

Black Milwaukee (DIY) Tour

Milwaukee is often stereotyped as a city of German immigrants (cheese and beer!), but it's the descendants of the Great Migration who lead our city's present and future. Present-day Bronzeville, centered at North Ave and King Drive, is not all there is to know about Black Milwaukee, but still a good starting point for encountering Black Milwaukee history, arts and culture. The area is a five-minute Uber ride from the Hyatt Regency and once you're there you can easily explore on foot.

Start the self-guided tour by reflecting on our conference theme of Freedom at [America's Black Holocaust Museum](#) (401 W. North Ave). The museum was founded in 1988 by Milwaukee leader and lynching survivor Dr. James Cameron, making it older than the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis. Sustained by community activists after Dr. Cameron's death, it opened in its current location in 2022. The exhibits detail the afterlife of slavery and Jim Crow on a national level and include some details from the history of Black Milwaukee.

Across Vel R. Phillips Ave from the museum, [Bronzeville Collective MKE](#) (339 W. North Ave.) offers handmade goods and art from over 25 creatives of color. A block east of the museum, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive houses some of Milwaukee's premier Black-owned restaurants, including [Jewels Caribbean](#) (2230 N. MLK), [Pepperpot Jamaican Cuisine](#) (2215 N. MLK) and [On the Bayou](#) (Cajun; 2053 N. MLK).

Historic Milwaukee Bronzeville stretched far beyond the neighborhood's current boundaries and shaped the nation's culture and politics. Learn more about it with this [interactive resource](#) and map created by Patricia Diggs and UWM historian Kitonga Alexander. [Halyard Park](#) is a suburban-style pocket neighborhood tucked to the west of King Drive; learn more about its history at the link and consider stopping by the multiracial St. Francis of Assisi Parish on 4th St.

You can also reach these sites via a half-hour walk from the Hyatt Regency. Your walk will take you through a pleasant part of town, albeit mostly uphill. To walk from the Hyatt Regency, head north on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive for 1.4 miles. You will pass a number of German-themed restaurants near Fiserv Forum, where the Milwaukee Bucks play, and then a number of businesses and nonprofits including Golda Meir High School in the historic Schlitz Brewery. Once you cross Walnut Street, you're in historic Bronzeville. Your walk will take you past other noteworthy Black-owned businesses including [Maranta Plant Shop](#) (1739 N. MLK—note Dr. King's statue across the street) and [Mi Casa Su Café](#) (1835 N. MLK). Turn left when you reach North Ave. and America's Black Holocaust Museum is two blocks down at 401 W. North.

Note: As with any local business, please confirm the hours for any of these establishments when you plan your visit. Hours change and many Milwaukee businesses close on Sunday.

Day and Tolkien Archives

CTSA members might be interested in visiting the Marquette University archives, which holds the papers of Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker; J.R.R. Tolkien; and a significant collection on Christianity in Native North America, including records related to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha and Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk. The archive reading room is open 9 am.-4:30 p.m., M-F, with a standing Tolkien exhibit viewable without an appointment. To set up a research appointment or for more information, please visit [this link](#)."

Milwaukee Art Museum

The [Milwaukee Art Museum](#)'s "Native America: In Translation" photography [exhibit](#) may be of interest to members as well; the museum is located about a mile and a half from the Hyatt Regency.