



BAR
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Black History Month Concert Welcomes Massachusetts Poet Laureate and Folk Music Legend to Belmont

Belmont, MA — [January 22, 2026] — In celebration of Black History Month, Belmont Against Racism (BAR), in partnership with Opening Doors and the Club Passim Folk Collective, invites the community to a powerful and inspiring evening of poetry, music, and conversation featuring Massachusetts Poet Laureate **Regie Gibson** and acclaimed musician and educator **Reggie Harris**.

The free concert will take place on **Friday, February 27, 2026, at 7:00 PM** in the **Black Box Theater at Belmont High School** (221 Concord Avenue, Belmont).

This special event is a homecoming of sorts for Regie Gibson, who has deep roots in Belmont and collaborated multiple times with Belmont Against Racism during the years he resided in the community. His longstanding relationship with Belmont organizations makes this Black History Month celebration especially meaningful.

Through spoken word, song, and conversation, Gibson and Harris will explore themes of identity, resilience, and social justice—offering an evening that is as thought-provoking as it is uplifting.

Regie Gibson, the first and current Poet Laureate of Massachusetts, was appointed by Governor Maura Healey in May 2025. A National Poetry Slam champion and former *Chicago Tribune* Artist of the Year, Gibson has appeared in the film *Love Jones*, on HBO's *Def Poetry Jam*, and contributes regularly to NPR. He has lectured and performed throughout the U.S., Cuba, and Europe and currently teaches at Clark University and Berklee College of Music.

Reggie Harris has traveled the world for more than 40 years as a songwriter, storyteller, and lecturer, using music and spoken word to advance education, social and racial justice, environmental awareness, and human and civil rights. A Kennedy Center CETA teaching artist and Woodrow Wilson Scholar, Harris serves as Director of Music Education for the Living



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Legacy Project and has received numerous honors, including the Spirit of Folk Award, the W.E.B. Du Bois Legacy Award, and the Magic Penny Lifetime Achievement Award.

The evening will be hosted by **Alastair Moock**, co-founder of Opening Doors.

This event is made possible by Belmont Against Racism, Belmont Public Schools' Department of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Well-Being, Mass Cultural Council, Someone Else's Child Foundation, Nine Athens Music, and The Club Passim Folk Collective.

Admission is free and open to the public; however, an RSVP is required. Community members of all ages are encouraged to attend this celebration of Black history, artistic excellence, and BAR's ongoing commitment to equity and inclusion.

Reserve free tickets [HERE](#).

For more information, please contact:

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