



PERFORMANCE PLAYGROUND

Stepping into Tradition

Let's Learn About HBCUs and
HBCU Marching Band Danceline!

What to expect

What are HBCU Marching Band Auxiliaries?

HBCUs Then and Now

Danceline

Majorettes

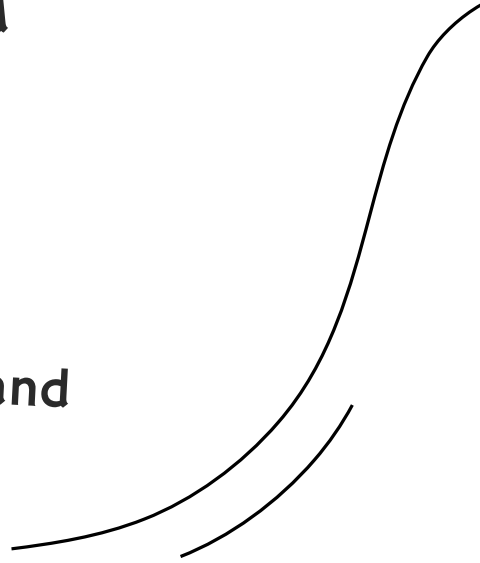
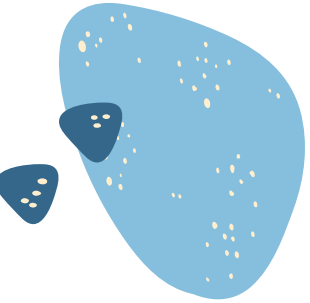
Color Guard

Dance Influences

Cultural Popularity

Tradition Today

Performing Arts and
Visual Art



What are HBCU Marching Band Auxiliaries?


A marching auxiliary is composed of three parts: **danceline**, **majorettes** and **color guard**. Historically Black College and University marching bands and auxiliaries represent the **pride** and **culture** of the school.





WHAT ARE HBCUs?

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are institutions of **higher education** in the United States that were established to primarily serve the **African-American community**.



HBCU HISTORY

Many of these institutions were founded in the years after the **American Civil War** mostly in the Southern United States. HBCUs were created as the result of of **racial segregation**.

Cheyney University was the first HBCU, founded *before* the Civil War in 1837.



Women studying at the Agricultural and Mechanical College, Greensboro, N.C. in the late 1800s.

HBCU HISTORY

Until the **Civil Rights Act of 1964**, racial segregation was legal in the U.S. This meant that most universities wouldn't admit Black students.

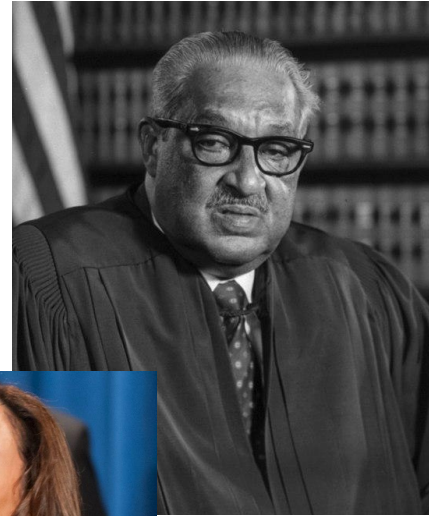
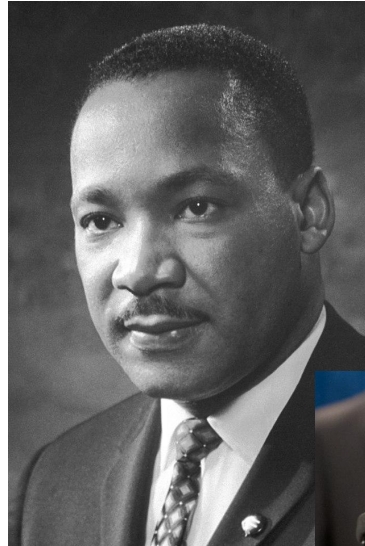
With very limited opportunities for higher learning, HBCUs were formed.



President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights act into law. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is standing directly behind him.

NOTABLE HBCU ALUMNI

These colleges and universities have remarkable legacies and alumni including civil rights leader **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** (Morehouse College), Vice President **Kamala Harris** (Howard University), and Supreme Court Justice **Thurgood Marshall** (Howard University).



NOTABLE HBCU ALUMNI

Other HBCU alumni include:



Toni Morrison, *author*
(Howard University)



Common, *rapper and actor*
(Florida A&M University)



Oprah Winfrey, *talk show host and entrepreneur*
(Tennessee State University)



Chadwick Boseman, *actor*
(Howard University)

And many, many more.

