

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Black Maternal Health Week Event Lineup Announced**

*Spokane Events Bring Awareness To Black Maternal Health April 11-17th*

**[Spokane, WA, April 2024]** The Shades of Motherhood Network is proud to announce their event lineup for 2024's Black Maternal Health Week - April 11th-17th, 2024. Events will take place throughout the region with the goal of fostering awareness and encouraging community action to improve Black maternal health conditions.

*"The heartbreaking truth is that black mothers are twice as likely to die or suffer long-term as a result of pregnancy-related complications than white women. And they're three times as likely to receive a pregnancy-related injury during birth."* explains Stephaine Courtney, Executive Director of Shades of Motherhood.

*"The birth rate is declining in our country. If we want to improve the birth rate in America, the logical first step is making pregnancy a safer process,"* explains Stephaine Courtney. *"The best way to improve the baseline of safe births is to start by helping the women who are dying at an alarming rate. We aim to spark awareness and action during Black Maternal Health Week."*

Eight Black Maternal Health Week events will focus on educating the community about Black maternal health issues and empowering people to take action. The event calendar spans film, art, literature, community discussion, family activities, celebrations, and more, with virtual and in-person options. Admission is free to each Black Maternal Health Week Event. Events include:

#### **[Black Maternal Health Week Art Exhibits: Shades of Joy, Elevating Black Voices](#)**

*Thursday, April 11th, 9:30am-8pm, Multiple Locations*

An arts event highlighting vibrant expressions of resilience, triumph, and unity within the Black community.

- 9:30am - 10:00am / Holy Family Hospital / New Aquinas Room
- 12:00pm - 1:00pm / Sacred Heart Hospital / Room - Mary Beade Room
- 1:30pm - 2:00pm / Medical Park / Room - TBA
- 5:00pm - 7:30pm / Carl Maxey Center / 16528 E Desmet Ct, Spokane Valley, WA 99216

#### **[Shades Of Urgency: Maternal Health Live Book Reading](#)**

*Friday, April 12th, 10am-1pm, Facebook Live Stream*

Embark on a poignant journey through the pages of compelling narratives that illuminate the diverse shades of urgency surrounding maternal health.

#### **[Black Maternal Health Conference](#)**

*Saturday, April 13th, WSU Spokane, SAC Building, 9am-5pm*

The Black Maternal Health Conference will provide a comprehensive exploration of critical issues, fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by black mothers and identifying actionable solutions. This year's Black Maternal Health Conference will feature renowned keynote speaker, Dr. Joy Angela DeGruy. Dr. DeGruy's work lays a crucial foundation for recognizing and dismantling non-productive attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors rooted in centuries of oppression, urging us to engage in a collective healing process.

### **[Black Maternal Health Week College Awareness Tours](#)**

*Sunday, April 14th, Multiple Locations Across Local Colleges*

Black Maternal Health Week is partnering with Black Student Unions from local colleges to bring awareness and spark dialogue.

- 12:00pm - 1:00pm / Eastern Washington University / PUB 209
- 1:30am - 2:30pm / Spokane Falls Community College / Center for Inclusion and Diversity, Building 6, Room 115
- 3:00pm - 4:00pm / Gonzaga University / Joann Jundt Lounge Hemmingson Center
- 4:00pm - 5:00pm / Whitworth University / Robinson Science Building - Room #126

### **[Black Maternal Health Week - Birth Justice Film](#)**

*Monday, April 14th, 2pm-8pm, Magic Lantern Theater*

Each film has been carefully chosen to provide a unique perspective, capturing the urgency of addressing disparities and advocating for Black birth justice.

- 2:00pm - 4:00pm / Magic Lantern / Movie - *Lights Camera Activism: Birthing Justice*
- 4:00pm - 5:00pm / Magic Lantern / Panel Discussion
- 5:00pm - 7:00pm / Magic Lantern / Movie - *Girl Get A Doula*

### **[Black Maternal Health Policy and Poetry](#)**

*Tuesday, April 15th, 5:30pm-7:30pm, Nectar Wine & Beer*

Experience an impactful evening at "Shades Of Urgency: Policy & Poetry Reading," where intellectual discourse and artistic expression converge to address the critical issue of Black Maternal Health.

### **[Black Maternal Health Day: Walk For Her, Family Fun Day](#)**

*Wednesday April 17th, 4pm-7pm, Martin Luther King Center*

Black Maternal Health Week will celebrate with a joyful day of family fun and community solidarity at Black Maternal Health Week's "Shades Of Urgency: Family Fun Day." This joyful event is dedicated to celebrating and raising awareness for Black maternal health, through games, activities, and entertainment as we shine a light on the important issues surrounding maternal health within the Black community.

### **[Evening of Joy Gala](#)**

*Saturday April 20th, 5pm-7pm, Montvale Event Center*

Black Maternal Health Week will conclude with joy and an evening of sisterhood and

brotherhood featuring musical guests Nu Jack City. Guests are encouraged to donate to the Shades of Motherhood Network's goal of reaching \$60,000. Donations will be used to provide programming, doula education, care packages for new families, and more. Formal attire recommended.

These events have been planned and coordinated by The Shades of Motherhood Network in collaboration with The Learning Project, both owned and operated by Stephaine Courtney.

These events are sponsored by the Perigee Fund, Starry Financial Group, Providence, Spokane Regional Health District, and Cambia Health Solutions.

For more information on these events, please visit [www.theshadesofmotherhoodnetwork.org](http://www.theshadesofmotherhoodnetwork.org).

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**Shades of Motherhood Network** is a local organization that strives to create healthy, equitable relationships between Black women and women of color/ Birthing people and reproductive health through immersive, community-driven experiences that catalyze the physical, mental, and spiritual health of children and families in underrepresented communities. This non-profit organization has been focusing their initiatives around Black maternal health and closing the gap in recovery foods, wellness, and creative spaces to bring awareness to pregnant and postpartum people. Shades of Motherhood offers peer networking and support, special event programming, and more.

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[Press Kit: Photography \(photo credit: Alex Lockett\), Event Graphics, Logos](#)