

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2021

**BLACK**  
**LIVES**  
**MATTER**

**PUNCHCUT**

“Just don’t give up what  
you’re trying to do.

Where there is love and  
inspiration, I don’t think you  
can go wrong.”

— **Ella Fitzgerald**

PUNCHCUT BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2021

# A HISTORY OF BLACK DESIGNERS

*“The standard you walk  
past is the standard  
you accept.”*



**Charles C. Dawson**

Illustrator + Graphic Designer: born 1899

Well known for his illustrations, advertisements

First Black student admitted to the Art Students

League Later also was admitted to the Art Institute of

Chicago

Founding member of the first Black Artists Collective





*“ If I allow the fact that I am a Negro to checkmate my will to do, now, I will inevitably form the habit of being defeated.”*



**Paul Revere Williams**

Architect born 1894

Orphaned at the age of 4

Educated at Los Angeles Beaux-Arts School in 1923

First African American, American Institute of  
Architecture

Designed more than 3,000 Structures



*“ All the pleasure I have had, I owe to my sewing.”*



**Anne Lowe**

Fashion designer born 1898

Learned dressmaking from her mother

Continued her late mother's job in fashion

Established herself and designed for high society

Rockefellers, Roosevelts, du Ponts

*“ I suffered first as a child from discrimination, poverty ... So I think it was a natural follow from that that I should use my camera to speak for people who are unable to speak for themselves.”*



**Gordon Parks**

Photographer born 1912

Explored social and economical impact of racism

First African American to produce + direct major movie

Best known for “Blaxploitation” and “Shaft”

Worked with Malcom X, Martin Luther King Jr., and more



# Discover Black History in Design

[Cooper Hewitt African American Design Retrospective](#)

[AIGA Design Journey \(African American Communications Design Retrospective\)](#)

[Print Magazine: The Black Experience in Graphic Design: 1968 and 2020](#)

[Veranda Magazine: 5 Black Creatives Who Helped Shape American Art, Architecture, and Design](#)

[LucidPress: Past and present: Influential Black graphic designers and brand experts you should know](#)

PUNCHCUT BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2021

# BLACK DESIGNERS TODAY



*“The standard you walk  
past is the standard  
you accept.”*



**Maurice Cherry**

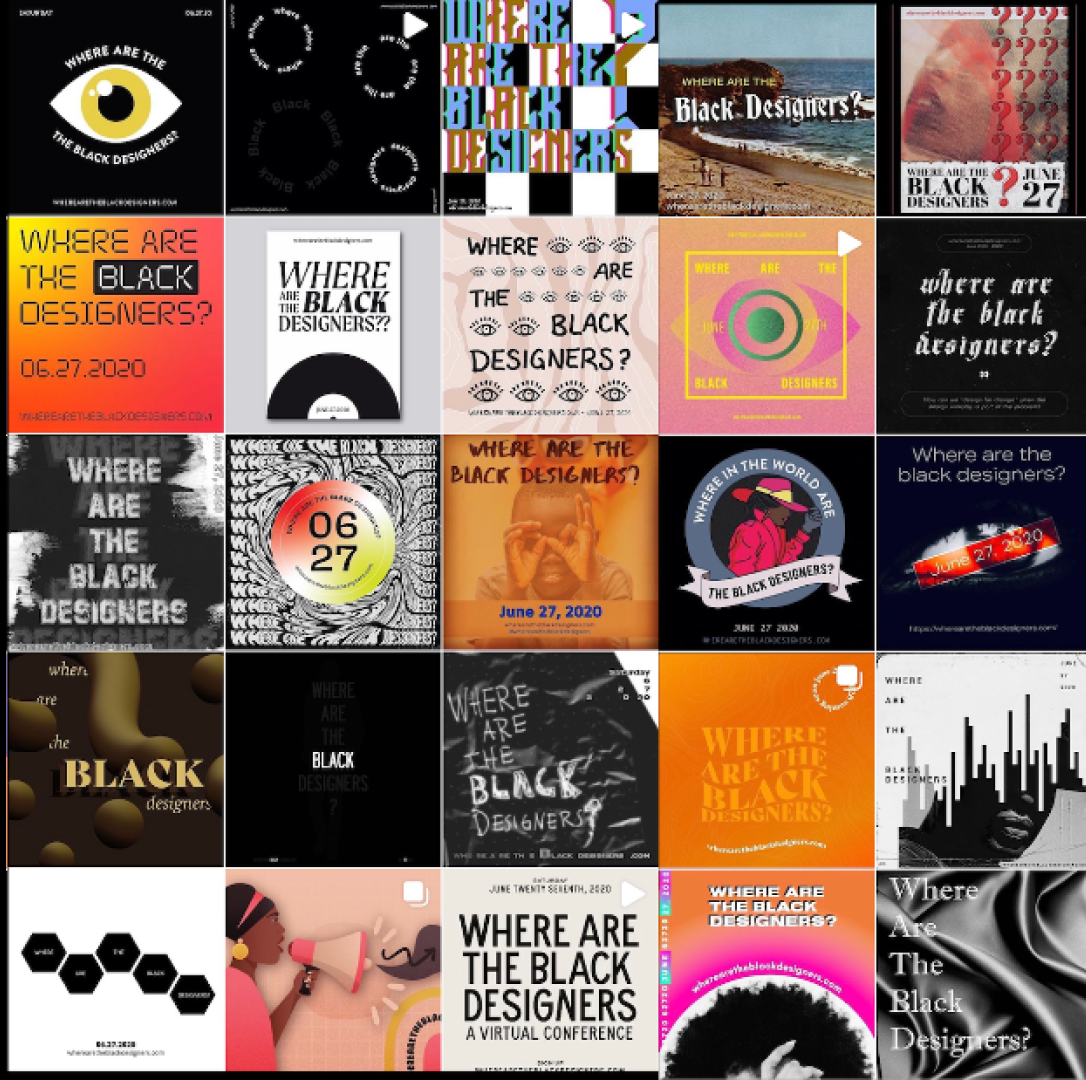
Creative director, teacher, thought leader  
Creative Strategist, CodeSandbox  
SXSW, Where are the Black designers?  
Host, Revision Path podcast