HBCU IN MICHIGAN!

The **Lewis College of Business** was Michigan's HBCU. It was founded in 1928 by an African American woman, Dr. Violet T. Lewis. It closed in 2018, but is scheduled to reopen in 2022 as the **Pensole Lewis College of Business and Design** in Detroit with free tuition and programs for Black artists, engineers and business leaders.



Dr. Violet Lewis

HBCUs TODAY

Many of the Black **doctors**, **lawyers**, **engineers** and **other professionals** that assist in the growth and development of our society are HBCU alumni. While these institutions are historically Black, **all people may enroll** regardless of background or ethnicity.



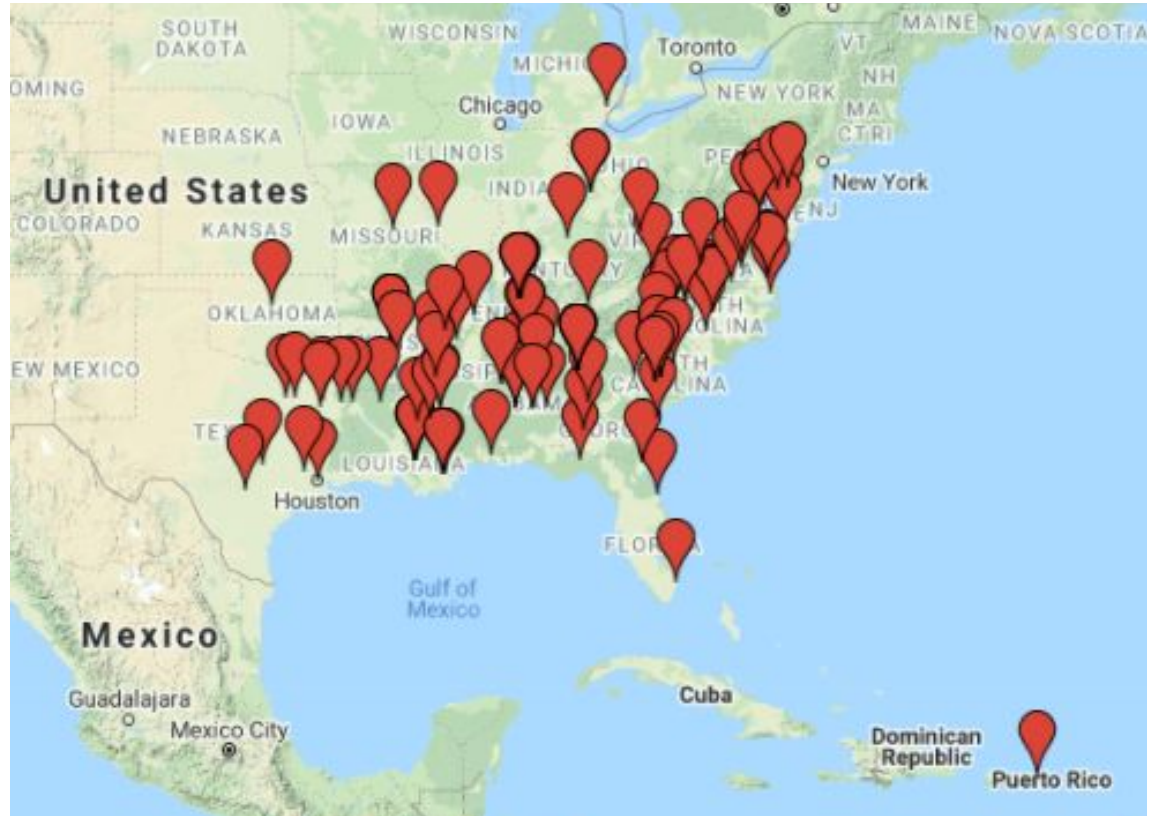
A group of HBCU students and alumni at an event at the White House in 2017



A senior in biomedical engineering North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

HBCUs TODAY!

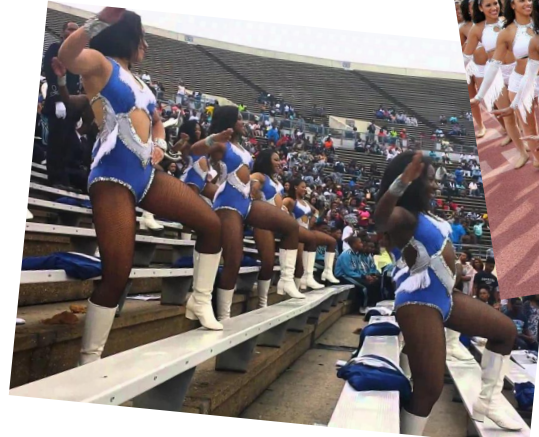
In 2022, there are **101 HBCUs across the U.S.**, and many of them feature a marching band with a vibrant auxiliary.



