For Immediate Release

Black Leaders and Allies Collaborative together with the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, presents the second annual “Monterey County Black History Month Film Festival.”

January 6, 2024

Monterey, CA – The Black Leaders and Allies Collaborative (BLAAC), in partnership with the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey have teamed together for the 2nd annual Monterey County Black History Month Film Festival, a series of movies in celebration of Black history, black achievements, and possibilities.

The festival will showcase nationally acclaimed films, with interviews and discussions with their filmmakers to highlight the rich tapestry of the Black experience in the United States. Each film will be followed by interactive Q&A sessions to foster community dialogue. [To get your tickets, click here.]

This cultural festival is open to all, as a testament to the shared commitment of BLAAC and MIIS to fostering understanding and dialogue in our community. We invite our community to join us in this celebration of Black culture.

Event Details:

- **When:** January 31st and every Wednesday in the month of February
- **Where:** MIIS Irvine Auditorium, McCon Bldg., 499 Pierce Street, Monterey
- **Admission:** Donations on-line or at the door, free parking
- **Features:** Post-show Q&A with nationally acclaimed filmmakers

[To get your tickets, click here.]

For more information: [www.blaac.org/events](http://www.blaac.org/events), email: info@blaac.org, call 831-337-8995
About the Organizers:

**BLAAC**: Arose in response to the Black Lives Matter movement. It focuses on facilitating connections and dialogues among Black leaders, anti-racist allies, and change-making organizations. Its mission is to build relationships that drive impactful anti-racist initiatives in Monterey County and beyond.

**Dirrick Williams**: A Monterey Peninsula native with a Bachelor of Arts in Theology and a Certificate of Teaching & Communication, Dirrick Williams is a certified life coach, leadership development trainer, licensed and ordained minister, author, and public speaker. He is the founder and Executive Director of Black Leaders and Allies Collaborative (BLAAC), and the developer and chief facilitator of “Eurocentric Cultural Reflectionism (ECCR).

**Dr. Nicholas M. Creary**: Dr. Creary, the JEDI Officer at MIIS, holds a PhD in African history, a master’s in U.S. History, and a bachelor’s degree in history and African Studies. His career includes serving as an associate professor of history, an associate director for diversity, and the co-founder of the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project. His scholarly work is extensive, particularly in African and African American histories.