



VOL. 2 ISSUE 4 · MARCH 2024

## ALICE DEAL DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION NEWSLETTER

### Women's History Month

Hung Liu, Women Working: Loom, 1999; [National Museum of Women in the Arts](#)

## Spotlight: Mary McLeod Bethune



In 1975, the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial was constructed in Lincoln Park in Capitol Hill. The statue of Dr. Bethune was the site of the first memorial of an African American and the first portrait statue of a woman on public land.

Dr. Bethune has been described as an “educator, civil rights activists, and presidential adviser.” She received nine honorary doctoral degrees.

Born in 1875 as one of seventeen children, she went on to found the Daytona Literary and Industrial Training Institute for Negro Girls on October 3, 1904 with \$1.50 and a vision. In 1923, the Training Institute merged with the Cookman Institute of Jacksonville, Florida, to become Bethune-Cookman College; today it is Bethune-Cookman University. Dr. Bethune was also the founder of the National Council of Negro Women.

Among her many honors, Dr. Bethune was appointed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to serve on the National Youth Administration – where she rose to be the Director of Negro Affairs. She was also the only female member of the President Roosevelt’s Black Cabinet. Her last residence in Washington, D.C. is on the register of National Historic Sites; it is known as the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House.

## Around the District

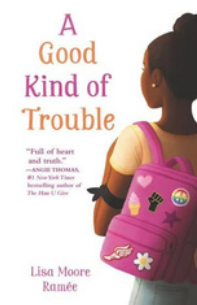
Visit the newly renovated [National Museum of Women in the Arts](#).

D.C. Public Library: [Women’s History Month Events](#).

## Reading Recommendations



By Christina Soontornvat (Ages: 8-12)  
Twelve-year old Sai has a bright future ahead. But will her father’s dark past ruin everything? Sai risks adventure on the high seas and distant lands to chart her own course.



By Lisa Moore Ramée (Ages: 8-12)  
Shayla is having a difficult time in seventh grade. Who are her friends? Why are people saying she’s not Black enough? After the shooting of an unarmed Black man, she starts to see things from a different perspective.



By Lynda Mullaly Hunt (Ages 10+)  
Delsie lives with her grandmother - her biological mother having abandoned her. She wishes she could just be normal. But she learns to see things differently, when she befriends the new kid, who has his own trauma. Together, they are resilient.



By Anna Lapera, Ages 10-14  
Mani Semilla worries a lot. On top of everything, she would rather not go the trip to Guatemala her mother has planned. But then she finds old letters in her attic that make her wonder why her family really left Guatemala - and she finds she’s stronger than she imagined.

