

# Press Release



## Jazz Launch Black History Month Essay Contest Other Highlights Include Black-Owned Businesses Spotlight and Locally Designed “Stronger Together” T-Shirt for Charity

SALT LAKE CITY (February 1, 2021) – In recognition of Black History Month, the Utah Jazz have launched an essay contest with the theme of *Investing in the Future*.

The contest opens on Feb. 3 for all youth in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Student essays will be based on the [Utah Compact on Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#). The compact is founded on the principles that all people are created equal and that all Utahns must have a truly equal opportunity to prosper.

For their essay, students will select a principle or phrase from the Utah Compact that describes or demonstrates a personal commitment to moving from promise to action and how to activate and inspire our communities to do the same.

A judging committee will select three finalists, one of which will be the overall winner. All three finalists will receive a \$500 gift card and a Jazz fan pack. In addition, the overall winner will receive a virtual appearance with a Jazz player to their class. Students can visit [www.nba.com/jazz/community](http://www.nba.com/jazz/community) for official rules and to submit their essay.



Jazz social media will also highlight Black-owned businesses in Utah during Black History Month. Every Monday in February, Jazz digital reporter and producer Nayo Campbell will host interviews with business owners discussing their business and the importance of representation.

Businesses scheduled to appear are Lovee’s Cakes bakery, Curly Me youth foundation, A’la Mode personal styling service and The Dance Project dance studio.

In addition, the Jazz Team Store will sell a special Black History Month shirt with all proceeds going to support Curly Me’s mission of empowering young girls. The “Stronger Together” shirt was designed by Provo-based artist Lorne Sleem of Easy Money Clothing.

Vivint Arena has installed NBA-designed “Built by Black History” graphics that are displayed in the atrium and the players’ walk entrance. Players will wear custom Nike Black History

Month on-court warmup shirts in February. The Nike Dri-FIT T-shirt was designed in collaboration with the National Basketball Players Association.

The Jazz join the NBA family this month in reflecting on black history, celebrating black culture and contributing to the ongoing pursuit of racial equality through league-wide action. The NBA and its teams will recognize Black History Month through a variety of efforts, including virtual roundtables, community conversations, teach-ins, and spotlights on Black-owned businesses as well with in-arena signage and broadcast elements throughout the month of February.

—@JazzDoingGood or [utahjazz.com](http://utahjazz.com)—

**About the Utah Jazz**

Founded as the 18th member of the National Basketball Association (NBA) in 1974, and located in Salt Lake City since 1979, the Utah Jazz are committed to excellence as a team and in the community. On the court, the Jazz are the second-winningest team in the NBA over the last 30 years, having won nine division titles and two Western Conference championships along with 16 seasons of 50-plus wins, and are supported by one of the most passionate fan bases in all of sports. The Utah Jazz also operate the Junior Jazz program, the largest and longest-running youth basketball league in the NBA, featuring more than 60,000 players and an additional 13,000 volunteers who take part annually across six states. For more information on the Utah Jazz, visit [www.utahjazz.com](http://www.utahjazz.com).

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