WHAT ARE MARCHING BAND AUXILIARIES?

A marching band creates a big sound and a visual impact, but the spectacle of an HBCU halftime performance is set by the color and movement of the auxiliary.

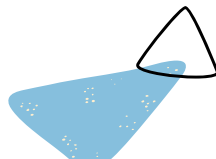
A marching auxiliary consists of the **danceline**, **majorettes** and **color guard**.



MARCHING BAND AUXILIARIES - DANCELINE

The danceline is a group of mostly women dancers that is usually featured in a performance within the halftime show.

Their performance showcases **highly technical movement** and displays of **beauty**, **glamour** and **unity**.



MARCHING BAND AUXILIARIES - DANCELINE

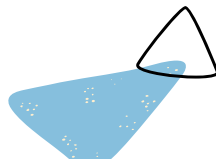
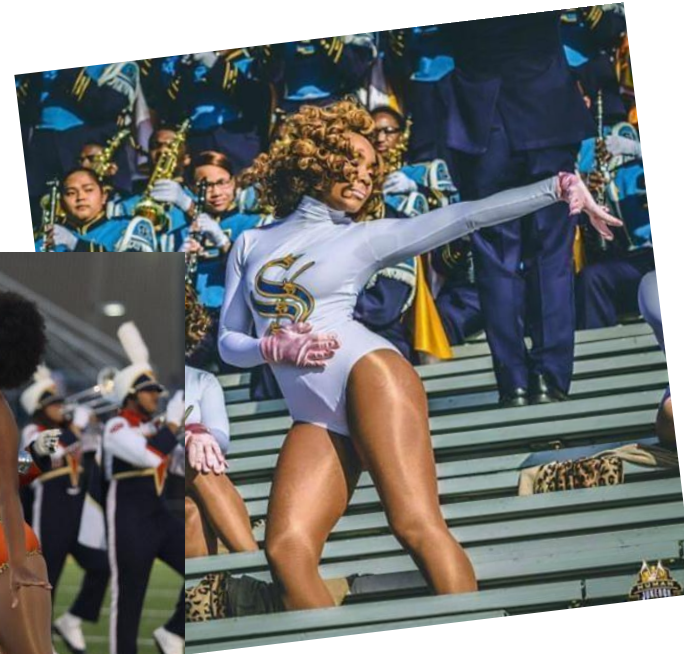
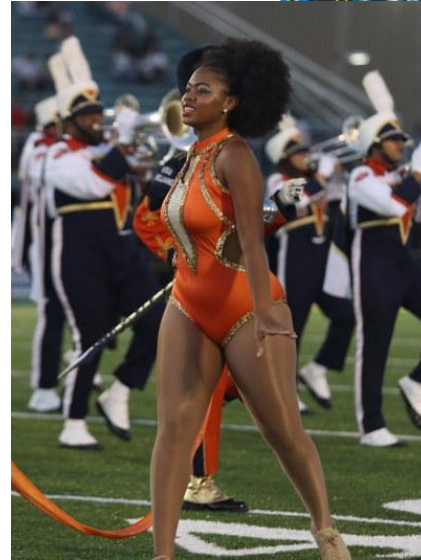
Here is an example of danceline within a marching band field show featuring **The Fabulous Dancing Dolls** of Southern University.



MARCHING BAND AUXILIARIES - MAJORETTES

Majorettes perform an elaborate routine often featuring a **baton** (or multiple batons).

They are an extension of the **drum majors** for the band, who lead and conduct the band.



MARCHING BAND AUXILIARIES - MAJORETTES

Watch this baton twirling example from the North Carolina A&T State University **Blue and Gold Marching Machine**.

All members of the **Golden Delight** learn danceline, color guard and majorette baton routines.



MARCHING BAND AUXILIARIES - COLOR GUARD

The color guard is a group of dancers that perform **coordinated routines** with large, colorful **flags**. Usually their flags are in the color of their institution and band.



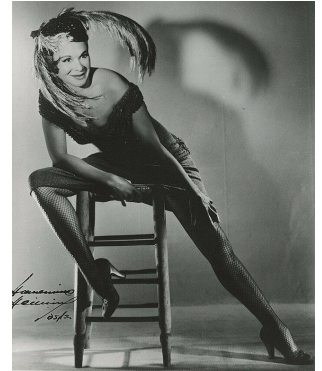
MARCHING BAND AUXILIARIES - COLOR GUARD

Here is a color guard examples from the **Spartan Guards** of the Norfolk State University **Spartan Legion**.



