

The Tucson Black Film Club

- A reflection by Blythe Strong

In mid-August, several members of the Multicultural Growth Committee attended a program presented by the Tucson Black Film Club at the Dunbar Pavilion. We saw the film "Lean on Me" starring Morgan Freeman. Barbara Lewis, who is an alum of Dunbar School, welcomed everyone. (Dunbar School, named for the poet Paul Laurence Dunbar, was the school for Tucson's African American children while segregation was practiced from 1912 to 1951.) Afterwards, Annie Sykes led a lively discussion of several issues raised by the film: parental guidance, political pressure for student performance (read "test scores!"), peer pressure, poor funding for public education, and achieving seemingly impossible goals by working together. The film is based on a real-life situation in which a principal with an unusual style turned around a Paterson, NJ high school.

Following the discussion, the club sponsored a drawing for several prizes, and they offered some snacks too. There is no charge to attend, but donations are welcomed.

The Tucson Black Film Club meets quarterly. The next film is on October 19, 1-4 p.m. We'll see a Halloween-themed film, ***The Boy Behind the Door*** (2020). The Dunbar Pavilion, an African American Arts & Culture Center, is located at 325 West 2nd Street in Tucson. Join us for an interesting afternoon!