



SOMETHING'S HAPPENING AT THE YMI

NEWS + UPCOMING EVENTS | JULY - AUGUST 2026

SAVE THESE DATES!



SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2026

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

SEPTEMBER 11-20
THEATER PRODUCTION

Join YMI and Eagle Market Street as Table and Mic directs and produces an amazing remake of a timeless comedic drama about race, family, interracial relationships, and love. Join us in the evening for our version of *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*.

Black Experience Book Club

July 23 from 6-7 p.m.

Join us for this monthly gathering held every fourth Thursday. This community-centered series is hosted by alexandria ravenel and is designed to explore literature that centers the voices, histories, and futures of the African Diaspora. For more details or to RSVP, please contact alexandria@ymiculturalcenter.org.

Location: Noir Collective

Art After Dark: The Art of Go-Go

August 7 at 7 p.m.

Our newest contemporary gathering celebrates the creativity, culture, and community that make Black social life so vibrant. This month, we're bringing the unmistakable sounds of live DC Go-Go music to the YMI! Enjoy an unforgettable evening featuring:

- Live DC Go-Go performance
- Music by DJ Supa Dan
- A pop-up art exhibition
- Local food vendors
- Libations

Admission is just \$7.

Location: YMI Suites

Bridging the Beat: Go-Go Cultural Exchange

August 7-9

A dynamic celebration featuring lectures, community conversations, visual art, dance exhibitions, youth programming, DJs, delicious food, and fellowship. Whether you're discovering Go-Go for the first time or you've been rocking to the beat for years, this weekend offers something for everyone. Join us across the city as DC's Go-Go sound takes over Asheville.

For locations, please visit www.ymiculturalcenter.org.

Western NC Black Student College Send-Off

August 9 at 3 p.m.

Calling all students headed off to college! Sign up and get love, attention, and goodies from 16+ community organizations. We plan on sending you off in style to take over the school of your heart's desire.

Join us for an afternoon of inspiration, fellowship, and celebration. #MakeUsProud with your smart self!

Location: YMI Auditorium

ONGOING PROGRAMS

IMPACT [!?!&]

A MULTI-DIMENSIONAL EXHIBITION



Through August 30

This exhibition explores the mutual interdependence of living beings, places, and things

in an increasingly technologically-centered and politically charged world. **Impact [!?!&]** features work by Kai Lendzion, Jenny Pickens, Ajax Ravenel, Heather Tolbert, Alexandria Monque R, Emily Anderson, Skip Rohde, and Jordan Smith.

Locations: Eagle/Market corner gallery space, and YMI's 2nd floor gallery.

Ujima Fitness Classes

WITH KELLY WHITE

Tuesdays at 6 p.m. & Saturdays at 11 a.m.

Come join us for community-centered fitness and wellness classes.

Location: YMI Building (Dickson Meeting Room, Basement Level)

KUJICHAGULIA ORGANIZATIONS IN RESIDENCE

The YMI Cultural Center is proud to announce and celebrate this year's Kujichagulia Organizations-in-Residence. Guided by the principle of Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), this program provides space and support for organizations whose work uplifts, empowers, and enriches our communities.

Please join us in congratulating our 2026 Organizations-in-Residence:

- Thriving Birthworkers of NC
- Alphas of Asheville
- The Glitter Sisters, Inc.
- WRNU – Whirled Rhythm Nations United
- Black Diamond Group Performance Ensemble
- Djembe So – Culture is Life
- House of Sconiers

These organizations represent the incredible breadth of talent, advocacy, artistry, education, wellness, and cultural leadership that continues to shape our region. We are honored to partner with each of them as they carry forward the work of building stronger, healthier, and more connected communities.

Congratulations! We look forward to an inspiring year of collaboration, creativity, and community impact.

