

PARTNER CONTENT FROM



Seek Out These BIPOC-Helmed Art and Entertainment Venues on Your Next Trip to D.C.

Take in poetry readings, live music, and plays by diverse artists.

By Julekha Dash



Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company Photo: Teresa Castracane

In a multicultural city like Washington, D.C., the music, books, and plays created by Black, Indigenous, and other people of color are celebrated throughout the year. This cultural output reflects the city's makeup: Nearly half the population identifies as Black, another 12 percent as Hispanic or Latine, and 5 percent as Asian. We've highlighted bookstores, lounges, and theaters owned or led by BIPOC individuals that feature diverse authors and artists through their events, live music, lectures, and poetry readings. Make sure to pay them a visit on your next trip.

Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company

This Tony Award-winning theater produces dance, plays, and other performances that spark thought-provoking dialogues about society and politics. As part of its commitment to inclusivity, the theater highlights artists of various ages, races, ethnicities, religions, and gender identities. Recent works include a Korean-American dance ensemble and a play on disability justice.

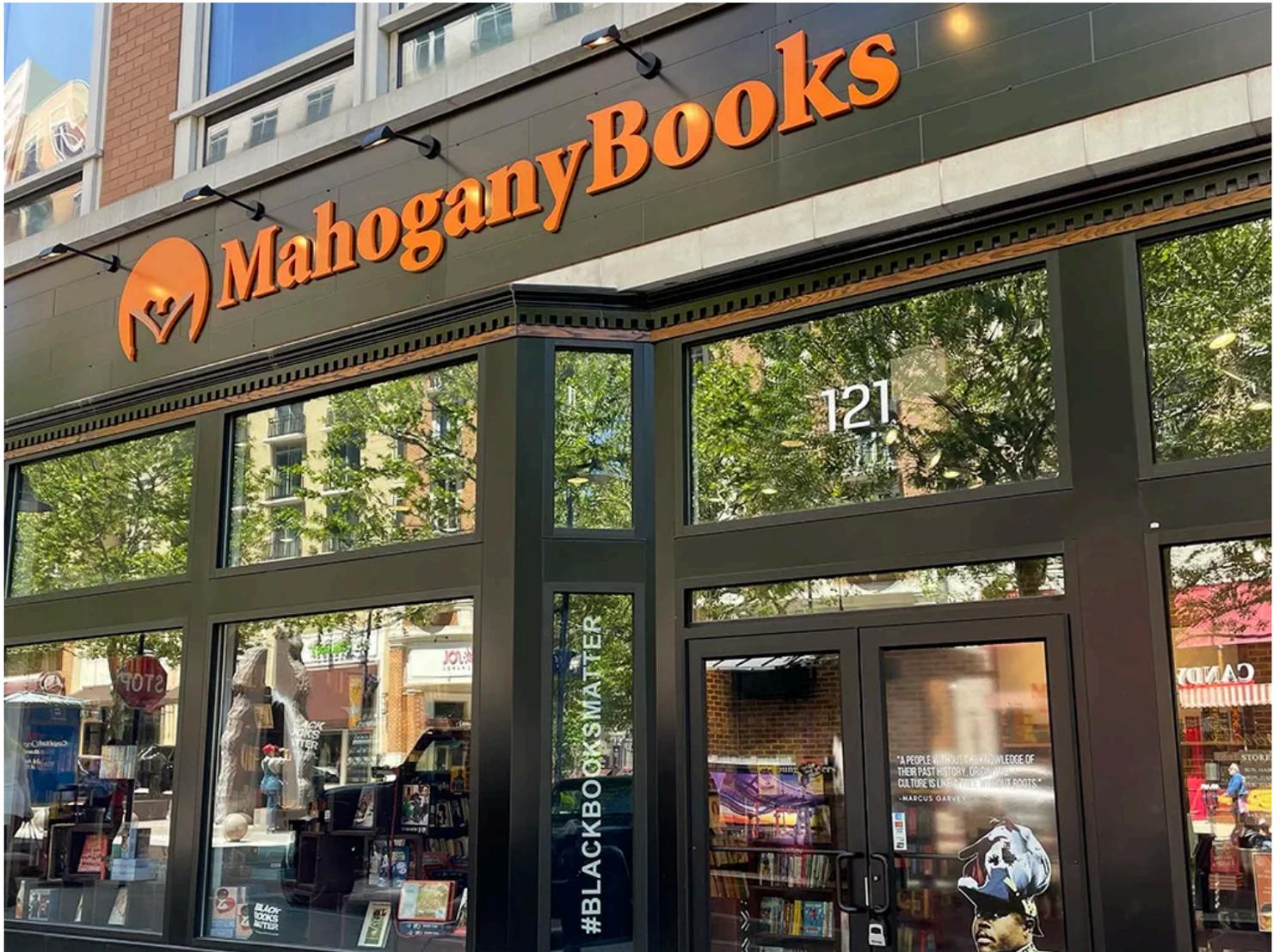


Photo: Ramunda Lark Young

Mahogany Books

Founded by a Black couple, this bookstore captures the Black experience with titles spanning children's literature, travel, history, and humor, and it hosts seminars, author discussions, and a Black Books Matter book club. Grab a latte in the cafe and pick up a bookmark, water bottle,

backpack, or other gifts to remember your trip. Given its location in the National Harbor development in Maryland, you can also explore the walkable waterfront where you can rent bikes, take a boat cruise, and soar to new heights on the Capital Wheel Ferris wheel.

Busboys & Poets

Founded in 2005 by activist and entrepreneur Andy Shallal, and named in honor of poet Langston Hughes (who worked as a busboy in the 1920s at the former Wardman Park Hotel), this local chain of bookstores offers a unique blend of art, activism, and food. Each of its eight locations across Maryland, Northern Virginia, and Washington, D.C., features a stage where literary voices come to life through poetry readings, author discussions, and open mic nights, helping customers to discover the next great wordsmith.



