

Black Voices Symposium Theme: Sankofa The Power of Our Past is the Bridge to Our Future



Sankofa means to go back and get, to fetch, to retrieve, to return to. The metaphor of the Sankofa bird in Black culture is to go back to the past and bring forward the lessons that carried us through time. It is a tribute to the journey of those who came before us. In the symbolism of the Sankofa bird is the connection of who we are today to who we were before to who we continue to become. It is the acknowledgment of the survival and endurance of our people and our culture. Reflecting on the past can teach us, it can energize us, and it can guide us because the journey never stops.

Attention African American students in the Spokane area:

Express yourself artistically (in poetry, essays, lyrics, visual art, articles, interviews) for the Black Voices feature in The Spokesman-Review this February by responding to any of these prompts:

- Describe or express your ideas about this phrase as it relates to Black history: **The Journey Continues**
- Why is history a powerful tool and what does it mean to you?
- Who from the past has inspired you and why did they inspire you?
- What does legacy mean to you?
- Who has left a legacy for you and how?
- What legacy do you want to leave for those coming after you?
- What can we learn from the past?
- How will we continue to move forward?
- Write a letter to a future descendant by sharing your experiences in the present and your hope for the future.
- Write a letter to an ancestor telling them how you see the world today through your experiences.
- Write about your hopes and dreams for the future.
- Pick a historical event from Black history that you have learned about and describe how it affected you when you learned about.
- Interview a grandparent or great grandparent and ask them what they experienced as a child or teenager, and if there is something they wanted to change in the world when they were young.
- What do you want to change in the world? How will you do it?
- What does this mean to you: **"I am living history."**

Please send submissions to by Feb 1, 2023 via email to SpokaneBlackVoices@Spokesman.com

Questions? Please call April Eberhart at 509-828-7719 or Kristi Burns at 509 459 5428