

Peace
Eastlake Park Civil Rights Memorial, 1997
Ronald Turner and Shannon Owen, Artists
16th Street & Jefferson Street



Description

The Eastlake Park Civil Rights Memorial, titled *Peace*, was created in 1997 to reflect the history of the civil rights movement in the United States and Arizona. The memorial comprises a small concrete amphitheater covered by an arched steel canopy modeled after the Arizona state flag. The centerpiece features a bronze tabletop depicting the layout of Eastlake Park in the 1880s. The tabletop is wrapped with a curved apron of stainless-steel panels engraved with a decade-by-decade timeline of civil rights milestones, from the 1880s through the 1990s. Recognizing that our nation's civil rights continue to evolve, the artists left one of the timeline's engraved steel panel's empty to add key events from 2000 through 2020. The milestones were etched and installed as part of an overall retrofit to mark the memorial's 25th anniversary in 2022.

Eastlake Park Civil Rights Memorial

Timeline Text

1880s – 2020s

The Civil Rights Memorial includes the following milestones:

1880

National

1883 U.S. Supreme Court reviews the Civil Rights Cases of 1883 (five cases concerning civil rights of African Americans) and declared the Civil Rights Act of 1875 unconstitutional. Marks the beginning of a new struggle for equality in America.

Arizona

1880 Total Phoenix population of 1708 includes 5 blacks, 772 Hispanics and 110 Asians.

1885 Eastlake Park is known as Patton’s Park.

1886 Geronimo, an important leader of the Apache Tribe, is exiled from Arizona as a prisoner of war.

1887 African American Frank Shirley opens the Fashion Square Barber Shop in Phoenix. A civic leader, Shirley is responsible for finding jobs for numerous African Americans in the community.

1890

National

1895 Booker T. Washington delivers “Atlanta Exposition Speech,” calling for African American community education and self-help.

1896 National Association of Colored Women is founded.

1896 The “Separate-but-Equal Doctrine” is held constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in Plessy v. Ferguson.

Arizona

1892 Eastlake Park is known as Phoenix Park.

1893 The Afro-American Society, a social organization, is founded in Phoenix.

1899 The Colored Women’s Club is founded in Phoenix.

1899 Phoenix’s first African American church is dedicated at the corner of Jefferson and 2nd Street (now called “Tanner Chapel AME”).

1900

National

1905 W.E.B. DuBois convenes first meeting of the Niagara Movement.

1906 Nation’s first major race riot occurs in Atlanta, Georgia.

1909 Niagara Movement merges with the newly formed National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Arizona

- 1906 African American William P. Crump founds “The Crump Hay and Grain Company” in Phoenix, a highly profitable fruit and produce business with a national market.
- 1909 Territorial legislature passes law allowing Arizona school districts to segregate African Americans from students of other racial backgrounds.

1910

National

- 1915 The film, “Birth of a Nation” is boycotted by African Americans because it glorified the Ku Klux Klan. The Arizona Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs leads protest that results in banning the film in Phoenix Theatres in 1916.

Arizona

- 1911 Booker T. Washington delivers a speech at East Lake Park.
- 1913 Arizona State Legislature passes the “Literacy Law,” requiring persons to pass a literacy test as a requirement for voting eligibility.
- 1913 Elizabeth Harrison becomes the first African American to graduate from Phoenix Union High School.
- 1918 The “Department for Colored Students” is established in Phoenix which creates a separate high school system for African Americans.
- 1919 Maricopa County Branch of NAACP is established.

1920

National

- 1922 “Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill” is passed by the House of Representatives but blocked by the U.S. Senate.

Arizona

- 1921 Arizona State Legislature passes the “Alien Land Act,” which denies Japanese aliens the right to own land in Arizona.
- 1921 African American doctor Winston C. Hackett opens the Booker T. Washington Hospital at Jefferson and 14th Street in Phoenix.
- 1923 Phoenix Union Colored High School is established at the corner of Jefferson and 9th Street. Moves to corner of Grant and 4th Street in 1926.
- 1927 Phyllis Wheatley Community Center opens in Phoenix at Jefferson and 14th Street as a meeting place for local African American organizations.

1930

National

- 1939 African American contralto Marian Anderson performs an outdoor concert at the Lincoln Memorial after she is denied the use of the Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. because of her race.

Arizona

- 1934 The Anti-Alien Association is formed to oust Japanese farmers from the Salt River Valley, and the U.S. Department of Justice intervenes to stop the violence.
- 1935 Justo Chavez is the first Hispanic American elected to the Arizona State Legislature.
- 1936 Arizona Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of the “Alien Land Act” of 1921. Arizona fails to rescind the law until 1978.

1940

National

- 1941 A. Phillip Randolph, head of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and other African American leaders threaten President Franklin D. Roosevelt with a march on Washington, D.C. In response, President Roosevelt issues executive order forbidding employment discrimination in defense industries.
- 1942 Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) is founded.
- 1943 In *Shelley v. Kraemer*, the U.S. Supreme Court rules that state courts cannot be used to enforce racially restrictive covenants.

