

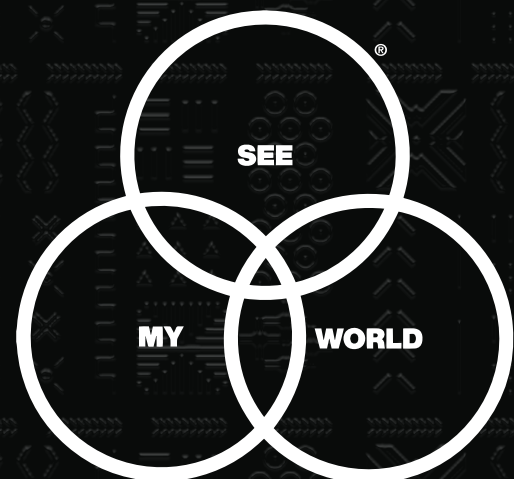
PAN-AFRICAN LEGACIES HERITAGE TRAIL



MAP & TRAIL GUIDE

JUNE 2026 - ∞

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With blessings and thanks to our funders and supporters

THE TRAIL

PART 1, Down the Oxford Road

Distance ~2km. Time taken to complete self-guided ~45minutes

1 Grosvenor East Building

Our journey starts at MMU's Grosvenor East building, where there is a red plaque situated on the front of the former Chorlton-on-Medlock Town Hall. In October 1945, Manchester became the stage for a landmark gathering that shaped the course of global and black history: the Fifth Pan-African Congress (PAC).

Hosted in this very building, the congress brought together local, national and international activists, intellectuals, and future African leaders such as Amy Ashwood Garvey, Len Johnson, Kwame Nkrumah, W.E.B du Bois, Jomo Kenyatta and many others. Since then, events like SEE MY WORLD's PAC80 have taken place in this building to continue its legacy, which commemorated its 80th anniversary.

Did you know?

T Ras Makonnen, an activist of Guyanese descent, was a major supporter, entrepreneur and fundraiser for the Pan-African Congress. He owned a range of businesses along the Oxford Road Corridor which he used to finance the congress.

2 Arthur Lewis Building

Walking down Oxford Road towards the University of Manchester, the Arthur Lewis Building will appear on your right. Follow the path alongside the building and look to your left. You will find the sign and portrait of Sir Arthur Lewis on the wall facing onto the green area. The building brings honour to Sir William Arthur Lewis, an internationally influential economist. He was the first Black lecturer at London School of Economics as well as the first Black professor in the UK; appointed at the University of Manchester in 1948. Lewis's pioneering research into economic development with particular consideration of the problems of developing countries awarded him a Nobel Prize.

Did you know?

Arthur Lewis Served as the first economic advisor to the newly independent government of Ghana in the late 1950s after connecting with Kwame Nkrumah at the 1945 PAC.

3 Manchester Museum – African Exhibits and Community Engagement

As you get back onto Oxford Rd, and walk a little further down you will see the church-like structure of Manchester Museum to your right. Within its walls they have curated African exhibits, showcasing historic artefacts, contemporary art, and stories of migration, culture, and activism via its 'Africa' Hub located on Floor 2. SEE MY WORLD welcomes the conversation about ethics and ownership when it comes to these artifacts hoping that repatriation, reparations and righteousness will occur when uncovering the stories of these objects and how they can educate future generations.

4 University of Manchester Students Union (UMSU) – Steve Biko Building

Continue down the right hand side of Oxford Rd and you will see UMSU aka The Steve Biko Building. The building is named after anti-apartheid activist Steve Biko. Steve Biko (1946–1977) was a South African anti-apartheid activist and founder of the Black Consciousness Movement, whose ideas and activism made him an enduring symbol of resistance against racial oppression.

Did you know?

Malcolm X, a civil rights activist from the United States came to the students union in December 1964 to deliver a speech coordinated by the students of the Islamic societies.

