



# Honoring The Divine Masculine Day

THIRD SATURDAY OF SEPTEMBER

(September 19, 2026 will be the Tenth Observance)

*An Embodied Cultural Holiday Honoring Black Men*

BOCC Foundation | 501(c)(3) Nonprofit | EIN: 42-1844636

## Community Ceremony

Sacred Circle, Community Altar, Rose Flower Shower, Sacred Fire Clearing, Drummers, and Bellydance/Dance as cultural offering. An annual Community Art Project where names are written, spoken, and held in love. Where the sacred and the communal meet in visible love.

## Embodied Wellness

Bellydance, kametic yoga, sound meditation, tai chi, and bodywork offered alongside dialogue - because movement gives participants a grounded way to process stress, practice presence, and build connection. Integration happens when intellect and embodiment work together.

## Community Think Tank

A panel, keynote, and year-round curriculum. Online communities for ongoing mentoring, coaching, and support. The intellectual and the embodied - together.

*"Ladies - this is magic time. After we have danced in a certain vibration, it is important for us not to see our Men with our physical eyes. See them with your third eye. Your spiritual eye. Your inner creation eye - the eye that can make anything. And with that - let us honor what they truly are."*

**- Adina Gittens-Smith, Founder · The redirection a collective of Women chose to receive · 2016**



## FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE

### Dedication, Alignment & Balance

This is Honoring The Divine Masculine Day - a sacred, intentional gathering where Women come together to share love, affirmation, and honor with the Men in their lives and in their community. It is a dedication: an act of alignment, balance, sacred reciprocity, and cultural recognition.

This is community placing love, affirmation, and good intention on the names of Men connected to our lives.

The Feminine Collective means the Women gathered in shared intention, care, creativity, and cultural responsibility. From a centered place, The Feminine Collective offers The Divine Masculine full recognition - honoring Men, strengthening community harmony, and uplifting the inner Masculine within each participant.

Men are warmly welcome to attend and receive the celebration in person. Their presence is honored, welcomed, and celebrated. The observance also remains complete when Women gather among themselves, because the ceremony is rooted in honoring The Divine Masculine as a sacred principle, a living presence, and a mirror of balance within the community and within each of us.

This observance is a field of pure love, acceptance, and elevation - a sacred space where Men are recognized in their being, their becoming, and their capacity. Through this collective offering, we seed the collective consciousness with a powerful pattern: honor rooted in presence, recognition rooted in humanity, and love, a practice that strengthens the whole community.

#### How it began

Born in 2016 in a Bellydancers of Color Collective studio - Women in the afterglow of dance, honestly expressing what they were feeling. A reframe was offered. The Women said yes - together. They chose to use their trigger as a treasure, redirecting raw emotion into a creative act of love. A collective moment of transformation that became a ten-year movement and now a soon-to-be recognized international observance.

#### In the spirit of Kujichagulia

In the spirit of Kujichagulia (self-determination) - to define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves, and speak for ourselves - this community chose to create the observance it desired to see. We named the celebration from lived experience, shaped it through movement and ritual, and built it from the inside out, rooted in love.

### Honoring Black Men, African American Men, and Men of Color

While this observance welcomes all communities, it holds a deep and particular focus on Black Men, African American Men, and Men of Color across the African diaspora. This is a space of public recognition for the everyday and generational value Black Men carry - the ways they build, love, protect, create, mentor, imagine, provide, laugh, teach, father, partner, lead, and belong. We are honoring their collective compounded value: the intrinsic, immeasurable value they bring across generations, families, neighborhoods, movements, and cultural memory. This observance creates a structured space where that affirmation is spoken, witnessed, embodied, and shared. This observance says: you are needed. You are wanted. The circle recognizes the bigness and hugeness of who you are to us. The love of The Feminine Collective is offered as public recognition, cultural belonging, and a blessing for families, relationships, and the wider community.

*We gather in harmony - Women and Men, coming together in the spirit of love, restoration, and mutual celebration. That is where the community lives. That is what we are building.*

## We Wear White.

Every participant, every year, every venue - white. It is not a dress code. It is an invitation into open consciousness