Arizona

- 1940 Father Emmett McLoughlin leads efforts to acquire \$1.9 million from federal government to build three housing projects in Phoenix.
- 1943 Phoenix Union Colored High School is renamed George Washington Carver High School.
- 1945 African Americans conduct the first sit-in regarding public accommodations and civil rights in Phoenix.
- 1946 Wing F. Ong is the first Chinese American elected to the Arizona State Legislature.
- 1946 At a public meeting at Eastlake Park, the local NAACP Chapter calls for civil rights laws in Arizona.

1950

National

- 1952 McCarran-Walter Immigration and Nationality Act revamps the nation’s immigration policy and gives the right of citizenship to all immigrants.
- 1954 U.S. Supreme Court hands down the decision to abolish segregation in the schools in *Brown v. the Board of Education*.
- 1955 Rosa Parks (known as the “Mother of Civil Rights”) gives increased visibility to the Civil Rights Movement by refusing to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama.
- 1957 U.S. Congress passes the Civil Rights Act, the first major civil rights legislation since 1875.

Arizona

- 1950 Carl Sims and Hayzel B. Daniels are the first African Americans elected to the Arizona State Legislature.
- 1953 Phoenix Union High School District desegregates its schools, one year before the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. the Board of Education*.

- 1954 Adam Diaz is the first Hispanic American elected to the Phoenix City Council.
1959 Willie Mays is denied accommodations in downtown Phoenix. New York Giants threaten to pull their spring training out of Phoenix and Mays is allowed in.

1960

National

- 1963 200,000 people march on Washington, D.C. and Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers his speech, "I Have a Dream."
1964 Martin Luther King, Jr. is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in nonviolent protest of discrimination in America.
1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson signs Civil Rights Act which prohibits discrimination in public accommodations and employment.
1965 President Lyndon B. Johnson signs Voting Rights Act which suspends use of literacy and other voter qualification tests.

Arizona

- 1960 Thomas Tang is the first Chinese American elected to the Phoenix City Council.
1962 Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers a speech in Tempe, Arizona at Goodwin Stadium.
1964 Rev. George B. Brooks and Dr. Lincoln J. Ragsdale, Sr. led efforts to secure a public accommodations ordinance from the City of Phoenix.
1964 Richard Harris becomes the first African American reporter for the Phoenix Newspapers, Inc.
1965 Dr. Warren Morrison is the first African American elected to the Phoenix City Council.
1968 Vernell Coleman re-establishes the annual Juneteenth Celebration in Phoenix.

1970

National

- 1976 Barbara Jordan of Texas becomes the first woman and African American to give a keynote address at a Democratic National Convention.

Arizona

- 1970 Cloves Campbell, Sr. is the first African American elected to the Arizona State Senate.
1971 Calvin C. Goode, an African American, is elected to the Phoenix City Council, and serves 22 years – the longest term of any council member in Phoenix history.
1972 Arizona State Legislature repeals the "Literacy Law" of 1913.
1974 Raul Castro is the first Hispanic American elected as Governor of Arizona.

1980

National

- 1983 U.S. Congress establishes the national Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.
1984 African American Jesse Jackson seeks the Democratic presidential nomination, and runs again in 1988.

Arizona

- 1985 City of Phoenix adopts a Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.
- 1986 Governor Bruce Babbitt issues an executive order to declare a paid Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. In 1987, Governor Evan Mecham rescinds the order as a paid holiday, sparking marches on the State Capitol.

1990

National

- 1991 Civil Rights Act is broadened to provide additional protections against unlawful discrimination in employment.
- 1995 One million African American men march in Washington, D.C. for unity and self-esteem.

Arizona

- 1991 Hispanic American Ed Pastor is the first minority from Arizona elected to the U.S. Congress.
- 1992 Arizona state voters pass the first voter approved Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday in the nation.
- 1996 City of Mesa adopts the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.
- 1996 Alumni purchase the historically significant George Washington Carver High School building for development as an African American Museum and Cultural Center.

2000

National

- 2008 Barack H. Obama elected the nation's first African American president.
- 2009 President Barack H. Obama signs the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, strengthening legal protections against race and gender pay discrimination.

Arizona

- 2001 Balbir Singh Sodhi, a Sikh-American, was killed in a hate crime at his Mesa, AZ gas station following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States.
- 2003: Phoenix names Piestewa Peak to honor Army Specialist Lori Ann Piestewa, the first woman soldier killed in the 2003 Iraq War, and the first known Native American woman soldier to die in combat.

2010

National

- 2010: President Barack H. Obama signs the "Don't Ask Don't Tell Repeal Act," reversing a law that prevented openly gay people from serving in the military.
- 2012: President Barack H. Obama issues Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) executive order, temporarily protecting from deportation some undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children, and allowing them to become eligible to work in the U.S.
- 2015: U.S. Supreme Court rules state bans on same-sex marriage unconstitutional, legalizing gay marriage nationwide.
- 2020: Kamala D. Harris elected the nation's first African/Asian American woman vice president.

Arizona

- 2012: U.S. Supreme Court rules parts of Arizona's anti-immigrant SB1070 law unconstitutional.
- 2013: Federal Judge G. Murray Snow rules Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio's anti- immigration policies and practices unconstitutional and orders him to carry out reforms.
- 2014: Federal Judge John W. Sedwick rules Arizona's ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional and prevents the state from enforcing it.
- 2020: The killing of African American George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer sparks Black Lives Matter protests for police reform in Arizona and across the nation.

Questions?

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at arts.culture@phoenix.gov or 602-262-4637.