
PRESS RELEASE



nuwave & the Flynn Present the Black Experience 2026, Featuring Dr. Ibram X. Kendi and Mumu Fresh

BURLINGTON, VT — **The Black Experience 2026** (BX26) returns to the Flynn Main Stage on **February 28**. BX26 is Burlington's flagship Black History Month event and serves as a platform to elevate and celebrate Vermont's thriving Black communities. The program focuses on three pillars of Vermont's Black lived experience: culture, community, and education. BX26 includes an evening of performances, presentations, and conversations.



BX25 is presented by nuwave and the Flynn. This year's edition features a presentation and discussion with award-winning author, scholar, and public intellectual **Dr. Ibram X. Kendi**. He is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University and the founding director of the BU Center for Antiracist Research. He is a contributing writer at The Atlantic and a CBS News racial justice contributor. He is the host of the new action podcast Be Antiracist. Dr. Kendi is the author of many highly acclaimed books, including *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, which won the National Book Award for Nonfiction, making him the youngest-ever winner of that award. He has also produced five straight #1 New York Times bestsellers, including *How to Be an Antiracist*, *Antiracist Baby*, and *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*, co-authored by Jason Reynolds. In 2020, Time magazine named Dr. Kendi one of the 100 most influential people in the world. He was awarded a 2021 MacArthur Fellowship, popularly known as the Genius Grant.

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The Black Experience 2026 takes place at the Flynn on February 28. Tickets are on sale now priced \$22.50-\$48.75. Find out more and get tickets only at flynnvt.org.

Joining Dr. Kendi with be GRAMMY- Nominated artist **Maimouna Youssef**, also known as **Mumu Fresh** is GRAMMY-Nominated, Indigenous Music award-winning, 3 X Washington Area Music award (WAMMIE) winning, Urban World Music Video award-winning, Musical and Cultural Ambassador for the US State Department, former elected governor of the DC chapter of The Recording Academy, co-creator of the Recording Academy's "Best Song for Social Change" award, IMAN central roster artist and an Ambassador of The Black Music Collective. She is committed to 'Art Activism' and has performed and given lectures at dozens of Universities throughout the US and abroad as well as within the US prison system, The Congressional Black Caucus, I.M.A.N. Central in Chicago & Atlanta, The W. K. Kellogg Foundation, *Ford Foundation*, The Indigenous People's Movement and more.

Mayor Emma Mulvaney-Stanak said, "Burlington is proud to host *The Black Experience* at the Flynn — a vibrant celebration that honors the rich cultural, communal, and educational contributions of Vermont's Black community. This event not only enriches our city's Black History Month observance, but also invites all of us to learn, connect, and grow together through inspiring dialogue and artistic expression. We are grateful to the Flynn, its partners, and the broader community for creating a space where voices are elevated, stories are shared, and our shared humanity is celebrated."

"*The Black Experience* elevates the vibrant cultures, histories, and contributions of Black Vermonters while affirming that Black history is not just something we reflect on—it is alive in our communities today," said **Dr. Kelli Perkins, Director of the office of Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging for the City of Burlington**. "As we honor Black History Month, this celebration creates space for connection, learning, and joy, while strengthening our shared commitment to equity and belonging. We are proud to support an event that uplifts Black voices, honors lived experience, and invites our entire community to engage more deeply in building a future where everyone is seen, valued, and belongs."

"We're really excited about the 5th installment of the Black Experience," said Emiliano Void of nuwave. "It's a privilege to play a small part in recognizing and celebrating Black folks in our community, and this is how we pitch in."

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The Black Experience 2025 takes place at the Flynn on February 22. Tickets are on sale now priced \$23-\$49.25. Find out more and get tickets only at flynnvt.org.

Media contact:

Emiliano Void, emiliano@nuwaveco.com

Kevin Sweeney, Director of Marketing & Sales, ksweeney@flynnvt.org

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