

Monday, December 2, 2024

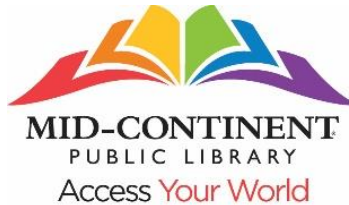
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Artist and Storyteller Brings Ida B. Wells to Life

Artist Karen E. Griffin Installs Exhibit and Performs at MCPL's Woodneath Library Center

Kansas City, MO – From December 6 through March 3, the textile art exhibit “Ida’s Journey in America” by art quilter and certified national storyteller Karen E. Griffin will be displayed in The Story Center at Mid-Continent Public Library’s Woodneath Library Center (8900 NE Flintlock Road, Kansas City, Mo.). The



Artist Karen E. Griffin

exhibit represents the life and career of an African American educator, journalist, crusader, investor, and suffragist, Ida B. Wells, and places her life and work within the context of the history of enslavement, migration, and Civil Rights. In addition to the exhibit, Griffin will give an artist’s talk and storytelling performance, bringing the historical icon to life.

“The essence of my artistic hope is encapsulated in the reflection, “Words may not always penetrate the heart, but the language of art bypasses barriers, inviting connection and understanding,”” said Griffin, who was named the 2025 Individual Artist of the Year by the Missouri Arts Council.

While the textile exhibit will be available for anyone to view in The Story Center from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day, the artist’s talk and performance require registration on the Library’s website at mymcpl.org/StoryCenter:

- [Artist’s Talk: Ida’s Journey in America](#) – Monday, December 9, at 6:30 p.m.
 - Kansas City-based artist Karen E. Griffin shares the inspiration behind her textile panels on display in The Story Center at the Woodneath Library Center. She will also discuss the connection between her two creative practices, textile art and storytelling.
- [Performance: Ida’s Journey in America](#) – Monday, February 24, at 6:30 p.m.



“Ida’s Journey” Textile Exhibit Piece

- Join Ida B. Wells, as portrayed by certified national storyteller Karen E. Griffin, as she shares her journey and experiences as an Afro-American female teacher, journalist, crusader, investor, and suffragist fighting for women’s rights and social justice.

“It’s a privilege to host this textile exhibit at The Story Center, as well as Ms. Griffin’s artist talk and performance, which highlight her talents as an award-winning artist and storyteller,” said Dr. Mark Livengood, Story Center Director. “The exhibit and programs connect people with the many stories about the work and life of Ida B. Wells.”

For more information about The Story Center’s upcoming programs and events, visit mymcpl.org/StoryCenter.

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Access Your World

Founded in 1965, [Mid-Continent Public Library](#) is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 34 branches and two Library-To-Go locations and serving nearly 850,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. MCPL is an award-winning library system that strives to enrich citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. Connect with the Library on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).