



YALE NATIONAL INITIATIVE

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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2026 Volume I: The Kids are not the Threat

Visuals and Voices of the Arts and Athletes

Guide for Curriculum Unit 26.01.08, published September 2026
by Willie J. Keener, Jr.

In this unit, students will learn how people in fine arts and athletics used their voices to make a difference during the Civil Rights movement. This will be rooted in what was happening in Texas during this period. Students will also make real-world connections. Students will conduct research at an all-Black school named Blackshear in Hearne. That was during the time of segregation in the 1950s or 60s. This is one of the topics that will be selected because the students will learn about it; it is closed and no longer utilized, but it's still standing. Doing research on Blackshear will give students some background on what was going on in their own community at that time.

(Developed for Art/Photography, grades 5-12; recommended for Art/Photography, grades K-4)

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