gay, but not Black.' Or I'm going to a Black poetry reading, and half of the poets are antihomosexual. The day all the different parts of me can come along, we would have what I would call a revolution." - Pat Parker

Intersectionality and Historical Erasure

- In February 1926, African-American scholar Dr. Carter G. Woodson first ran "Negro History Week," the precursor to Black History Month.
- In the 1950s and 1960s, Black History Month expanded across North America to Toronto
- In 1979, Toronto became the first municipality to proclaim Black History Month, meant to recognize and celebrate the past and present achievements and contributions of black Canadians.
- In 1996, the Canadian government officially celebrated Black History Month after a motion from the Honorable Jean Augustine, Canada's first female black Member of Parliament.
- In 2011, The Racialized Students Collective at Ryerson University began the 'Queering Black History' campaign in order to re-insert the lives, experiences, and achievements of queer African, Black, and Caribbean people into Black History.

The lack of queer and trans people of colour represented in most history books is not due to the lack of important contributions or people. The invisibility of marginalized people is a direct result of the inequalities of our society; only those who are privileged have their stories told. As we work towards reversing the erasure of marginalized groups, we must remember that we all have multiple intersecting identities: race, gender, sexual orientation, etc. **Where are the stories of people who are both queer and black?** The invisibility of queer narratives in black history and black narratives in LGBTQ+ history sends the harmful message that blackness and queerness are mutually exclusive and you can only be one or the other.