## TEN YEARS • THE LIVING RECORD



*A living record of how the observance has grown, deepened, and expanded.*

<b>2016–19</b>	Indoor sacred circles. Women gathered in devotion, writing names, building altars, singing, and dancing. The Feminine Collective honored The Divine Masculine in intimate ceremonial space.
<b>Year 4 • 2020</b>	During COVID, the gathering moved outdoors to Glenridge Park in Hyattsville. The open-air circle became part of the living tradition and expanded the observance into nature.
<b>Year 5</b>	The gathering moved to Buddy Attick Lake Park in Greenbelt. Men joined to drum, and the observance became more embodied, witnessed, and communal.
<b>Year 6</b>	The observance continued at Allen Pond Park in Bowie, deepening the outdoor tradition of white, circle, flowers, fire, drum, dance, and community affirmation.
<b>Year 7</b>	King Adé came with his two young sons. Their presence brought a tender moment of fatherhood, public affirmation, and community love in the circle.
<b>Year 8</b>	King Adé organized Honoring The Divine Feminine on March 8, 2025, and brought Mama Ayo Handy-Kendi as keynote speaker. The masculine honored The Divine Feminine in return, creating a beautiful expression of sacred reciprocity and a complete circle.
<b>Year 9</b>	Held at a private location with an outdoor pool, the observance expanded into a full immersive afternoon with kametic yoga, floating sound meditation, reflective dialogue, tai chi, bodywork, drum circle, and bellydance.
<b>Year 10 • 2026</b>	<b>10th Observance. Full-day gathering. International Day registration. A community movement steps forward as a global observance.</b>



# THIS IS HOW WE CELEBRATE

 <p><b>Wear White</b> — arrive in open consciousness, ready to give and receive love.</p>	 <p><b>Sacred Circle</b> — speak names, offer affirmations, and seed the vision for harmony.</p>
 <p><b>Community Altar</b> — candles, flowers, photographs, crystals, and offerings of love.</p>	 <p><b>Community Art Project</b> — write the names of Men being held in love; the names are the art, the prayer, and the offering.</p>
 <p><b>Drummers</b> — let the drum activate the field and call the community into full presence.</p>	 <p><b>Bellydance/Dance</b> — movement as cultural offering, celebration, and embodied respect.</p>
 <p><b>Flower Shower</b> — pluck the petals with intention and shower each other with your beautiful flower magic, or flower technology.</p>	 <p><b>Speak Words of Affirmation</b> — recognizing the power of our words and what we say we get to create.</p>
 <p><b>Inner Illumination</b> — begin with self-love, self-respect, and centered presence so the honoring emanates from within.</p>	 <p><b>Keynote Speaker</b> — invite one powerful voice to ground the day in vision, cultural context, relationship harmony, and possibility.</p>
 <p><b>Think Tank Elements</b> — a panel or dialogue with trusted elders and thought leaders who demonstrate and live by these practices, speaking on health, money, relationships, clearing, restoration, trauma recovery, and collective potential.</p>	 <p><b>Winning Together</b> — create space for honest conversation about how Women and Men can support each other, reduce conflict, and build conditions where everyone can thrive.</p>
 <p><b>Aligned Marketplace</b> — gather aligned businesses, practitioners, artists, and resource providers who love and support Black people and the wider community.</p>	 <p><b>Aligned Sponsorships</b> — invite businesses and community partners whose values support Black wellness, cultural affirmation, family harmony, and year-round connection.</p>
 <p><b>Year-Round Connection</b> — build a pathway beyond the day into The Virtual Village, Sacred Community, online circles, coaching, counseling referrals, and ongoing support.</p>	 <p><b>Sacred Fire Clearing</b> — we release the disharmonies and make space for honoring, alignment, and love.</p>
 <p><b>Share Your Celebration</b> — join our online community and share your circle, ceremony, altar, art, dance, and reflections using #HonoringTheDivineMasculine.</p>	

## The T-Shirt Design Competition

Beginning in 2026, the community will be invited to submit designs for the official Honoring The Divine Masculine Day T-shirt. The shirt is always white. The design must always carry love - the event name, the year, and love are the constants. Each year brings a new theme, but love is always present. The winning designer is recognized as part of the living legacy of this observance.





## WHAT FUNDERS CAN SEE & MEASURE

### From a One-Day Observance to Ongoing Community Connection

Honoring The Divine Masculine Day creates a visible cultural celebration and a practical pathway into ongoing community connection. The measurement model is intentionally light and sustainable: count participation, document resource connections, invite opt-ins, and track referrals made. Funders can see meaningful evidence of impact without turning the observance into a heavy administrative burden.

