

BLA KC HISTORY

GREATER KANSAS CITY
BLACK HISTORY STUDY GROUP

The Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group is a chartered branch of The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the founders of "Black History Month."

On Saturday, April 22, 2023, the GKC Black History Study Group, along with our institutional members the National World War I Museum & Memorial, Clay County African American Legacy, Inc., the Plaza Community Christian Church, the Kansas University Medical Center Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, The UMKC SPARK Flossie Pack Center for Lifelong Learning, and the William Jewell College Office of Access and Engagement will hold our monthly meeting **in person** with featured lecturer and playwright, Mr. Martin Chislom, Co-Founder of the M.C. Players, an African American Theatre Company in Kansas City.

Location:

**Lucile H. Bluford Library-Conference Room 3050
Prospect Ave.
Kansas City, MO 64128**

No virtual option will be available for this meeting.

Please RSVP to kcblackhistory2@gmail.com

Larry Lester, President
LarryLester42@gmail.com



"The Farmer's Two Dilemmas"

2023 Theme: Black Resistance
Saturday, April 22, 2023

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM CST



Martin Chislom, a native of Charlotte, N.C., got an early start in theatre; his father Lorenzo was a song and dance man who gave Martin early lessons in acting, singing and dancing. By age 11, Martin was performing in local and regional theatre and by 13, he was working and traveling. Martin holds a BA in Communications from Johnson C. Smith University Charlotte, North Carolina and a Master's Degree in Theatre & Film from the University of Kansas. He is a recipient of the Fulbright-Hays Study Abroad Fellowship, spending six weeks studying Performing Arts & Culture in Senegal West Africa. Martin, along with Granvile O'Neal, are Co-Founders of the M.C. Players,

According to the National Black Farmer's Association, "Just two generations out of slavery, Black Farmers had amassed more than 16 million acres of land and made up about 14 percent of farmers by 1910. The fruit of their labors fed much of America." Black farmers prospered. Now Black farmers have fewer than 4.7 million acres. Black farms in the U.S. plummeted from 925, 000 to fewer than 36, 000, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's latest farm census. And only about one in 100 farmers is Black. To address the plight and fight of today's Black farmer, playwright Martin Chislom wrote the play, "**The Farmer's Two Dilemmas**" to highlight the unfair treatment of Black farmers, to show how much farmland was once owned by Black people and how much is owned today. **What happened?** And what are we doing about it in 2023? Chislom's play addresses the opportunities that now exist for farmers and ranchers of color.

Black Resistance is manifested in the struggles of Black farmers past and present? **Join Chislom and several panel members as they tell this dynamic story.**

