



Malcolm X

Honoring Nebraska's native son of human rights.

NEBRASKA HALL OF FAME COMMISSION

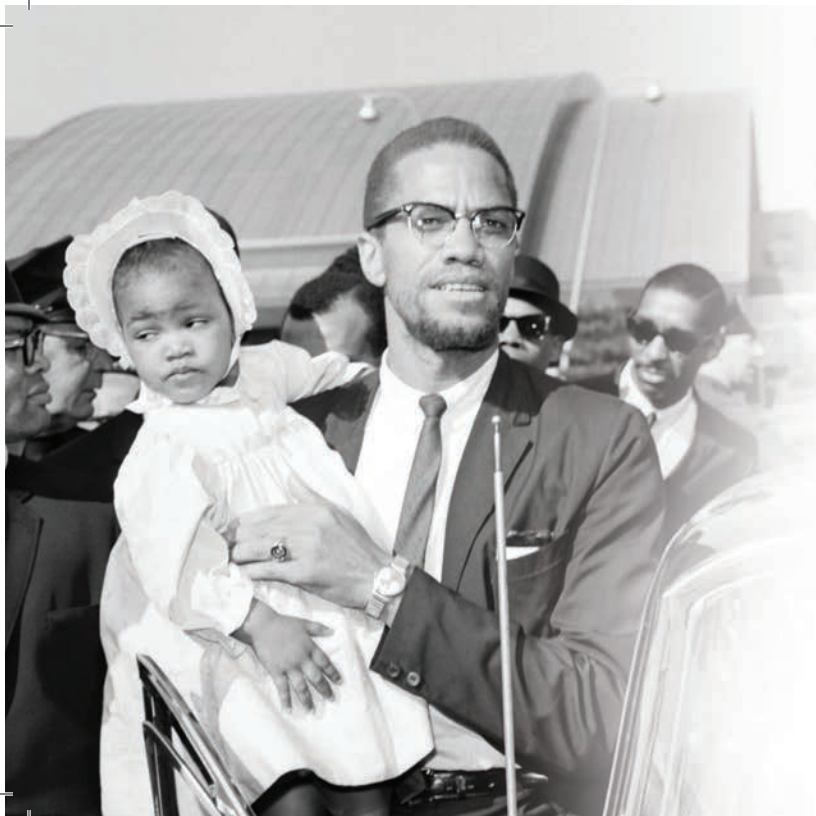
05.22.2024 • Nebraska State Capitol • Warner Chamber

Malcolm

X

Ceremony Schedule

Prelude	Ravnan String Quartet, UNL
Master of Ceremonies	Dr. Sara Crook, Chair, Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission
Invocation	
Introductions	Dr. Sara Crook
Presentation of Proclamation	The Honorable Governor Jim Pillen
Introduction of Speaker	Dr. Sara Crook
Remarks	JoAnna Ejike, Executive Director, Malcolm X Memorial Foundation
Speaker	Ilyasah Shabazz, Daughter of Malcolm X
Artist's Remarks	Nathan Murray, Sculptor
Acknowledgements	Dr. Sara Crook
Unveiling	Shabazz Family, Nathan Murray
Postlude	Ravnan String Quartet, UNL



About malcolm x

Malcolm X is a pivotal civil rights figure, encouraging empowerment and inspiring pride in Black heritage. Born in Omaha in 1925, the Little family left Omaha in 1928 after being threatened by torch-bearing Ku Klux Klan members, first traveling to Milwaukee, then to Lansing, Michigan. They were sued for eviction from the house they lived in — in a white neighborhood — and the house was burned down. The family moved to East Lansing and built a new home there. In 1938, after their father Earl Little was killed, Malcolm's mother Louise Little was diagnosed with mental illness, and all of the Little children were placed

in foster care. Malcolm moved to Boston in 1940 and in 1941 moved in with his aunt, Ella Collins. Over the next few years, he worked a number of odd jobs on railroads, in restaurants and bars, at shoeshine stands and in a jewelry store. Malcolm started hustling in Boston and popularly known throughout his east coast travels as "Detroit Red".

After several encounters with the court system, Malcolm was arrested and charged with grand larceny in 1946 after attempting to retrieve a stolen watch from a pawn shop. He was sent to jail and remained in prison until 1952. During those years, Malcolm studied intensely and began attracting attention for his oratory skills. When released on parole, he moved to Detroit, joined the Nation of Islam (NOI) and changed his name to Malcolm X. He soon was appointed to be the chief minister at the Harlem Temple in 1954 and by 1961 was a national representative for the NOI.

Malcolm began work on his autobiography with Alex Haley in 1963. In 1964, Malcolm left the Nation of Islam, journeyed to Mecca for pilgrimage and received a new Islamic name: El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz. While overseas he traveled to 11 African countries speaking with nation-heads to better understand the African Diasporic plight. He then formed the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU) to fight for the human rights of African Americans and promote cooperation among Africans and people of African descent in the Americas.

In 1965, Malcolm was assassinated while speaking at an OAAU rally in Harlem. Actor Ossie Davis led the funeral service for Malcolm X where approximately 1500 people attend. He is buried at Ferncliff Cemetery in Hartsdale, New York. Later that year, The Autobiography of Malcolm X was published and has since been translated into 30 languages.