5 CONTACT Theatre

Continue along Oxford Road, taking a right on Devas Street and you'll see CONTACT Theatre, established in 1972 as 'Manchester Young People's Theatre', it was founded to nurture young creative talent and has since evolved into a leading arts venue noted for its innovative, diverse programming across multiple art forms. CONTACT is renowned for 'Contacting the World', an international youth theatre festival. In 2022 Keisha Thompson became their first Pan-African Artistic Director and CEO. The theatre remains at the heart of Manchester's creative and cultural scene.

Did you know?

In 2020, SEE MY WORLD was established as an online festival (during COVID-19) reaching over 20,000 people across 66 different countries. This was launched at CONTACT before the building opened its doors in 2021 making it one of the first events that took place there before it officially re-opened.

6 Lemn Sissay - Rain Poem

Return back onto Oxford Road, walk down towards Dilworth street and on the wall above you see if you can spot the 'RAIN' poem by Lemn Sissay. Lemn is a distinguished British author, poet, and broadcaster renowned for his powerful storytelling and commitment to social justice. Sissay's early experiences profoundly shaped his creative output. He self-published his first poetry pamphlet, 'Perceptions of the Pen', at 17, and by 24 he was a full-time writer. Sissay's poetry is celebrated for its optimism and connection to Manchester's cultural identity, notably through public artworks like this "Rain" mural and the "Flags" poem in the Northern Quarter.

7 Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Centre

Return back onto Oxford Road and continue until you can turn right onto Denmark road. On the corner you'll see 'The Manchester Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Centre', which is a cornerstone of Black British health activism. Opened in 1984 in Moss Side, it was established in response to years of grassroots campaigning by the African, and Caribbean communities to combat systemic medical neglect.

Did you know?

This centre was the first mainstream-funded NHS community centre for genetic blood disorders like Sickle Cell, in the UK.

Source: Manchester Local Care Organisation

8 Denmark Road – Denmark Hotel & Community Hubs

This street, Denmark Road emerged as a vital centre for Black activism and community solidarity in the mid-twentieth century. Anchored by spaces like the Denmark Hotel, this venue welcomed Caribbean newcomers, campaigners, and visitors, fostering cultural gatherings and debate amid racial exclusion.

Source: 'Never Counted Out', Michael Herbert



Image: Denmark Hotel, Denmark Road. (c) www.actsofachievement.org.uk / Manchester Local Image Collection.

End of Part 1

That brings us to the end of the first part of the trail.

Part 2 begins on Hulme High Street and can easily be done on a separate day at your own pace. But if you would like to do both parts in one go, the following 'Connecting Walk' to Hulme passes a few more stops along the way.

Take a moment to rest in Whitworth Park enjoy the green space & carry on when you're ready.

The Connecting Walk

Optional section to get to Part 2

Distance ~1.7km. Time taken to complete self-guided ~30-40 minutes

9 Church of God of Prophecy (CoGoP)

Continue down Denmark road, when you get to the intersection turn left onto Lloyd St N, and then follow until you approach Moss Lane East and turn right. Walk down until you see the Church of God and Prophecy on the left handside. This is one of the first Black-led churches in Manchester and was established first in front rooms, later basements, hired properties, and finally the purchase of this building.

Did you know?

When the Windrush generation arrived in Britain in the 1950s, many brought their Pentecostal faith with them, only to find the doors of established white-majority churches un-welcoming. The Church of God of Prophecy became one of the most significant Black-majority, Black-led institutions.

10 Millennium Powerhouse

From here turn left down Raby Street and you'll shortly approach the Moss Side Millennium Powerhouse. Established in 2000, it is a key community centre in Central Manchester that was created to help tackle youth marginalisation and violence. For over two decades it has provided services supporting Pan-African communities, young people's mental health, career development, sports, and social engagement, including arts, dance, music, and inclusive programmes.

Did you know?

The Power House was primarily lobbied for and championed by the Youth Charter, a UK charity formed by Pan-Africanist, Geoff Thompson, a five-time world karate champion.