Photo: Courtesy of Park at 14th

The Park at 14th

This four-story restaurant and nightclub stays open past midnight from Thursday to Friday, inviting guests to unwind on the dance floors and enjoy bottle service. On Friday nights, you can tune in to Afro beats on the patio. The Park also hosts an epic weekend brunch, featuring all-you-can-eat jerk chicken, salmon, scrambled eggs, and other favorites complemented by endless mimosas and lively DJs.



Photo: Courtesy of washington.org

Go-Go Museum & Café

The Go-Go Museum — which just opened February 19 — features a sound stage, a recording studio, and interactive exhibits that honor the genre considered to be the official music of D.C. The Godfather of Go-Go, Chuck Brown, blended funk, R&B, hip-hop, and Afro-Latin sounds in the 1970s to give birth to go-go music, which proliferated in nightclubs and live performances. (Check the museum's schedule for upcoming special events and concerts.)

While in the neighborhood, swing by Anacostia Playhouse, which showcases African American

culture through its dances, live jazz, and plays, and a location of the bookstore Busboys & Poets.



Photo: Courtesy of Black Broadway Travel

Black Broadway walking tours

U Street once hosted Billie Holiday and Louis Armstrong, who captivated audiences at The Howard and Lincoln Theatre. These days, local writer and arts enthusiast Briana Thomas guides guests on a two-hour walking tour that delves into the legacy these iconic performers left behind. Visitors will also explore the neighborhood's Black-owned businesses and admire the vibrant murals depicting Harriet Tubman and other historical figures.

Bukom Cafe

Bukom combines reggae rhythms and other live music with West African cuisine. Guests can enjoy oxtail and okra stew paired with tropical juice-infused cocktails, followed by the signature Bukom rum cake and a whirl on the dance floor. Happy hour specials, available from 3 to 6 p.m., offer discounts on appetizers and select drinks.

What Is Partner Content?

TAGS: ADVERTISER CONTENT NEW YORK STORIES DESTINATION DC TRAVEL MORE