

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland
AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH
SEPTEMBER 2024

- WHEREAS,** *The State of Maryland is proud to be home to a rich and diverse population, whose cultural heritage strengthens and enriches our communities; and*
- WHEREAS,** *On September 10, 1969, The Organization of the African Unity met in Addis Ababa and signed a treaty entitled Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa to address "the constantly increasing number of refugees in Africa and desirous of finding ways and means of alleviating their misery and suffering as well as providing them with a better life and future"; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Ten percent of Marylanders are African-born and African immigrants have made significant contributions to the culture and social fabric of Maryland, shaping our state in innumerable ways through their creativity, leadership, and entrepreneurship; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Maryland is home to the fourth largest share of African immigrants in the country and African Immigrant Heritage Month is an opportunity to honor and celebrate the rich heritage and culture of Africans, acknowledging their ingenuity, achievements, and enduring spirit; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Nearly one in five immigrants in Maryland are from Africa and the recognition of African Immigrant Heritage Month encourages all Marylanders to learn more about the significant contributions and the varied cultures of Africans across this state, thus fostering greater understanding and appreciation; and*
- WHEREAS;** *The State of Maryland reaffirms its commitment to promoting equality, justice, and inclusion for all while recognizing and honoring African immigrants as an integral part of our collective history and future; and*
- WHEREAS,** *In 2015, H.RES.371 was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives to establish the month of September as African Immigrant Heritage Month; and in 2022, the U.S. Senate passed S.5006 to designate the month of September as African Diaspora Heritage Month; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The African Immigrant Community is making significant contributions in education, armed forces, healthcare, arts and culture, government, community service, public policy, sports, foreign affairs, entrepreneurship, advocacy, economic development, and progress in the state of Maryland, and the United States.*

NOW, THEREFORE I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND do hereby proclaim SEPTEMBER 2024 as AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH in Maryland and commend this observance to all our citizens.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 1st day of September
Two Thousand and twenty-four

Handwritten signature of Wes Moore, Governor of Maryland.
Governor

Handwritten signature of Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor of Maryland.

Lt. Governor
Handwritten signature of Susan C. Lee, Secretary of State.

Secretary of State

