



SHOUTOUT SAUGERTIES
shoutoutsaugerties.org

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SAUGERTIES CELEBRATES PIONEERING AFRICAN-AMERICAN RESIDENT-ARTIST AUGUSTA SAVAGE ON AUGUST 1

Augusta Savage Day in Saugerties Features Two Free Events by ShoutOut Saugerties

The Town and Village of Saugerties proclaimed August 1 as Augusta Savage Day in recognition of two events by [Shout Out Saugerties](http://shoutoutsaugerties.org) celebrating the historic legacy of Augusta Savage, an internationally recognized Harlem Renaissance artist who made her home in Saugerties for nearly two decades.

The two events, both free, will offer film and readings about Augusta Savage at the Orpheum Theater (156 Main Street) at 1 pm on August 1, and related art by a half-dozen artists at the Lamb Center (41 Market Street), 4-7 pm.

The event at the Orpheum (1 pm), *Augusta Savage: The Legacy* will illuminate the life and work of Savage as a pioneering woman sculptor. Sharon Washington, an acclaimed Broadway, film and TV actor, presents stories of Savage's life. Joining her will be Marilyn Nelson, award-winning author of *Augusta Savage: The Shape of a Sculptor's Life*, and Charlotte Mangin, filmmaker of the American Masters/PBS documentary, *Searching for Augusta Savage*, which will also be screened. Free tickets may be reserved at the Orpheum Theater via Upstate Films website, upstatefilms.org.

The Lamb Center (4-7 pm) is the site for an innovative art exhibit *Augusta Savage: A Monumental Influence*. The exhibit contains busts sculpted by Savage of local children, alongside work by New York artists whose art was majorly influenced by Savage, including: Carol Griffin, Monique Luchetti, JoAnne McFarland, and Debra Priestly, with original site portraits by Susan Murphy. Curated by Carol Griffin and Randall Harris, the exhibit also includes a striking print by Romare Bearden (a Savage student), and a lavish painting by trailblazing artist and Saugerties resident Peter Bradley.

In its Proclamation, the Town and Village of Saugerties honors Savage as "a pioneering African American sculptor and educator during the Harlem Renaissance" for her contributions to the Saugerties community after moving to a local farmhouse (1945-

1962), now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In Saugerties, Savage was an active member of the community teaching art, leading a Quarryville Monument committee to honor our deceased local war veterans and sculpting busts of local residents. The Augusta Savage Day proclamation is signed by Supervisor Fred Costello Jr. and Mayor Bill Murphy.

SHOUT OUT SAUGERTIES, a program of the Town of Saugerties, celebrates the creative spirit that shapes and vitalizes the town. SHOUT OUT partners with galleries, merchants, environmental organizations, churches, schools, library and non-profit organizations to present cultural events for children and adults, residents and visitors. www.shoutoutsaugerties.org

ABOUT AUGUSTA SAVAGE:

Augusta Savage (1892 - 1962) was a leading artist, art teacher and activist in Harlem in the 1930s. The first director of the WPA Harlem Community Art Center, she was a graduate of Cooper Union, taught art classes in Harlem, and created sculptures of community people while receiving commissions to sculpt well-known political figures such as W. E. B. Du Bois and Marcus Garvey. Her most celebrated work is a commissioned piece for the 1939 World's Fair, a 16-foot-tall statue titled *Lift Every Voice and Sing*.

From 1945 to 1962, Savage lived in a farmhouse she purchased on Old Rt. 32, now listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. "Miss Savage," as the local press called her, had a reputation as an engrossing lecturer and was sought-after speaker for talks about art and sculpture. She taught art to locals, Sunday school at the Lutheran Church of the Atonement and welcomed students from New York through the Fresh Air Fund.

Savage's work is experiencing a resurgence of interest: *Searching for Augusta Savage* aired in the PBS American Masters series in 2024, her highly praised sculpture *Gamin* was shown at The Met's *The Harlem Renaissance and Transatlantic Modernism* exhibit in the same year. The Smithsonian endowed the 'Augusta Savage Curator of American Art' to "permanently elevate her legacy as a trailblazing sculptor, activist, and educator."

For more information about Augusta Savage Day or the ShoutOut Saugerties events on August 1: Info@shoutoutsaugerties.org

SAUGERTIES AUGUSTA SAVAGE DAY EVENTS (AUGUST 1)

Augusta Savage: The Legacy

1 pm, August 1, Orpheum Theater, 156 Main Street, Saugerties

Readings featuring actor Sharon Washington, author Marilyn Nelson, screening of *Searching for Augusta Savage* (PBS) and talk with its filmmaker, Charlotte Mangin, and slides of sites Savage frequented in Saugerties. Runtime: 120 mins

Free, RSVP at [Upstate Films](#)

Augusta Savage: A Monumental Influence

4 – 7 pm, August 1, The Lamb Center, 41 Market Street, Saugerties

Art exhibit and opening: Busts by Augusta Savage; works by artists influenced by her: Carol Griffin, Monique Luchetti, JoAnn McFarland, Susan Murphy, Debra priestly; Educational exhibits, Romare Bearden print, art by Peter Bradley. Curators: Carol Griffin, Randall Harris. Reception August 1, and exhibit will run every Friday, Saturday and Sunday until August 31.