

BLACK EVENTS, ATTRACTIONS & DESTINATIONS FORT WORTH



FORT WORTH BLACK DESTINATIONS

HOTEL DRYCE

- Vinyl Night
- Friday Night Chill Sessions with DJ Asa Ace
- The Check-In with DJ Sober, Every Last Saturday of the Month

CLUB RITZY

- Swing-Out Thursdays
- Live Performances in the Savannah Lounge - Friday and Saturday Nights

DOCK BOOKSHOP

- Open mic night Tuesdays

SCAT JAZZ LOUNGE

- Live performances Friday and Saturday nights

THE MAGNOLIA WINE BAR

- Live music Friday nights

JUBILEE THEATRE

- Live theatre performances, Friday through Sunday

THE WAREHOUSE ON BERRY

- Live weekly performances

PINKY'S CHAMPAGNE ROOM & VELVET JAZZ LOUNGE

- Live music, daily

ANNUAL EVENTS

JANUARY

- MLK Day Parade
- Cowboys of Color Rodeo
- Hotel Dryce Presents: Cowboys of Color Kickback

FEBRUARY

- Bill Pickett Rodeo
- Fort Worth Opera Presents: A Night of Black Excellence

MARCH

- The Fort Worth African American Roots Festival

MAY

- Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo

JUNE

- Ms. Opal's Walk and Juneteenth Celebration in Panther Island
- Jubilee Theatre's Black Music Festival in Sundance Square
- Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo

AUGUST

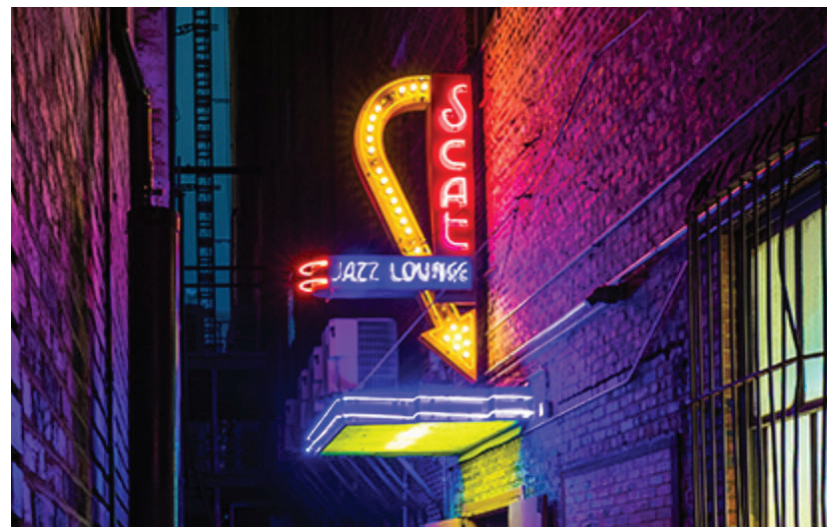
- Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo
- Soul of DFW Tour: Fort Worth

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

- Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra Presents: Queens of Soul
- Tarrant County Harambee Festival

DECEMBER

- Jubilee Theatre Annual Christmas Show



ATTRACTIONS

- National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum
- Lenora Rolla Butler Heritage Center Museum
- Evans Plaza Walk Of Fame
- The Home Of William McDonald, Texas' First Black Millionaire
- Bill Pickett Sculpture in The Stockyards
- Pioneer Cowboy, John Ware Plaque in The Stockyards
- The Black Business And Medical District Markers
- Dr. MLK Historical Marker
- The Vada Felder House, A Special Dr. MLK Connection
- Kinfolk House, A Collaborative Project Space
- Leon Bridges Mural, Magnolia Wine Bar



BLACK FORT WORTH FACTS

- African Americans make up 18.9% of the overall population of Fort Worth and is among the largest growing population in Fort Worth according to the 2020 Census.
- In 1915, E.C Gray started Fort Worth's first Black "jitney" service with a single car and a license from the city.
- The first travel guide published to aid Black travelers was Hackley & Harrison's Hotel and Apartment Guide for Colored Travelers in 1930. It included three Fort Worth sites, one of which was the Jim Hotel, owned by William McDonald.
- In the early 1900s, an influx of Blacks into Southeast Fort Worth were influenced by hotelier, educator, politician and banker, William M. McDonald, who was the first Black millionaire in Texas. His bank was able to survive the Great Depression.
- There are currently two Black-owned hotels in Fort Worth: Hotel Dryce and The Holiday Inn Express & Suites Downtown.
- Photographer, Calvin Littlejohn arrived in Fort Worth in the 1930s and documented thriving Black life throughout every quadrant of the city. His story and over 150 historical images can be found in Bob Ray Sanders' *Portrait of a Community in Black and White*.
- Dr. Martin Luther King made what would be his first and only trip to Fort Worth in October 1959. His "What a Time to be

Alive" speech was made at Majestic Theatre, where the Fort Worth Convention Center now stands.

- Bob Marley and The Wailers performed at The Fort Worth Convention Center in 1978.
- Jubilee Theatre is the home of African American theatre in North Texas and was founded by Rudy and Marian Eastman on June 19, 1981.
- In 2021 The Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra announced the appointment of conductor Kevin John Edusei as the orchestra's next Principal Guest Conductor. Mr. Edusei is of Ghanaian and German ancestry.
- The Bill Pickett Rodeo returned to Fort Worth for the first time in 30 years, and it is produced by CEO Valeria Cunningham, the only Black woman owner and promoter of a rodeo circuit around the world.
- Bill Pickett was a cowboy, actor and rodeo show performer who introduced the modern rodeo event, bulldogging. You can find a sculpture of him and his Walk of Fame star in the Fort Worth Stockyards.
- Ms. Opal Lee, humanitarian and resident of Fort Worth, moved here as a child and witnessed her home vandalized by a racist mob. Because of Ms. Lee's local and national efforts to make Juneteenth a national holiday, President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act on June 17, 2021. Ms. Lee's annual 2.5 mile walk occurs every Juneteenth.



FW VISIT FORT WORTH



Scan to discover more of Fort Worth's African American Heritage.