# ***WHERE ARE THE BLACK DESIGNERS?***

*“How can I center Blackness, or what Blackness means to me in my work?”*



**Mitzi Okou**  
Founder, Where are the Black Designers?  
Product Designer, Spotify  
Systems Designer, HP  
Graduate, SCAD



*“Whenever I think about my journey to design, I think it just comes much more from a creative and inventive place...”*



**Ian Spalter**

Head of Instagram Tokyo

Head of Design, Instagram

Director of UX & Design, Foursquare

VP Product Design, R/GA

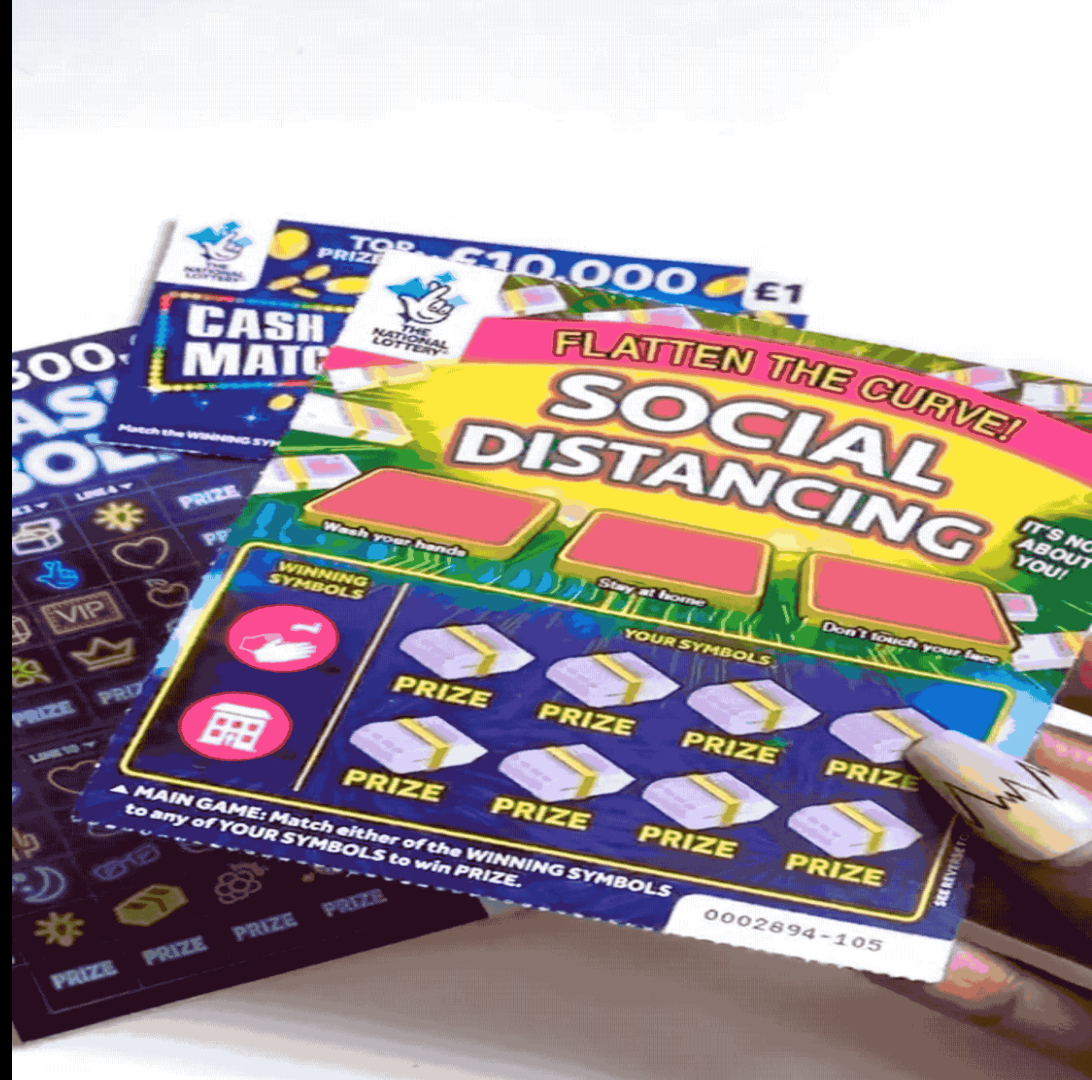




*“Build the things that  
you would like to see  
in the world.”*



**Omyy Akhe**  
Independent Creative Technologist  
Instagram AR filter designer  
Former student, Ethical Hacking



*“ You’ve got to take those risks... that’s what makes you stand out.”*



**Eddie Opara**

Partner, Pentagram

MFA Graphic Design, Yale

Creative director, designer, teacher

Clients: Samsung, Nike, Cooper Hewitt, Pyer

Moss...



*“ It was the culmination of all of me, owning and leveraging all of my experiences that allowed me to connect the UX dots to my previous 15 years of experience.”*



**Renee Reid**

UX Researcher, LinkedIn  
Speaker, mentor, gem dropper™  
Board member, Inneract Project  
Host, Tech Wrap Queen podcast