About the artist

Nathan Murray is a socially engaged artist and educator from Lincoln, Nebraska. His work focuses on exploring issues of race, ethnicity, and intersectionality, particularly how these aspects of identity are expressed in people and their stories. Murray's artistic practice revolves around creating lifelike clay sculptures that examine nuanced representations of people and contemporary issues.

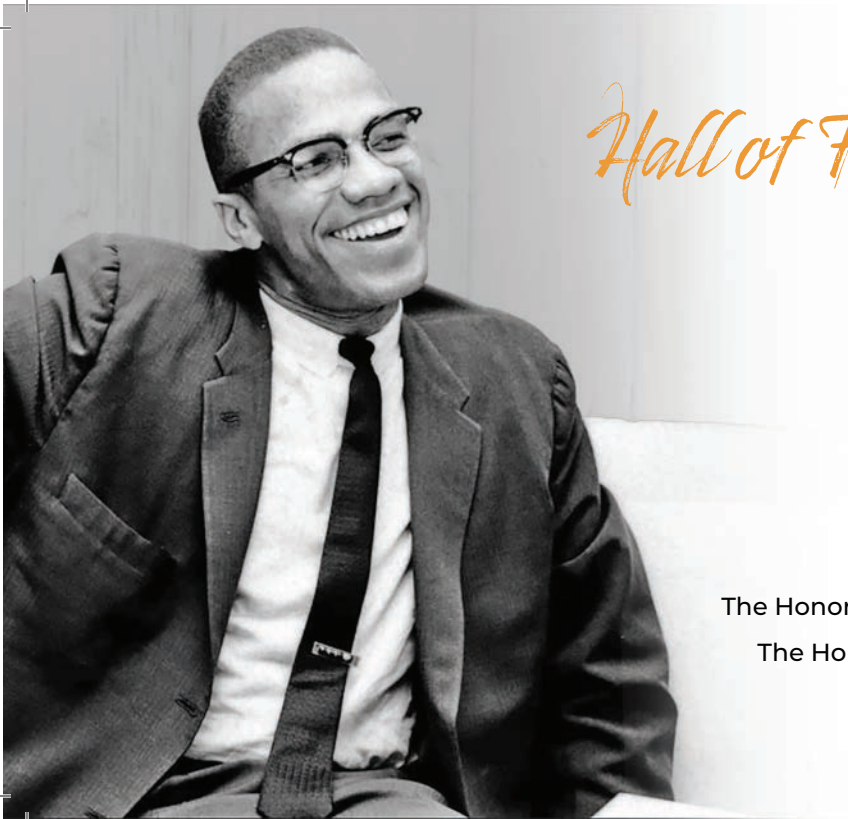
He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2009 and his Master of Fine Arts from the University of Florida in 2015. Murray has exhibited his work nationally

and has been widely published in magazines, books, and online platforms. Notably, his work from the exhibition "Color Theory" was featured on the cover of the March 2017 issue of Ceramics Monthly Magazine. Additionally, his work was featured in the 2023 book "Contemporary Black Ceramic Artists" by Chotsani Elaine Dean and Donald A. Clark.

Murray has received numerous awards and grants, including a residency at the Lux Center for the Arts in 2015 and a grant from the Mid America Arts Alliance in 2019. In 2022, he received the Mayor Art Award for Artistic Achievement, and in 2023, Murray was selected to create bronze bust of Malcom X for the Nebraska Hall of Fame, in the Nebraska State Capitol.

Murray often teaches at Lux Center for the Arts and Nebraska Wesleyan University, and

recently taught a two-week workshop titled "Clay Identity: Sculpting Busts" at Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass Village, Colorado. Currently, Murray is working on his upcoming exhibition "BIPOC of Nebraska," featuring ceramic busts of remarkable Nebraskans of color.



Hall of Fame Commission

Rod Bates (2021-2026)

Dr. Sara Crook (2008-2026)

Tim Heller (2016-2027)

Dr. Ron Hull (2007-2023)

James McKee (2022-2027)

Jim Rose (2023-2028)

Aaron Wyatt (2018-2023)

Jill Dolberg, Secretary (2022-)

The Honorable Governor Pete Ricketts (2015-2022)

The Honorable Governor Jim Pillen (2022-)

Acknowledgements

The Honorable Governor Jim Pillen and Staff

History Nebraska

Malcolm X Memorial Foundation

Nathan Murray

Nebraska Arts Council

Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission

Nebraska History Museum

Office of the Capitol Commission

Ravnan String Quartet (UNL): Laura Lienemann,

Marissa Cooley, Gabriel Marks, Alec Doyle

Rhonda Seacrest





Site

**of Malcolm X
childhood home.**

3448 Pinkney Street
Omaha, NE
(Pictured 1952)



Site

**of Malcolm X
Memorial Foundation**

3448 Evans Street
Omaha, NE
(Pictured 2022)

malcolmxfoundation.org

Special thanks to the citizens of Nebraska and their elected senators for passing LB384 in 2021, which provides annual funding for the Nebraska Hall of Fame statuary.



History

NEBRASKA

history.nebraska.gov