

Celebrate National Heritage Months with ASLA

The world is rich with diversity, which is reflected in the observances celebrated by its various cultures and populations. Knowledge of the following diversity holidays and celebrations of diverse individuals who make up the landscape architecture professional will enhance workplace diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as public understanding. The following diversity awareness months and day(s) are intended to help raise awareness, understanding and respect for the group, culture or cause.

Black History Month (February)

Black History Month is an annual observance originating in the United States, where it is also known as **African-American History Month**. It has received official recognition from governments in the United States and Canada, and more recently has been observed unofficially in Ireland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. It began as a way for remembering important people and events in the history of the [African diaspora](#). It is celebrated in February in the United States^[6] and Canada,^[7] while in Ireland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom it is observed in October.

Women's History Month (March)

Women's History Month is an annual declared month that highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. It is celebrated during March in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, corresponding with [International Women's Day](#) on March 8, and during October in Canada, corresponding with the celebration of [Persons Day](#) on October 18.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (May)

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM), now officially proclaimed **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**,^[1] takes place in May. It celebrates the culture, traditions, and history of [Asian Americans](#) and [Pacific Islanders](#) in the United States. In June 1977 Reps. [Frank Horton](#) of [New York](#) and [Norman Y. Mineta](#) of California introduced a [United States House of Representatives](#) resolution to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian-Pacific Heritage Week.^{[2][3][4]} A similar bill was introduced in the Senate a month later by [Daniel Inouye](#) and [Spark Matsunaga](#).^[2] "The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the [transcontinental railroad](#) on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants."^{[2][5][6]} President [Jimmy Carter](#) signed a joint resolution for the celebration on October 5, 1978.^[2]

LGBTQ Pride Month (June)

The month of June was chosen for LGBT Pride Month to commemorate the [Stonewall riots](#), which occurred at the end of June 1969. As a result, many pride events are held during this month to recognize the impact LGBT people have had in the world. Bisexual activist [Brenda Howard](#) is known as the "*Mother of Pride*", for her work in coordinating the first LGBT Pride march, and she also originated the idea for a week-long series of events around Pride Day which became the genesis of the annual LGBT Pride celebrations that are now held around the world every June.^{[22][23]} Additionally, Howard along with the bisexual activist [Robert A. Martin \(aka Donny the Punk\)](#) and gay activist [L. Craig Schoonmaker](#) are credited with popularizing the word "Pride" to describe these festivities.^{[24][42][43][44][45]}



National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15)

National Hispanic Heritage Month began as Hispanic Heritage Week, established by legislation sponsored by Rep. [Edward R. Roybal](#) of Los Angeles and signed into law by President [Lyndon Johnson](#) in 1968.^{[1][2][3]} The commemorative week was expanded by legislation sponsored by Rep. [Esteban Edward Torres](#) (D-Pico Rivera) and implemented by President [Ronald Reagan](#) in 1988 to cover a 30-day period (September 15 – October 15).^[1] It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of [Public Law 100-402](#). September 15 of every year was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five [Latin American](#) countries: [Costa Rica](#), [El Salvador](#), [Guatemala](#), [Honduras](#) and [Nicaragua](#), who all declared independence in 1821. In addition, [Mexico](#), [Chile](#) and [Belize](#) celebrate their independence days on September 16, September 18, and September 21, respectively.^[4]

Native American Heritage Month (November)

On August 3, 1990, [President of the United States George H. W. Bush](#) declared the month of November as **National American Indian Heritage Month**, thereafter commonly referred to as **Native American Heritage Month**. First sponsor of "American Indian Heritage Month" was through the American Indian Heritage Foundation by the founder Pale Moon Rose, of Cherokee-Seneca descent and an adopted Ojibwa, whose Indian name Win-yan-sa-han-wi "Princess of the Pale Moon" was given to her by Alfred Michael "Chief" Venne ^[1] ^[2]

The Bill read in part that "the President has authorized and requested to call upon Federal, State and local Governments, groups and organizations and the people of the [United States](#) to observe such month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities". This was a landmark Bill honoring America's Tribal people.

This commemorative month aims to provide a platform for [Native people](#) in the United States of America to share their culture, traditions, music, crafts, dance, and ways and concepts of life. This gives Native people the opportunity to express to their community, both city, county and state officials their concerns and solutions for building bridges of understanding and friendship in their local area.

(Source: Wikipedia)