*“ We all have the innate yearning to belong.”*



**Tim Allen**

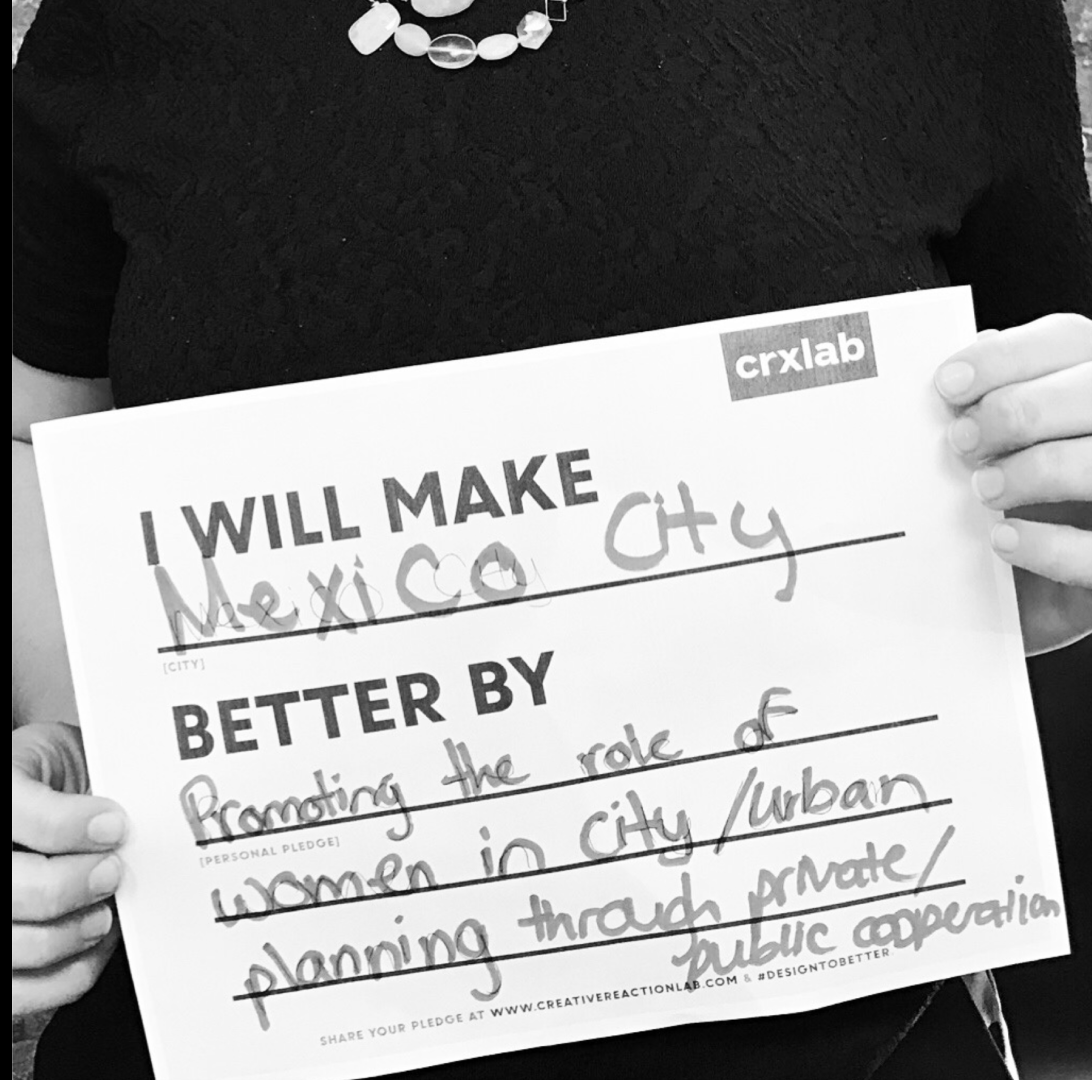
Vice President of Design, Airbnb  
Global Design Partner, Fluent System, Microsoft  
Executive Creative Director, Amazon  
SVP & Executive Creative Director, R/GA



*“ Like all systems, systems of oppression, inequality, and inequity are by design.”*

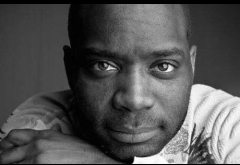


**Antionette Carroll**  
Redesigner for Justice  
President/CEO, Creative Reaction Lab  
President of the Board, AIGA St Louis  
TED Fellow



