

"The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas"

Theme for the 2009 recognition of Black History Month

On these walls of the Madison Municipal Building our exhibit begins in January with the celebration of Martin Luther King's Birthday and continues through the end of February. There are two history-making events we have chosen to highlight the *Quest for Black Citizenship*.

This year the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, better known as the NAACP, celebrates 100 years fighting to level the playing field so that all Americans may have equal access to first-class citizenship. Some national, and some local, NAACP history is found on the west display wall.

2009 will be recorded in history as the year the first African American became President of the United States. The Road to the Capital was not paved over night. We have highlighted some of the people that paved the way, starting just after the Civil War, to modern day, on the local, state and national levels. See the display on the South wall.

One glass display case is devoted to the 44th President of the United States, Barack H. Obama. He has reached the highest rung in the Capital and we applaud him.

Our Memorial salute to some of the deceased African Americans who have paved the way, is back by popular demand in the second glass display case. It is not an inclusive list, but symbolic of the appreciation we extend to those who came before us.

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Members of the City of Madison Minority Affairs Committee prepared this display. We thank the Madison Arts Commission for making this space available. We also thank the City Departments who support our efforts with time and materials. Special thanks to UMOJA Magazine, The Capitol City Hues, Madison City Channel and the Department of Planning and Community and Economic Development.