Harlem Renaissance

In New York City, Harlem emerges as by far the largest and most influential of the growing black communities in the North. Between 1920 and 1930, 90,000 new arrivals joined the African Americans already living there to create a community of nearly 200,000.

Just as the accelerated migration of blacks out of the South resulted from a convergence of factors, the cultural and political renaissance centered in Harlem in the 1920s and 1930s owed its origins to the synergy of an older generation of black intellectuals mentoring a younger one. Together they produced novels, plays and poems, music, dance and other artwork that represented the efflorescence of a distinctive African-American expression. Along with the artists, political leaders such as Marcus Garvey founded potent philosophies of black self-determination and unity among black communities in the United States, the Caribbean, and Africa.

The Harlem Renaissance Website by John Carroll University

Take another look at American history and culture in the 1920s through the Harlem Renaissance. John Carroll University in Ohio sponsors this site that provides multimedia access to the Harlem Renaissance. Explore the many resources available there. Learn about a person, artwork, political event or idea, or some other aspect of the Harlem Renaissance.