DANCE INFLUENCES

Marching auxiliary movement is a celebration of Black culture and therefore is informed by many types of dance, including **jazz**, **hip hop**, **Katherine Dunham technique**, **West African**, **Afro-Caribbean** and many more.



CULTURAL POPULARITY

Today HBCU auxiliary technique has been seen around the world! Notable examples include **Beyoncé's 2018 Coachella performance** and the popular Lifetime television series and tour ***Bring It!***



TRADITION TODAY

There are 100+ HBCUs throughout the United States, there are many bands and auxiliaries celebrating of African American pride and power.

The next few slides are examples of HBCU bands that keep the tradition alive.



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

The Southern University band, the **Human Jukebox**, was featured in **Beyonce's Halftime Coachella performance**.

The Southern danceline is **The Fabulous Dancing Dolls**.



GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY

The **Grambling State University Tiger Marching Band** has brought their distinctive style to audiences across the globe.

They are accompanied by the **Orchesis Dance Company**.



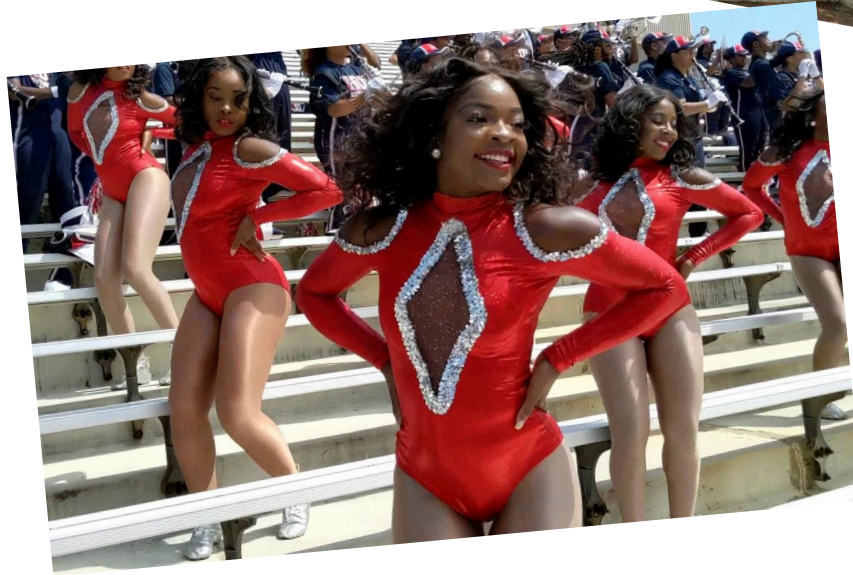
ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Alabama State's band is the **Mighty Marching Hornets** with the **Stingettes** danceline and the **Honey Bees** color guard.



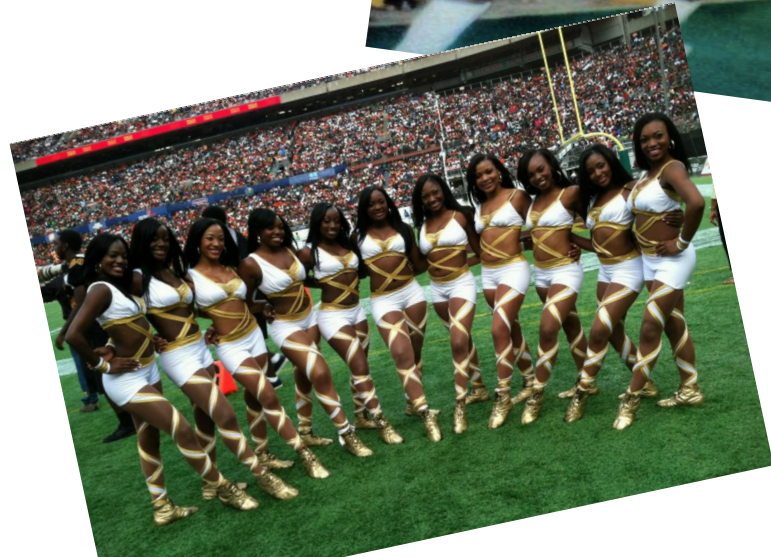
HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Howard University in Washington, D.C. has the **Showtime Band** with the **Ooh La La Dancers**.



BETHUNE-COOKMAN UNIVERSITY

The Bethune-Cookman University **Marching Wildcats** are joined by the **14 Karat Gold Dancers** and **The Sophisticated Corp** color guard.