<p><b>Participation</b></p> <p>Track who gathers and who is held in love: total attendance, repeat attendance, number of Men attending in person, number of names written or spoken in the Community Art Project, number of Women participating, number of families represented, and number of volunteers, artists, facilitators, drummers, dancers, elders, youth, vendors, and partner organizations engaged. Men are welcome to attend. Men are not required to be physically present. This is a practice of placing love, affirmation, and good intention in our world.</p>	<p><b>Opt-In Community Connection</b></p> <p>Measure who chooses to stay connected: number of participants who opt in to The Virtual Village, email updates, Sacred Community circles, resource groups, coaching/counseling information, or future gatherings. This can be tracked through a simple sign-up form and optional 30-day follow-up, not year-long individual monitoring.</p>
<p><b>Resource Guide &amp; Referrals</b></p> <p>Track resources made available and referrals made: number of community resource guides distributed, number of aligned counselors, coaches, wellness practitioners, financial educators, health providers, artists, and community partners listed, and number of direct referrals or introductions requested after the celebration.</p>	<p><b>Community Belonging</b></p> <p>Use simple pre- and post-event reflection cards or surveys to document changes in belonging, affirmation, relational hope, emotional support, self-respect, cultural pride, and desire to remain connected to community resources.</p>
<p><b>Relationship Harmony</b></p> <p>Invite participants to name one harmony practice they will carry forward: listening with more care, reducing conflict, affirming Black Men and families, mentoring youth, investing in community, or practicing dignity and accountability in daily relationships.</p>	<p><b>Cultural Reach</b></p> <p>Track shared celebrations using #HonoringTheDivineMasculine, number of cities or communities participating, social media impressions, community-generated photos/videos, partner organizations, press mentions, and public proclamations or endorsements.</p>
<p><b>Family &amp; Intergenerational Impact</b></p> <p>Document multi-generational participation: fathers, sons, mothers, daughters, elders, couples, families, and community mentors who gather in a shared practice of honor, dignity, cultural pride, and relational harmony.</p>	<p><b>Light-Touch Follow-Up</b></p> <p>Offer simple pathways beyond the day: number of follow-up circles offered, number of participants who attend or request information, number of community check-ins sent, number of replay/resource views, and number of people who ask to be connected to support. The focus is availability and access, not burdensome tracking.</p>

**This initiative measures who attends, who opts in, what resources are shared, and how many connections or referrals are made - transforming a cultural observance into a sustainable pathway for community belonging, relationship-centered wellness, and accessible support beyond the day.**

## A PROUD LINEAGE OF SELF-DETERMINED BLACK OBSERVANCES

In the spirit of Kujichagulia (self-determination), Honoring The Divine Masculine Day stands in a long and proud tradition of observances created by Africans in the diaspora - people who decided, on their own authority, what would be celebrated and how a people would move forward.

### Black History Month

**Carter G. Woodson · 1926**

A people claiming the sovereign right to remember and celebrate itself. February.

### Kwanzaa

**Dr. Maulana Karenga · 1966**

Seven principles of African American culture and community. Dec 26-Jan 1.

### MLK Day

**Community-won · Federal Holiday**

Recognition fought for and won from a system that resisted it. 3rd Monday, January.

### Juneteenth

**Community-born · Federal Holiday 2021**

Celebrating freedom and African American heritage. June 19.

### Black Love Day

**Mama Ayo Handy-Kendi · 1993**

Love as daily practice - celebration, atonement, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Feb 13.

### Honoring The Divine Masculine Day

**BOCC Foundation · Est. 2016**

A powerful community observance - Women coming together to honor, celebrate, and pour love onto the Men in their lives. 3rd Saturday, September.

## Honoring The Divine Masculine Day

**2026 · 10th Observance**

**Sept 19**

International Launch

**2027**

**Sept 18**

Third Saturday

**2028**

**Sept 21**

Third Saturday

### THE VISION & THE ASK

We are registering Honoring The Divine Masculine Day with the National Day Calendar - with the vision of international recognition. This is about the harmony of the sexes. How we come together. How we love. How we strengthen harmony. Beyond the annual September gathering, we are building a year-round ecosystem of online academies, a Think Tank, a marketplace, and community connection - online communities for ongoing mentoring, coaching, and support - open nationally and growing globally. We are inviting Mama Ayo Handy-Kendi to formally endorse this as a sister movement to Black Love Day - February and September, love and honoring, all year long. We are inviting Lamman Rucker to serve as our National Brand Ambassador - carrying this message of harmony, community restoration, and love to communities across the country and around the world. National Day Calendar submit deadline: July 8, 2026.

### Contact

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### Sister observance

Black Love Day · February 13 Founded by Mama Ayo Handy-Kendi · 1993 African American Holiday Association Together: a full-year ecosystem of communal love, honoring, restoration, and relationship harmony - rooted in DC / Maryland, growing globally.

#HonoringTheDivineMasculine · #HDMDay · #BOCCFoundation