

National Arab American Month

“Celebrating Arab American Resilience and Diversity”¹

National Arab American Heritage Month is an annual celebration taking place in April to honor the rich culture and significant contributions of Arab Americans. With an estimated 3.7 million Americans having Arab roots, originating from 22 countries in the Middle East and North Africa, this month-long observance aims to highlight the diversity and heritage of the Arab community in the United States.

The history of Arab immigration to the United States can be traced back to the late 1800s when Arabs fleeing the Ottoman Empire sought refuge in the United States. These Arab immigrants established themselves in the Northeast and Midwest regions, primarily working in sales and as grocers. Changes in immigration policies occurred with the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, which abolished quotas favoring northern and western European immigrants. This led to another wave of Arab immigration to the United States. Many of these immigrants settled in Detroit, taking advantage of employment opportunities in the auto industry.²

Currently, Congress, the U.S. Department of State, and 47 state governors have issued proclamations to recognize April as Arab American Heritage Month. These acknowledgments demonstrate the growing awareness and appreciation for the Arab American community and its contributions to the United States.

The Arab American community in the United States is diverse, encompassing individuals from various countries, faiths, races, sexual orientations, gender identities, and abilities. National Arab American Heritage Month serves as a platform to raise awareness, promote understanding, and celebrate the diversity within the Arab American community.³

Throughout the month of April, Ford’s Middle Eastern and North African Association (MENA) Employee Resource Group will be hosting several events to celebrate Arab-American Heritage Month. Many of these events can be attended virtually and some will be recorded. Look for information about these events on Blue Oval Now (BON).

About MENA: MENA is a network of Ford employees whose backgrounds, roots, and interests are grounded in the cultures of the Middle East and North Africa. MENA’s goal is to build bridges with consumers of Middle Eastern and North African backgrounds, both in North America and around the globe, by promoting awareness of the richness and diversity of MENA cultures and helping to attract and develop employees with roots and/or backgrounds in these cultures.

About Employee Resource Groups: Ford Motor Company’s Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) are voluntary, employee-led organizations operating under the Global DEI Office.

What we do: ERGs bring together individuals with shared interests, backgrounds, or experiences and their allies, with the primary purpose of promoting diversity, equality, and inclusion by aligning to the Company’s transformation through three core strategic pillars: People, Community, and Business.

We Support: ERGs play a crucial role in creating a more inclusive environment by giving employees a mechanism to connect, share experiences, collaborate, and drive professional development opportunities for their members. Structurally, the Global DEI Office has full oversight of ERGs, including support, advocacy, and funding.

1.) National Arab American Heritage Month - Arab America Foundation %
2.) Arab American Heritage Month 2024 - Origins, Traditions & Populations | HISTORY
3.) Arab American Heritage Month (nyc.gov)