PERFORMING ARTS AND VISUAL ART

HBCU auxiliary performances require vibrant and beautiful **flags** and **wardrobe**!

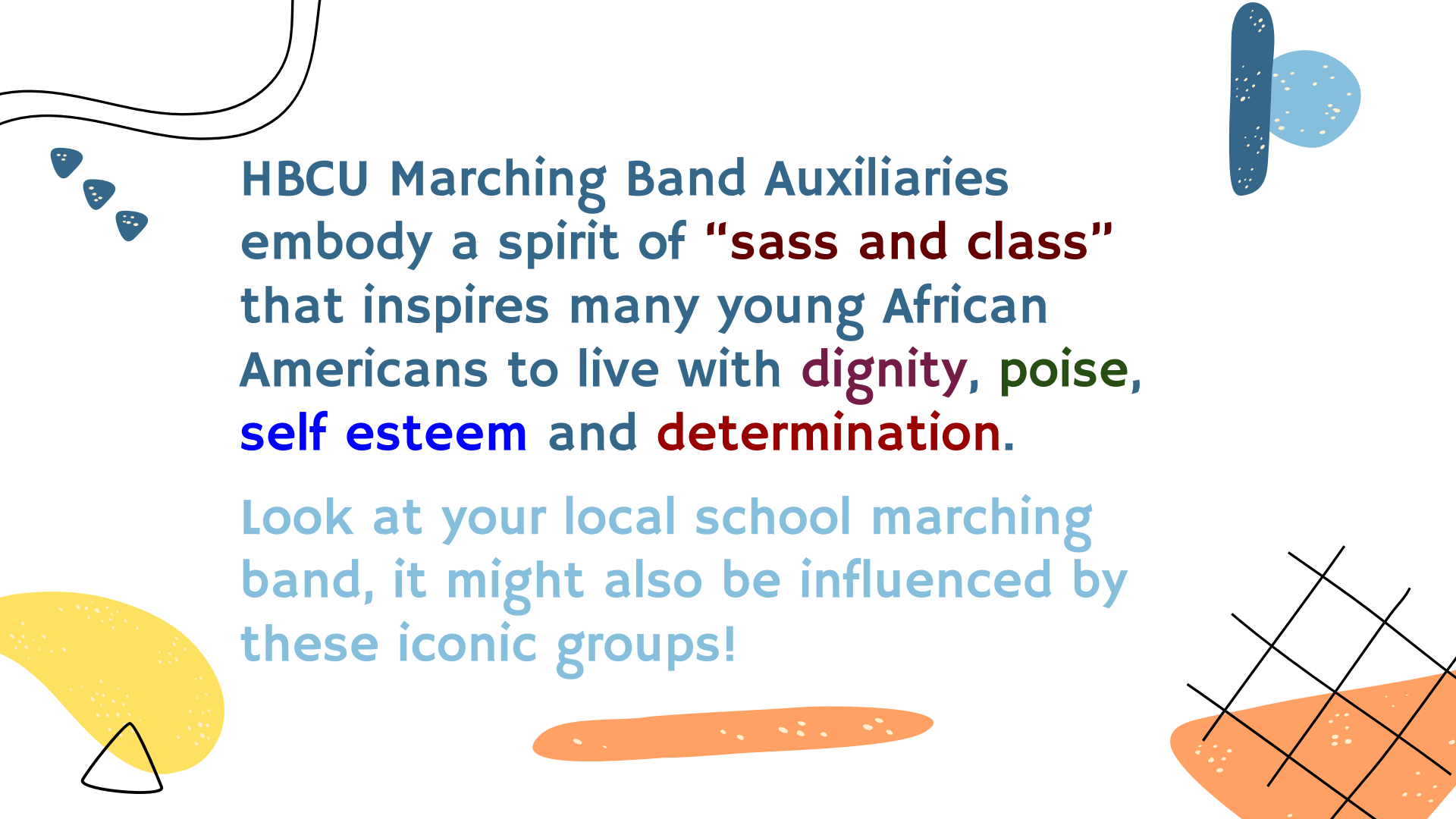
These distinctive items are designed by artists and brought to life by skilled sewers. A majorette uniform might feature **100s of sequins** that need to be stitched in place by hand!



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Watch this video by **LaQuinda Renee**, creator of **The Black Sequins Project**.





HBCU Marching Band Auxiliaries
embody a spirit of **“sass and class”**
that inspires many young African
Americans to live with **dignity**, **poise**,
self esteem and **determination**.

Look at your local school marching
band, it might also be influenced by
these iconic groups!

Slides written and organized by **Will Biby**
in collaboration with **Alexandria Davis**.