11 West Indian Sports and Social Club

Continuing down Raby Street, take the first right onto Westwood Street and you'll see the West Indian Sports & Social Club (WISSC). Running since 1953, it has been a cornerstone for the Windrush generation in Manchester, providing a membership-led, self-help community hub. It is the oldest organisation of its kind in the UK. Its founding members were RAF veterans Ashton Douglas, Ashton Gore, and Euston Christian, all of whom served in the RAF during World War II. Sir Arthur Lewis also supported the development of its educational and employment services.

Did you know?

Euston Christian, who arrived in Britain among the passengers on the MV Empire Windrush went on to become the first Black Justice of the Peace in Manchester.

12 Reno/Nile Clubs

Double back onto Raby Street and take the first left onto Barnhill Street. On the far corner of Princess Parkway and Moss Lane East (around where the billboard sign is) was the site of the basement club formerly known as The Reno. Established by Nigerian immigrant Phil Magbotwan in 1962 as a Salvation Army hostel for African seamen, it became one of Manchester's most iconic late-night clubs for African, Caribbean, and mixed-race communities, alongside the Nile Club upstairs.

The venue was originally known as "The Palm Beach", and attracted performers like Lord Kitchener and cricketer Clive Lloyd. Both clubs were renowned for their vibrant social atmosphere, remaining open into the early morning. It played a pivotal role in shaping black culture in Manchester. The clubs closed in 1986, and the remains were later excavated and exhibited by Linda Brogan at the Whitworth Art Gallery.

Did you know?

Muhammad Ali visited the legendary Reno nightclub, both in 1971 and then in 1976.

Now Cross Princess Road and continue down Moss Lane East and then turn right onto Hulme High Street.

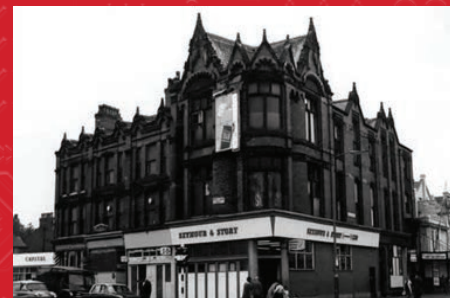


Image: The Nile and Reno, 1970s

PART 2: Hulme Highstreet and Moss Side Loop

Distance ~0.5km. Time taken to complete self-guided ~15minutes

18 Hulme High Street

This is a cornerstone of Pan-African convenience stores and life. This haven marked the second phase of a major urban redevelopment initiative that began in the late 1960s, with the creation of the Moss Side District Centre Shopping Precinct in the mid-1970s.

Opening officially in April 1975, the precinct integrated shopping, civic, and leisure facilities, becoming a focal point for community life. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, it evolved into a central meeting place.

It was demolished within twenty years, and completed in 1994. Its history reflects both the hopes and challenges faced by Manchester's communities amid changing retail and civic landscapes, serving as a testament to the evolving nature of urban spaces and community life.

14 Abasindi Co-operative

Walking down Hulme Highstreet, take the second left onto Rook Street. At the end turn left, and then turn left again end. Across the road you'll notice Rekindle School. The building, once known as The Moss side People's Centre, housed 'Abasindi' and stands testament to the power of collective action.

Elouise Edwards and Kathe Locke were founders of the Abasindi Co-operative (alongside others), both community activists and civil rights campaigners, known for their historic campaigns to fight racial discrimination and to develop community infrastructure services in the Moss Side area of Manchester.

Did you know?

Olive Morris the Jamaican-born Black British feminist community leader and squatters' rights activist was a foundational member of the preceding Manchester Black Women's Co-operative before it became Abasindi. While studying at Manchester University her radical ethos heavily shaped Abasindi's subsequent trajectory.

Source: 'Unsung Stories of Black Women's Activism in the UK: Spirits of Resistance and Resilience,' Adele Jones and Diana Watt.

