

## Summer of Soul: A Look at the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival

The Northern Nevada Black Cultural Awareness Society (NNBCAS) presents *Summer of Soul: A Look at the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival*, an exhibition featuring albums of artists who performed in the Harlem Cultural Festival in 1969. NNBCAS was established in Reno, NV in 1988. Its mission statement is “to promote Black cultural awareness, and the understanding of the traditions and history while empowering the Black community, communities of color, and the community at large to assert their value and engage in social and cultural change.” This exhibition launches the organization’s exciting 2022 season.

*Summer of Soul* is a historic musical event that occurred in Harlem, NY from June 29<sup>th</sup> to August 24, 1969. Over 300,000 people attended, yet it received minimal coverage from media outlets. The event stood as a testament to the healing power of music during times of unrest, both past and present. The state of America in the summer of 1969 eerily resembles the state of the nation today. The musical festival was filmed and remained unpublished for over 45 years until musical artist Questlove took the honor of revealing a piece of history that needed to be shared. This film, his directorial debut, premiered in January 2021 at the Sundance Film Festival and was awarded the Audience Award and the U.S. Grand Jury Prize.