

## **About the Artist**

I am Nathan Perez, majoring in Art. I plan to apply for the Bachelor of Fine Arts soon. I am a freshman and I come from Columbus, Ohio. I've lived in Canada, Guatemala, and Mexico before arriving in the U.S in 1996. I encountered many hardships such as racism, poverty, and at one point was considered homeless. However, I managed to fight hard for my future and became the first in my family to attend college. Art is a passion that I developed over the years. My life experiences, music, my Black and Latino heritage, and the world including themes focusing on social ills have heavily influenced me.

## **How this picture is incorporated with Black History Month**

It means so much to me because it is part of my rich heritage, and we as a whole have been through many milestones. From a dark past of slavery, we fought for what was right and accomplished much through the Civil Rights Movement. We weave new paths and create history with our rich culture and background, which has helped us grow stronger. The people in the picture show various political, historical, and civil figures from Martin Luther King Jr, President Obama, Thurgood Marshall, and Jesse Jackson to entertainment icons such as Jackie Robinson, Michael Jackson, Tupac and more. It's not just politics and entertainment figures as whole but the important milestones to get to where we are going. Our work is far from over. We need to continue to provide a better future for each other, our children, and our community.