15 Legacy Radio

Continue down St Mary's Street And turn right onto Parsonage Street. Follow this round to the right and you'll see an ornate red door. This is the entrance to Legacy Radio. Established in 2008 as Peace FM, it was created as a grassroots platform to amplify Black voices, support the local music industry, and provide vital community advice.

Following a successful run, in 2009 they were awarded a 5-year community radio licence under the name Peace FM, before rebranding to Legacy FM in 2015, shifting its broadcast from 106.6 to 90.1 FM. The station, which is led by volunteers, is Manchester's longest established Black community radio station.

16 Hideaway Youth Club

Doubling back down Parsonage road, cross the courtyard back to Moss Lane East. You'll likely be outside Kath Locke, our final stop, but before you end look across the road to 'The Hideaway Youth Project' / 'Amani Centre' building. Described as a safe space for mentorship and informal learning for majority Black and Asian heritage young people.

The youth club was founded in 1965 in a church basement and established in response to community needs for safe spaces, mentorship, and informal learning. Early volunteers fostered a supportive environment, leading to rapid growth and the construction of a dedicated facility in 1969, setting the stage for modern youth work.

17 Kath Locke Centre

The tour concludes at the Kath Locke Centre, dedicated to the formidable activist Kath Locke who was a community leader and political activist, instrumental in the development of the Black Women's Cooperative, and campaigned for a plaque to commemorate the 1945 Pan-African Congress. She was active in Moss Side community politics, co-founder of the Abasindi Co-operative, a community organisation run by Black women. The Kath Locke Centre is named after her.

Her advocacy for health, equality, and community lives on in the centre's ongoing work, making it a welcoming space for all and a beacon of justice and empowerment.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE PAN-AFRICAN LEGACIES HERITAGE TRAIL. WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED IT, YOUR ABLE TO DO IT AGAIN SOON.

WELCOME

SEE MY WORLD welcomes you on our Pan-African Legacies Heritage Trail; a new heritage trail to transform the streets of Manchester into a living archive, uncovering locations and the city's vital role in the evolution of Pan-Africanism. Developed in collaboration with local historian Linford Sweeney, the trail invites local communities and visitors to experience Manchester through a Pan-African lens that centres the stories that have shaped global resistance.

Rooted in the enduring legacy of the 1945 Pan-African Congress and significant Black stories, the trail maps key sites across the city, connecting past and present. From well-known historic meeting points to often overlooked landmarks, each stop reveals a chapter of Manchester's deep and underrepresented connection to history.

This trail aims to make Manchester's Pan-African legacy more visible in the everyday, embedding these histories into the streets people walk. Through community collaboration and intergenerational knowledge sharing, the development of the project has created spaces for local voices to contribute.

More than a trail, this project acts as a community platform for cultural preservation. Ensuring that Black and Pan-African heritage is not only remembered but actively experienced and passed on.

By bringing these stories to public attention, we hope to inspire deeper engagement with the city's history and foster a stronger sense of connection across communities.

A NOTE FROM LINFORD

This engaging journey brings to life some of the individuals, communities, and places that have shaped Manchester's story of activism, resilience, and cultural contribution. Each stop is carefully curated to highlight key moments and figures. I truly hope you can experience your part in history by embarking on this transformative journey.

SAFETY & CARE

Stay on public pathways, take care when crossing roads and watch your step on uneven surfaces. Carry water, wear sturdy shoes and appropriate clothing, and supervise children at all times. Help preserve our heritage for future generations.

GROUPS

This trail is free to experience with a group and as an individual, but please be vigilant and take care. If however you would like a guided tour for your group contact us at: Ekabo@bigpeoplemusic.co.uk.

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We also thank our Ancestors and the all knowing being.

From the Pan-African Congress to vibrant cultural clubs and spaces of activism, this legacy endures—organising, building, and thriving into the present day.

Thank you for joining us in Manchester's unfolding heritage.



1 Grosvenor East Building

2 Arthur Lewis Building

3 Manchester Museum

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5 CONTACT Theatre

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