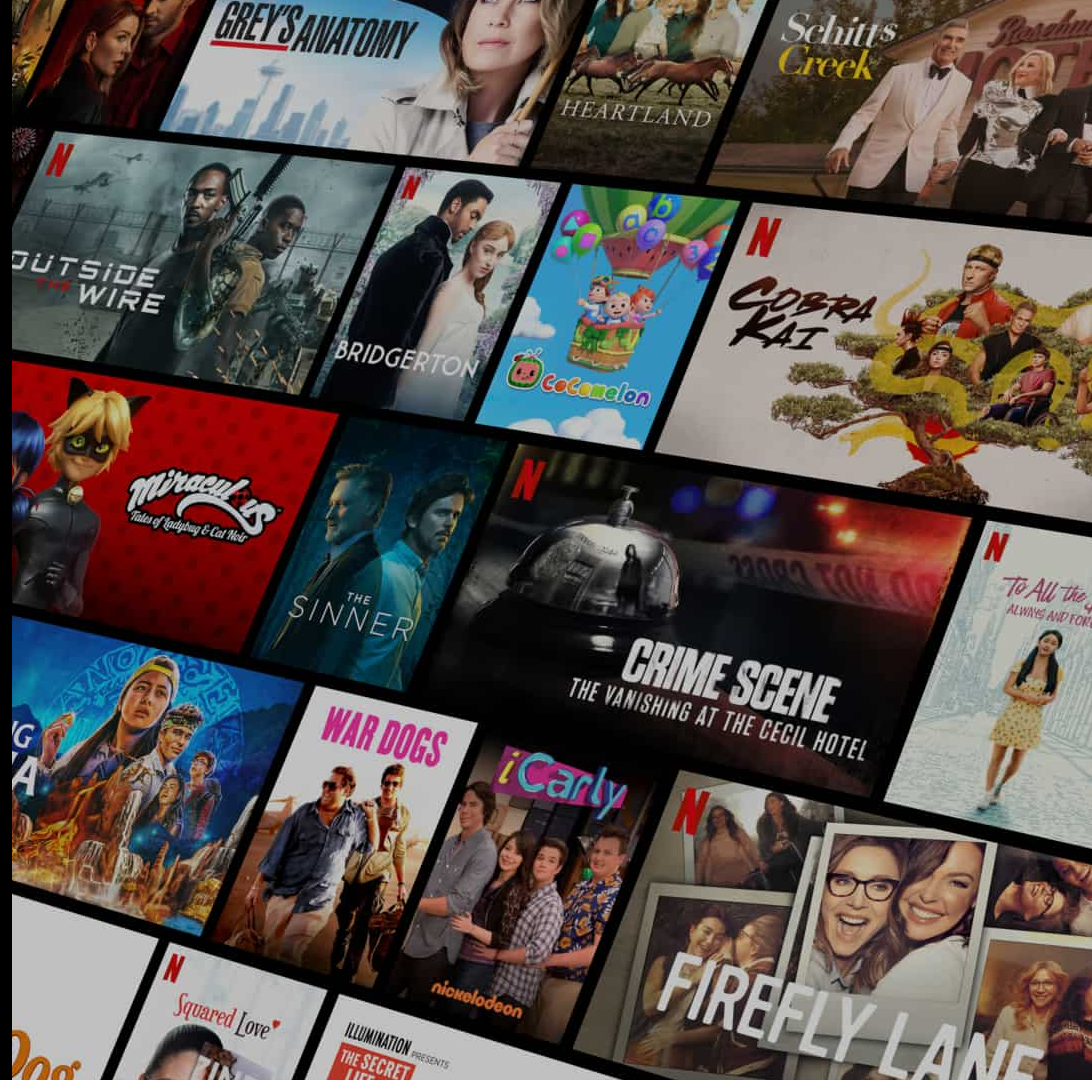


“Title doesn’t matter. A seat at the table does. And the right table is the one talking about the future stuff.”



**Steve Johnson**

Advocate for business-savvy Design  
Vice President of Design, Netflix  
Vice President of Design, LinkedIn  
Head of Design, Adobe



*“Don’t be afraid to add  
a bit of color.”*



**Kara Williams**

Doodler Extraordinaire

Senior Visual Designer, Punchcut

PlayStation/Microsoft/Toyota/Fitbit Futurist

Mentor, Where are the Black Designers?



# Discover Black designers

## Revision Path

Podcast by Maurice Cherry. Weekly interviews with hundreds of Black designers and developers. Don't miss.

[Listen >](#)

## Tech Wrap Queen

Podcast by Renee Reid. Authentic impactful wrap sessions about Tech, Design & Culture.

[Listen >](#)

## Blacks Who Design

Highlights all of the inspiring Black designers in the industry. Discover amazing individuals to join your team.

[Browse >](#)

## 28 Days of Black Designers

This project will allow the awareness and celebration of black designers during Black History Month.

[Browse >](#)

# Discover Black perspectives

## Where are the Black designers?

Maurice Cherry explores this question and more in his influential SXSW presentation.

[Watch >](#)

## Can Design Dismantle Racism?

In her TEDx talk, Antoinette Carroll looks at elements of design in the world and see systemic racism at work.

[Watch >](#)

## Redesigners for Justice

Creative Reaction Lab outlines the role and principles of equity design described in Antionette Carroll's talk.

[Read >](#)

## Design for Belonging

Tim Allen explains how Airbnb integrates the idea of belonging into its services.

[Watch >](#)



# BLACK LIVES MATTER

Punchcut stands in solidarity with all who strive for justice and racial equality, and we firmly believe that all individuals are entitled to the same fundamental level of respect and dignity.

We are heartbroken by systemic inequality and racism, and are inspired by those who are taking action and bringing passion to make real change.

We believe it is our responsibility as designers to put people first, to design ethical systems and communities that put equity, empowerment and inclusivity at their core. It's clear our nation has a long way to go, and we want Punchcut to be part of the solution.

Listen. Learn. Be The Change.

**#blacklivesmatter**

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2021

**BLACK  
LIVES  
MATTER**

**THANK YOU**

**PUNCHCUT**